

BISHOP'S HULL PARISH MAGAZINE OCTOBER 2025



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

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MAGAZINE SUPPORT TEAM

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Magazine Cover:

Photographs by
Bob & Penny Coombs & Bob Winn

Articles relating to all aspects of our village and community
are always welcome.

Final date for acceptance: Mid-day on 12th of the month.

Please help to make the magazine interesting by contributing material.

**When reading your free online copy or one of the the hard copies
available in church please remember to support the few remaining
advertisers whenever possible**

*It is emphasised that the views expressed in this magazine are not
necessarily those of the magazine editorial team, unless attributed,
or those sent in by identifiable contributors.*

IDENTIFYING OUR LOCAL BIRDS photo by Penny Coombs

Kingfisher



Cover - Autumn in all its glory



**AWARD WINNING
FAMILY RUN BUSINESS**

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Tel – 01823 279168

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Saturday 7.00am – 2pm

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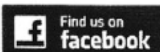
Tel – 01823 337497

BISHOP'S HULL CAR BOOT SALES 2025

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

NEXT SALE

BH Playing Field



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 FBC Coffee morning on a Friday morning
10:00-12:00 and discover what activities could lie in store
for you.**

The cafe is open to members and non-members.

**The centre is centrally heated and open 10:00-16:00
Monday-Friday**

Weekly Activities:

**Monday - The Painting Group 10:00-12:00,
Whist Club 1:30-4:00
Bridge Club 1.30-4:00**

Wednesday – Flexercise & Tai Chi 10:00-12:00

**Thursday - Bridge club 10:00-12:00-Beginners welcome,
Croquet 2:00-4:00**

Friday - Pétanque 10:00-12:00,

Friday - The FBC Coffee morning 10:00-12:00

Monthly Activities:

1st Monday in month Family History 2:00-4:00

2nd Tuesday in month Parchment 10:00-3:30

3rd Wednesday in month Games 2.00-4.00

4th Wednesday in month Music Appreciation 2.00-4.00

2nd & 4th Thursday in month Mahjong 2:00-4:00

NO MONTHLY LUNCHES

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

A 'Date for your diary':

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

Many thanks

Vicar:	
Reverend Philip Hughes , The Vicarage, Bishop's Hull Hill, Bishop's Hull, TA1 5EB 01823-336102	Tim Venn (Church Warden) John Perry (Church Warden)



For the financially astute amongst us, we make note that we are entering the second half of the 2025/26 financial year and wait, with bated breath, to hear the good/bad news from the Chancellor in November.

Back in the mists of time, when I was a serving member of Her Majesty's Armed Forces, we always anticipated good news of tax breaks and pay rises. At that time I was earning around £5.00 a week (£260 p.a.), so a few pence here and a few pence there was always most welcome. Seventy years on, where weekly pay continues to rise with inflation, we live in an entirely different financial world. Here are the weekly pay figures from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) as reported on the www today; *"Average weekly earnings (AWE) were estimated at £727 for total earnings and £680 for regular earnings in July 2025 (£37,804 to £35,360 p.a.)"*.

Looking back in time it is hard for many to comprehend how couples with large families managed to 'make ends meet' with no help from the State at all. With every passing year many of us who lived through WWII (say, born around 1930) will no longer be alive and their memories possibly lost for ever. Being one of that WWII group who lived in a small village of 104 souls six miles from Canterbury, I continually ask myself this question. 'Why are so many people in such dire straits? If one is to believe that successive governments, of all colours, have been increasing the amount of money paid out in the Welfare budget every year, no one should be living in poverty.

I am sure that many of my older readers could come up with a multitude of different answers, and maybe some of the younger ones too. In a situation like this I sometimes feel that the Irishman who had been asked for directions to somewhere or other, replied, *"Well, if I were you, I wouldn't have started from here"*.

It is at this point in my 'observation' I am tempted to suggest that you send your answers to me on a postcard. Sadly, I feel that I would not have time to read them all before sending on my suggestions to our Member of Parliament. May I ask, did you have an opportunity to make suggestions to the prospective MP's who called at your door pre the last election? If my memory serves me I did make one suggestion - Tell the public the truth - There is no money left in the Treasury. It seems that my advice fell on stony ground.

The Vicar writes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As October arrives, the days get shorter and the weather gets colder. It's a month of change, marking the shift from summer to autumn. It's a month where even our clocks change (British Summer Time ends 26 October this year – clocks go back an hour, except for the clock in the car which is far too complicated to change and we just wait for spring next year!) For many, October also means Halloween, a time with traditions, costumes, and a bit of spooky fun. As Christians, how do we handle this time of year, and how does it relate to our faith?



The Apostle John wrote, "God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin" (1 John 1:5-7).

This message of walking in the light is especially important in October. While some parts of Halloween can seem dark or scary, we are called to be examples of God's light in our communities. Instead of fearing the darkness, we can choose to shine. We can use this time to remember that the Bible assures us that light wins over darkness, love wins over fear and life wins over death—a main point of our faith.

So this Halloween, let's not just focus on the spooky. Let us see a chance to let God's light shine. This can be as simple as welcoming people with a smile, saying a kind word to a neighbour, or offering a prayer of thanks for the season. By doing so, we can show that God's light gets rid of all darkness. Let's choose to walk in His light, helping others see the way in a world that can often feel dim.

*Shine brightly!
Rev Phil Hughes, your Brother in Christ*

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 25th October.**

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

From 10am till 12noon.



Church garden tidy-up on Saturday, 20 September

Saturday, 27 September, please join us for our monthly **village coffee morning** in the Bridge.

Harvest celebrations are on Sunday, 28 September

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



Keen Gardeners Sought by Hospice!

We hope you may have managed to visit some of our beautiful gardens that have opened their gates for us this summer - it had been hugely successful season, raising over £27,000 for your local hospice.

St Margarets Hospice has been serving the Somerset Community for 45 years, providing free compassionate clinical and supportive care to people facing life limiting illness and their families in Somerset.

We are already looking ahead to Summer 2026 – and we're on the hunt for more glorious gardens to join the line-up! All gardens are welcome – big or small.

Visitors love to see spaces they can draw inspiration from, so while large country gardens make for a wonderful day out, a beautiful English back garden can be just as inspiring (sometimes even more so!).

We welcome all outdoor spaces – allotments, school or church gardens, woodlands, farms... we love an eclectic mix to offer our visitors.

If you're worried your garden might be too small, why not ask your neighbours to join in with you, or perhaps hold a small garden party, or plant sale? We would be delighted to hear from you if you would like to take part, have any questions regarding our support for the gardens taking part, or have any ideas of your own.

Holly Hackett, Community Partnerships Fundraiser & Glorious Garden Coordinator

✉ holly.hackett@st-margarets-hospice.org.uk

☎ 01935 709493

Susan Bickle Supporter Experience Officer Tel: 01935 709485

Ext: 2485

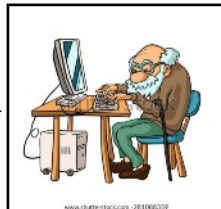




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Editor Bob

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stonegallows.

Friday 29th August 2025

Dear Editor,

I would be most grateful if you would publish the following 'letter' in the next Parish Magazine.

Dear friends,

I would like to thank you all for the many beautiful cards which I received whilst in hospital.

I am improving slowly at home and would also like to thank you for all your prayers.

I hope to see you all in church very soon.

Sincerely,

Isobel Magowan

AVON & SOMERSET POLICING UPDATE - CLICK ON ADDRESS BELOW

- [taunton-policing-newsletter-september-2025.pdf](#)

A 'Date for your diary':

The FBC Christmas lunch will be Thursday 18th December at Oake Manor.

Tickets available from Frank's café from mid October.

Many thanks



Kerry Exon - Headteacher, Bishop's Hull

Kerry Exon joined Bishop's Hull Primary School as the Headteacher in September 2025.

Kerry is the Headteacher at Bishop's Hull in Taunton. She holds a degree in Education and with an Early Years background. She has previously worked as a class teacher and Deputy Head in schools across Taunton and Yeovil.

With over twenty years experience in schools, Kerry has taught across the primary range. She is passionate about working with families and the local community to provide opportunities for all pupils to reach high academic standards whilst developing their character.

Bishop's Hull HUB

Saturday 11th October - Hub Apple Day - 11am - 2pm I Apple Press, BBQ, Apple crafts and a stalls.

Free to join in please bring apples and bottles to make your own apple juice for a small donation.

Saturday Nov 8th - Fish and Chip Quiz Night, £11 pp.

Teams of up to eight.

Doors open at 7:15pm,

Quiz starts at 7:45pm. Book tickets via website <https://bhhub.co.uk/>

Youth Hub

Saturday 20th Sept 7:15pm - 9:15pm, £1 entry plus bring some change for the tuck shop. **Open to teens aged 11 to 16** living in Bishop's Hull

Caretaker urgently required for the Hub

Outgoing, responsible and flexible person required.

Remuneration and hours by agreement.

Please contact one of the team below for more information.

Jon 07716 175671, David 07977 474873, Tony 07475 948820 or Richard 01823 333679

Booking secretary

The Bishop's Hull Hub Committee are looking for a volunteer to manage Hub bookings. This involves managing communication with both regular hirers and one-off bookings, using the hall's online booking system and helping ensure hirers have a positive experience.

The role is flexible and can be carried out from home.

It typically requires around 4-6 hours per week.

Please contact Richard on 01823 333679 for further information.

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

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

Bishop's Hull Parish Council News

The Parish Council does not meet in August. The next meeting was held on Thursday 4th September at 7pm at the HUB.

As always everyone was welcome to attend and there is a session before the meeting starts where residents can raise any matters of concern.

The Parish Council has vacancies for Parish Councillors, so if you are interested in finding out more please contact The Clerk - clerk@bishopshullparishcouncil.gov.uk or come along to the next Meeting.

Lots of useful information can be found on the Parish Council website <https://bishopshullparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Volunteering in the Village

A number of BH residents have shown interest in assisting with various. Tasks around the village to enhance the cleanliness and attractiveness of our village.

- These tasks briefly include: litter picking, footpath verge~tidying, bulb planting, overgrown vegetation trimming and fallen leaf clearance. Anyone who feels they would like to be involved in any or all of the above; please: Contact the Parish Clerk to express an interest - clerk@bishopshullparishcouncil.gov.uk
- Register for the online Highway Safety Awareness course by emailing tlc@somerset.gov.uk (opens in new window). Include 'highway volunteering' in the subject line of the email.
- You will receive an email with the course link, a username and a temporary password
- Complete the course successfully to receive a certificate of completion
- Read the Highway volunteer Handbook
- Once the course has been completed you will be able to carry out tasks highlighted by the Parish Council.

"Love Volunteering-Love Our Village".

Thank you. Tony Taylor Chairman BHPC.



Neighbourhood Beat Team



PCSO Lyndsay Smith 07802 874297

lyndsay.smith@avonandsomerset.police.uk



PCSO Marshall Bernhard 07849 305815

marshall.bernhard@avonandsomerset.police.uk



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 PCSO with 20 years of experience has left her Taunton team.

Lyndsay Smith, who was part of the Taunton Neighbourhood Policing Team, has left to start her career in Hampshire.

An Avon and Somerset Police spokesperson said: "The Taunton Neighbourhood Policing Team unfortunately said farewell to PCSO Lyndsay Smith.



"Lyndsay has worked within policing for nearly 20 years, starting her career in Hampshire Constabulary as a victim care officer, then a Criminal Justice officer within CJU, before then becoming a PCSO, in Portsmouth.

"Lyndsay then transferred to Avon and Somerset in 2017 where she spent most of her time as a PCSO for the Taunton West area, covering the areas of Trull, Bishop's Hull, Norton Fitzwarren and other areas.

"Lyndsay will be moving on to a new role within education and she will be hugely missed by all the team." ###



POLICE have released CCTV images of two men they would like to speak to in connection with criminal damage at a mosque in Taunton.

A number of windows at Ivor House, in Tower Lane, were smashed at around 6.40am on Saturday, September 6.

Avon and Somerset Police are now appealing to the public to help them identify the two men in the images who they believe could assist with their enquiries.

The first is described as white, around 6ft tall, between the ages of 20 and 30, with no facial hair, who was wearing a red coat, and beige cargo trousers.

The second man in the image is described as white, short, around 20 to 30 years old, with a ginger beard, who was wearing a checkered red jacket, blue jeans and white shirt.

CCTV enquiries have been carried out, a witness statement has been taken, and further analysis is expected at the scene.

Anybody who recognises the men in the images and those with CCTV or doorbell/dashcam footage from the time of the incident or the moments leading up to it, are asked to call police on 101 quoting 5225251536, or complete their online appeals form.

If you can help, please call 101 and give the call handler the reference number 5225251536, or complete the police's online appeals form.

You can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers 100 per cent anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via their Anonymous Online Form.

No personal details are taken, information cannot be traced or recorded and you will not go to court or have to speak to police when contacting Crimestoppers. #####



Bishops Hull Belles WI

Bishops Hull Belles is a group of friendly women with meetings held on the 4th Thursday of the month (except August) at 7.30pm at the Bishops Hull HUB

- These monthly meetings have a speaker or other activity together with business items
- Topics for future meetings will be published here each month.
- Lunches and coffee/brunches are organised monthly.
- Additionally there is a walking group arranged fortnightly (except mid winter and August) and a scrabble group meets on a monthly basis.
- A day trip usually takes place in August.
- Why not come along to one of our monthly meetings where you will be warmly welcomed. The cost is £4 per visit (up to 3 meetings) which is then deducted from the annual subscription upon joining.
- Further information can be obtained from Heather Blackmore the group's secretary. Tel:01823-283884 mob 07963834365

Bishops Hull Belles WI

Next Meeting at The HUB

Thursday 23rd October at 7.30

Guest Speaker - Mr Dusan Thavarajah

Consultant Spinal Surgeon

'Looking after your back'

Bishop's Hull Flower Show - August 2025

The Flower Show, held at Bishops Hull Hub, was a great success with the Saxophony Band opening the event.

The weather was outstanding, making it a great family day out which was well supported by those of all ages.

There were a number of first-time exhibitors which is always nice to see, and the Hub was full of energy and colour with a wide array of flowers, vegetables, fruits and crafts and energy.

It was fantastic to see so many people admiring the exhibits, catching up with friends over tea and delicious homemade cake, or just sitting enjoying the sun and the music; you couldn't have asked for a better day.

Best Scarecrow - The Queen of Hearts

Best Exhibit 4yrs and under —

Best Exhibit 5-8 yrs —

Best Exhibit 9-12 yrs —

Best Exhibit in the Vegetable Section —

Best Exhibit in the Flower Section —

Best Exhibit in the Fruit Section -

Most prize cards in Veg. Flower & Fruit Sections

Best Exhibit in the Floral Art Section —

Best Exhibit in the Homecraft Section —

Most prize cards in the Homecraft Section —

Best Exhibit in the painting classes -

Best Exhibit in the Handicraft Section —

Most prize cards by an entrant —

Jacob Ayres

Charlie Ayres

Rosa Phillips

David Gurr

David Gurr

Laura Pope

Gareth Needs

Laura Pope

Chris Morgan

Chris Morgan

Margaret Peppard

Lin Tarrant

Gareth Needs

Thank you to all the helpers, the stewards, the judges, the Saxophony Band and especially Nancy and Josie for their work in producing the cakes and the teas.



BISHOP'S HULL IN TIMES PAST

7 5years ago



Ten people spoke for Taunton in the popular radio programme 'Down Your Way'. Listeners heard discussions between Mr Richard Dimpleby, BBC compère, and South African born Mrs 'Jackie' Moggridge, one-time ATA pilot, now in the WRAFVR and well-known in Somerset theatrical productions; Miss Pamela Western of Bishop's Hull, a worker in the Van Heusen factory; and Mrs WH Heaton-Renshaw, wife of the vicar of St Mary's.

To raise funds for their year-old Village Hall appeal, Bishop's Hull Village Hall and Playing Fields Association staged the novel combination of pony and motor cycle gymkhana at Rumwell Park. There were 200 entries for the 20 events in the pony gymkhana, which was opened by the Mayor of Taunton, Councillor WF Haywood, who then started the first race. The Mayor said he was a firm believer in village halls as an essential and valuable part of life in the countryside. They provided a centre for cultural arts, while field activities were pursued on local playing fields, which were also an important feature of village life. He hoped this venture would bring them nearer their objective. After the opening ceremony, Miss Elizabeth Robinson presented the Mayoress with a bouquet. The Mayor was introduced by Mr JT Smith, Association chairman, who thanked those who had helped in the preparations. The Association secretary was Mr AR Birch and treasurer Mr W Paterson. The field was loaned by Mrs EM Robinson and prepared by Mr FT Retter. Judges were Mr Courtney Spiller (Norton Fitzwarren) and Mrs Fitzgerald (Wellington). Mrs Fitzgerald commented on the skill shown by young competitors and that the children's jumping events revealed some talented young riders.

Mrs McIndoe presided over an open meeting of the Women's Institute. Winter plans included a new drama class and the resumption of the choir. Mrs Bush was chosen as delegate to the next Group meeting at Bishopswood. Members arranged to carry out a collection for the NSPCC. Miss Lewis gave a demonstration of dainty party sweets and Mrs Moule voiced the meeting's hearty appreciation. Mr T Berry judged the competition for the best six potatoes grown from one Duke of York seed potato. For the social half-hour Mrs Bush arranged a lively 'memory game'. Tea hostesses were Mesdames Philpotts and Pike.

An application for an order to stop up the old road at Three Bridges Rumwell was to be made at Somerset Quarter Sessions. The County Council, seeking Taunton Rural District Council's approval, stated that people living nearby and the local parish councils had agreed that the road should be stopped up as it was no longer of use. It was decided that if Bishop's Hull Parish Council offered no objection, the RDC would consent.

50 years ago

Mr Frank Bond opened his gardens in aid of the Village Hall and Playing Fields Association. Over 100 people took the opportunity to hear his fine collection of Continental steam organs, admire the aviaries with their brightly coloured tropical birds and spend an afternoon in his pleasantly shaded garden. Thanks to Mr Bond's kindness in allowing the association to hold this unusual fund-raising effort and to the generosity of well-wishers, the afternoon made a profit of £25.

A couple who are both involved in police work in Taunton were married at St George's Roman Catholic Church. The bride, Miss Rita Marian Hussey, only daughter of Mr and Mrs DSJ Hussey of Northfields, was a communications operator at Taunton Police Station. The groom, PC Phillip John Cook, elder son of Mr and Mrs AGH Cook of Trowbridge Wiltshire was stationed at Taunton. Officiating at the ceremony was the rector, the Rev Patrick Lynch. The organist was Mrs Letchford and the floral arrangements were by Mrs Urwick. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a gown of Swiss cotton with a contrasting slipper satin yoke. Made by her mother, the dress had a high fitted bodice and a flared skirt swept into a chapel train. A Dutch bonnet of guipure lace with a circular veil and a bouquet of pink and white rosebuds completed the bridal outfit. In attendance was the bride's cousin, Miss Marilyn Hammond. The best man was Mr Vivian Lewis and the ushers were Mr Duncan Baxter and Mr John McPartland. Among the 65 guests at the reception at the Meryan House Hotel were lifelong friends Mr and Mrs Bartolotti, who had travelled from Rome to be there. For travelling to Majorca for the honeymoon, the bride wore an eau-de-nil suit with dark brown accessories.

Fund-raising efforts for the Village Hall and Playing Fields Association continued with a sponsored walk along the banks of the Taunton to Bridgwater Canal. Thirty-three adults and children walked the eleven miles from Bridgwater to Bathpool, after travelling to Bridgwater by coach. They were met at Bathpool by a fleet of 14 cars and driven to the Bishop's Hull playing field for tea and cold drinks. £5 towards the cost of the coach had been raised by a raffle at the Old Inn and the afternoon raised £150.

Somerset Motors began operating the Wellington Road Service Station where Texaco petrol is retailed. The chairman, Mr AG Wilson, cut the ribbon to reopen the station, watched by Mr CE Deacon, Texaco's regional manager, Mr RHA Richards, managing director of XT Holdings Ltd, and Mr MJ Martin, Texaco's assistant regional manager. Somerset Motors had also recently given up their Jaguar, Triumph and Rover agencies and switched to the German BMW and the French Peugeot.

Bishops Hull Motors, whose servicing, repairs and body repair premises were located opposite the church, were advertising a range of second-hand cars for sale, ranging from a 2-year-old Vauxhall Victor Estate 1800 for £1,150 to a 9-year-old Vauxhall 101 for £125.

Soaring cost of school uniforms

The BBC One's The One Show recently interviewed Children's Society's CEO Mark Russell, on a growing crisis affecting families across the UK: the soaring cost of school uniforms.

Russell reported that a new poll by The Children's Society has found that more than two in five children (44%) have experienced negative consequences due to school uniforms that their parents found to be "unaffordable". Russell said: "That included being placed in detention, isolation, or even excluded from school—simply because their families couldn't afford expensive branded items. And nearly 40% of families said that prices haven't improved, despite efforts to make more second hand items available."

As so now The Children's Society is campaigning to cut the costs of school uniform. "We want to see a limit on the number of branded uniform items per school, and for schools to do all they can to reduce costs for parents and carers."

But Russell says: "We here at the Children's Society can't do it alone. We need parents across the country to help us. How? By donating their children's outgrown school uniforms to our Give Hope Shop. (<https://givehope.uk/shop>)

"Every purchase of a school uniform item goes directly to families who need it the most—giving hope when so many are struggling with high cost."



Care of the Amaryllis after Flowering

This article was published originally on 1/7/2009

Byline:

By Richard Jauron, Department of Horticulture

Amaryllis bulbs are forced indoors for their large, spectacular flowers. Some individuals discard the amaryllis after flowering. However, it is possible to save the amaryllis and force it to flower on an annual basis. The key to successful reflowering is proper care.

After the flowers fade, cut off the flower stalk with a sharp knife. Make the cut 1 to 2 inches above the bulb. Don't damage the foliage. In order for the bulb to bloom again next season, the plant must replenish its depleted food reserves. The strap-like leaves manufacture food for the plant. Place the plant in a sunny window and water when the soil surface is nearly dry. Fertilize every 2 to 4 weeks with a water-soluble houseplant fertilizer.



The amaryllis can be moved outdoors in late May or early June. Harden or acclimate the plant to the outdoors by initially placing it in a shady, protected area. After 2 or 3 days, gradually expose the amaryllis to longer periods of direct sun. Once hardened, select a site in partial to full sun. Dig a hole and set the pot into the ground. Outdoors, continue to water the plant during dry weather. Also, continue to fertilize the amaryllis once or twice a month through July. Bring the plant indoors in mid-September. Plants left indoors should be kept in a sunny window.

In order to bloom, amaryllis bulbs must be exposed to temperatures of 50 to 55 degree F for a minimum of 8 to 10 weeks. This can be accomplished by inducing the plant to go dormant and then storing the dormant bulb at a temperature of 50 to 55 degree F. To induce dormancy, place the plant in cool, semi-dark location in late September and withhold water. Cut off the foliage when the leaves turn brown. Then place the dormant bulb in a 50 to 55 degree F location for at least 8 to 10 weeks. After the cool requirement has been met, start the growth cycle again by watering the bulb and placing it in a well-lighted, 70 to 75 degree F location. Keep the potting soil moist, but not wet, until growth appears. The other option is to place the plant in a well-lighted, 50 to 55 degree F location in fall. Maintain the amaryllis as a green plant from fall to early to mid-winter. After the cool requirement has been met, move the plant to a warmer (70 to 75 degree F) location. ####

EAT WELL FOR LESS DURING OCTOBER

BEETROOT AND POTATO PIE



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

GREASE a pie-dish. Place in it alternate layers of sliced cooked potatoes and beetroot, having potatoes on top. Pour over the onion sauce made as follows:
Melt fat. Fry in it the onion, previously skinned and chopped; but do not allow it to brown. Stir in the flour. Add milk, and let sauce cook undisturbed until it nearly reaches boiling-point. Then beat until quite smooth.

Season with pepper and salt. Sprinkle grated cheese over the top of the pie-dish, and bake till a golden colour in the oven.

*From Miss Christian Milne,
Aberdeenshire.*

HUNTINGDON FIDGET PIE

1 lb. cooking apples.
½ lb. Onions.
¾ lb. streaky home-cured bacon.
Pastry crust.
Seasoning.

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.*

SHEPHERD'S PIE WITH VEGETABLES

Boiled potatoes.
Cooked carrots.
Turnips.
Peas and parsnips.
Cold meat.
Onion.
Seasoning.
Water (about ½ teacupful).



MINCE meat and put into a roasting-tin. Add sliced onion, pepper, salt and water.

Add a layer of each of the sliced carrots, turnips and parsnips. Add a layer of peas. Then cover with mashed potatoes.

Mark with fork and cook in a brisk oven until potatoes are nicely browned.

From Mrs. Birkett, Cumberland.

CRUNCHY CHOCOLATE SLAB

½ lb. broken
biscuits.
2 ozs. margarine.
2 ozs. sugar.
1 oz. cocoa.
1 egg.



MELT margarine in enamel saucepan over slow heat, add sugar and cocoa and stir till dissolved, add beaten egg and stir slowly for 2 minutes, all over slow heat.

Break biscuits, if not already of the broken variety, to size of a pea or smaller.

Add to saucepan and mix thoroughly, turn out into greased tin, press level and when cool cut in fingers.

This is a rich mixture, a special treat for children, delicious with tea or Coffee.

From Miss E. Walker, Dublin.

JANE'S CHOCOLATE SPONGE



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

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 1½ hours.

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

From Mrs. D. L. Brown, Essex.

RHUBARB AND BANANA PIE

1 lb. Rhubarb.
1 egg white.
3 ozs. Sugar.
2 ozs. almonds.
The grated rind of
½ a lemon.
2 tablespoonfuls
castor sugar.
4 bananas.



WASH the rhubarb and cut into small lengths, put into a pie-dish and sprinkle with lemon rind and the sugar.

Peel the bananas, crush, and beat to pulp with the castor sugar; when soft beat in the white of the egg.

Continue beating until quite stiff.

Spread on the top of rhubarb to form a crust, sprinkle the top with blanched almonds, and bake in a moderate oven for 1½ hour.

Serve hot with custard or cream.

From Mrs. J. W. Foster, Yorkshire.

All in the month of October

200 years ago, on 25th Oct 1825 that Johann Strauss II, was born. This Austrian composer is best known for his waltzes, including The Blue Danube.

125 years ago, on 20th Oct 1900 that the American aviation pioneers the Wright Brothers made their first untethered glider flight at Kill Devil Hills, in North Carolina.

100 years ago, on 13th Oct 1925 that Margaret Thatcher, Baroness Thatcher, was born. She was the first woman Prime Minister of Britain (1979-90). (Died 2013.)

65 years ago, on 12th Oct 1960 that, at a meeting of the UN General Assembly in New York, the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev is reported to have removed his shoe and pounded his table, in protest at a speech by another delegate.



60 years ago, on 8th Oct 1965 that the Post Office Tower (now the BT Tower) in London was officially opened. It was the tallest building in the UK until 1980.



50 years ago, on 9th Oct 1975 that the IRA detonated a bomb near the Ritz Hotel in Piccadilly. One person was killed and at least 20 injured.

40 years ago, on 1st Oct 1985 that riots broke out in Toxteth in Liverpool and Peckham in London. Five days later (6th Oct) Met Police Constable Keith Blacklock was killed in the Broadwater Farm housing estate riot in Tottenham. He was the first British constable to be killed in a riot since 1833.



25 years ago, on 26th Oct 2000 that the BSE Inquiry Report was published in the UK. It concluded that the BSE (Mad Cow Disease) epidemic was caused by the use of infected meat and bone meal in cattle feed.

20 years ago, on 3rd Oct 2005 that Ronnie Barker, TV comedian, actor and writer, died. Known for The Frost Report, The Two Ronnies, Porridge, Going Straight and Open All Hours.



Also 20 years ago, on 18th to 26th Oct 2005 that Hurricane Wilma, the most intense Atlantic hurricane ever recorded, hit the Caribbean, Central America and the eastern USA. 63 people died. The storm caused £18.1 billion worth of damage.

The Iron Lady of Britain



One hundred years ago, on 13th October 1925, Margaret Thatcher, Baroness Thatcher of Kesteven, was born. She was the first woman Prime Minister of Britain (1979-90).

Her father, Alfred Roberts, was a grocer and Methodist local preacher in Grantham, and she was brought up as a strict Wesleyan Methodist. At one point just before the Second World War, the family gave sanctuary to a young Jewish girl who had escaped the Nazis.

Margaret later became a lay preacher herself, and was married at Wesley's Chapel in City Road, London, where her children were baptised. Afterwards she and her husband Denis (later Sir Denis) attended Church of England services and became Anglicans. She felt her policies as a Conservative aligned closely with Christianity.

She was the longest-serving Prime Minister of the 20th century and, partly because of her resilience, aroused strong feelings both for and against, having to weather difficulties and misjudgements, such as the poll tax. Those opposing her described her policies as 'Thatcherism', but others put a positive slant on this. Her nickname of Iron Lady – first used by a Soviet journalist – aptly described her leadership style and lack of compromise.

Before becoming Prime Minister, she had studied chemistry at Oxford, and then the law, qualifying as a barrister. She became an MP – for Finchley – in 1959 and progressed to Secretary of State for Education and Science before defeating Edward Heath in the 1975 Tory leadership election, making her leader of the Opposition and the first woman to lead a major UK political party.

When she arrived at Downing Street, she adapted a prayer of St Francis beginning "Where there is discord, may we bring harmony". She died from a stroke while staying at the Ritz Hotel in London in 2013 at the age of 87, having been unwell for some years.

Gardening in October

What to do in the garden in October

October is a beautiful month of autumnal colours and first frosts. Crisp, blue-sky days are the perfect time to tidy up and cut back in the garden. If you grow fruit and vegetables, there's still plenty to harvest and store for the cold winter months ahead.

In the vegetable garden

Finish harvesting peas and beans. When they've finished cropping simply cut the plant away at ground level, leaving the roots in the soil. These crops fix nitrogen which is slowly released into the soil as the roots break down.

If you plan to grow peas and beans next year, start preparing the site by digging trenches and filling with manure or kitchen waste.

Harvest pumpkins and squashes before the first frosts. They quickly turn mushy if left outside!

When you harvest your cabbages, leave the root in the ground and make a cut across the stem to encourage a flush of smaller leaves.

Hang any tomato plants and pepper plants with green fruits upside down indoors to ripen.

Protect autumn cauliflower heads, like 'White Step' F1 hybrid, from frost by wrapping the outer leaves around them and securing them with string. Alternatively use a cloche or fleece.

Cut back yellowing asparagus foliage to within 5cm of the ground.

Reuse old grow bags by cutting away the top and sowing late salad crops. Cropping can be extended into winter if grown under glass, cloches or inside polytunnels.

In the fruit garden

If you haven't done so already, cut back the fruited canes of your summer fruiting raspberries, leaving the new green canes for next year's crop. Tie in next year's raspberry canes to plant support wires or fencing.

Move citrus trees indoors to a bright, frost free position (4-12°C) away from cold draughts and radiators. Reduce watering in winter but don't let the plant dry out completely.

Clear the straw from around the base of strawberry plants to increase ventilation. Shear back old foliage to encourage fresh new growth.

Divide congested clumps of rhubarb by digging up and splitting into several pieces with a spade. Re-plant the healthiest looking pieces.

To test when apples are ripe, gently lift them in the palm of your hand or give them a gentle pull — they should come away easily.

Remove any diseased fruits from branches or the ground so they don't infect next year's crops.

Wrap grease bands around the trunks of apple trees to trap winter moth females whose caterpillars shred spring flowers.

Remove the netting from fruit cages to allow birds to catch and eat any pests that are lurking there.

Apply a winter wash to the trunks and branches of fruit trees to kill off overwintering pests.

In the greenhouse

If you haven't done so already, remove any greenhouse shading to allow as much light in as possible.

Move tender plants into the greenhouse to protect them from early frosts. Make sure that there's enough space between to keep them well ventilated and reduce the risk of disease.

Check any plants which you're bringing inside for pests like aphids.

Continue to remove any fallen or dead plant material to keep the growing area free of fungal diseases.

Set up your greenhouse heater in case of early frosts.

Looking after your lawn

Clear up fallen leaves regularly to allow light to the grass.

A last mowing can be made this month before leaving your lawn for the winter.

Recut any lawn edges if needed. Install lawn edging to make future maintenance easier.

Aerate your lawn with a garden fork to avoid waterlogging and compaction over winter.

Rake any thatch from the surface and repair dead patches. There's still time to lay fresh turf if required.

Other jobs about the garden

Reuse spent compost from annual container displays as a mulch on the garden.

Create compost bins for collecting fallen leaves and dead plant material.

Make sure your conifers are ready for the winter. Taller varieties may need staking, and more delicate varieties should be moved to sheltered areas away from drying, winter winds.

This month, prune any tall hedging plants while they're dormant.

Collect leaves up for making leaf mould as a soil conditioner. Oak, alder and hornbeam will rot down in a year, but beech, sycamore, horse chestnut and sweet chestnut take a couple of years to compost.

Start preparing a bonfire with twigs and prunings — cover them with plastic so they remain dry for better burning later. (Be sure to check for hedgehogs before lighting your bonfire).

Clean out water butts and let the autumn rains refill them. Install a new water butt ready for next year.

If the soil is dry, give your garden one last good watering before the ground freezes.

Use the last of the dry weather to paint sheds and fences with preservatives before the winter arrives.

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

With the continuous growth of commerce, land development, and general prosperity, the roads were more busy than ever with the passage of riders and pedestrians, of all classes on business and pleasure. The medieval custom of pilgrimage had helped to give people a taste for travel and sightseeing, which survived the religious custom of visiting shrines. The medicinal spa was taking the place of the holy well. Already, as Camden tells us, Buxton in distant Derbyshire was a fashionable resort for 'great numbers of nobility and gentry', who came to drink its waters, and were housed in fine lodgings erected by the Earl of Shrewsbury to develop the place. Bath was not yet in full fashion, for although its waters were famous its accommodation was squalid.

The inns of Elizabethan England had a character of their own for individual attention accorded to travellers. Fynes Moryson, who had sampled the wayside hospitality of half Europe, wrote in the light of his experience:

The world affords not such inns as England hath, either for food and cheap entertainment after the guests' own pleasure, or for humble attendance on passengers, yea even in very poor villages. For as soon as a passenger comes to an inn, the servants run to him, and one takes his horse, and walks him till he be cold, then rubs him and gives him meat [food], yet I must say that they are not much to be trusted to this last point, without the eye of the Master or his servant to oversee them. Another servant gives the passenger his private chamber, and kindles his fire; the third pulls off his boots and makes them clean. Then the host or hostess visit him; and if he will eat with the host, or at a common table with others, his meal will cost him sixpence, or in some places but four pence; yet this course is less honourable and not used by gentlemen. But if he will eat in his chamber, he commands what meat he will, yea the kitchen is open to him to command the meat to be dressed as he best likes. And when he sits down at table, the host or hostess will accompany him, or if they have many guests will at least visit him, taking it for courtesy to be bid sit clown. While he eats, if he have company especially, he shall be offered music, which he may freely take or refuse. And if he be solitary, the musicians will give him good day with music in the morning A man cannot more freely command in his own house than he may do in his inn. And at parting, if he give some few pence to the chamberlain and ostler, they wish him a happy journey.

Unfortunately, behind all this hearty welcome, something sinister might be concealed. Shakespeare has given us the seamy side of inns as he knew them, in words, muttered before dawn in the inn-yards at Rochester, while Charles' wain is over the new chimney, and yet our horse is 'not packed'; the honest carriers, one learns, have not had such clean quarters, nor enjoyed so undisturbed a night as Fynes Moryson's gentleman. And they know the

chamberlain for a rogue, who lives by betraying travellers to bolder thieves than himself..’.

Shakespeare is fully borne out by the account of the inns of that date given by William Harrison. He praises indeed the food, the wine, the beer, the scrupulously clean linen at bed and board, the tapestry on the walls, the key of his room given to every guest, and the freedom he enjoys as contrasted to the more tyrannous treatment of travellers on the Continent. But, alas, the willing servants and the jolly host himself are often in league with highwaymen. The obsequious attendance on the guest may cover a wish to learn what route he will take the next day and whether he is in charge of money. Before the days of cheques, large sums of gold and silver were carried along the roads in the ordinary way of business. The servants of the inn officiously handle every article of the traveller's baggage, to judge by its weight in hand if it contain coin. Then they pass on the result of their researches to confederates outside. The inn keeps its good name, for no robbery is done within its walls; the thieves spring out from a thicket some miles off upon the road.

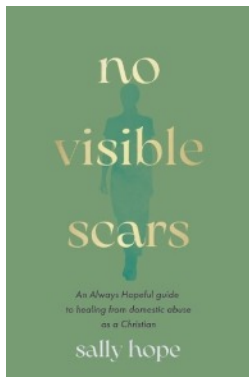
This system, Harrison concludes, works ‘to the utter undoing of many an honest yeoman as he journeyeth on his way’. Even so did the chamberlain of the Rochester inn betray to Falstaff's gang the ‘franklin in the wild of Kent’, who ‘brought three hundred marks with him in gold’. But the inn was not the resort of wayfarers alone. It frequently happened that the inhabitants of the manor-house and their guests, after dining at home, would adjourn to the neighbouring hostelry, and spend long hours there in a privy chamber round the glasses and tankards; for in the difficult matter of foreign wine the squire was often more ready to trust mine host's cellar than his own. This custom continued among the smaller gentry for several generations after the death Elizabeth. And in all ages the ale-bench has been the social centre of the middling and lower classes of town, village, and hamlet.

The study of the history and literature of Elizabethan England gives an impression of a greater harmony and a freer intercourse of classes than in earlier or in later times. It is not a period of peasants' revolts, of levelling doctrines, of anti-Jacobin fears, or of exclusiveness; and snobbery in the upper class such as Jane Austen depicts in a later age. Class divisions in Shakespeare's day were taken as a matter of course, without jealousy in those below, or itching anxiety on the part of the ‘upper and middling classes’ to teach ‘the grand law of subordination’ to the ‘inferior orders’, which is so painfully evident, in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries for example, in charity school education. The typical unit of Elizabethan education was the grammar school, where the cleverest boys of all classes were brought up together: the typical units of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century education were the charity school, the village school, and the ‘great Public School’, where the classes were educated in rigorous segregation. Elizabethans took the social world as they took everything else, naturally, and consorted together without self-consciousness or suspicion. #####

BOOK REVIEWS

No Visible Scars - An Always Hopeful Guide to Healing from Domestic Abuse as a Christian

By Sally Hope, SPCK, £12.99



One in four Christian women will experience domestic abuse. Survivors report that their churches are not adequately equipped to support them, and that secular

domestic abuse services do not understand their faith.

So this book explores domestic abuse and the unique challenges that Christian women face. It seeks to help survivors find answers to commonly asked questions such as 'Where is God in all this?' and survivors will be helped to recognise that God is firmly on the side of the abused, He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds.

No Visible Scars is based on the 'Always Hopeful' recovery programme for groups of Christian women who have experienced domestic abuse.

The Secret of Secrets:

By - Robert Langdon

The story kicks off when Robert Langdon is invited to a prestigious international conference to decipher a mysterious artifact—a centuries-old manuscript believed to

hold “the ultimate truth.” Written in code, it’s connected to secret societies, lost civilizations, and groundbreaking advancements in human understanding. However, the situation takes a dark turn when a prominent speaker is assassinated right before revealing a shocking discovery tied to the manuscript.

Langdon and his new partner, historian Dr. Amelia Chase, find themselves caught in an urgent race to solve the artifact’s puzzles before a clandestine group, intent on keeping these truths hidden forever, takes drastic action. Along the way,

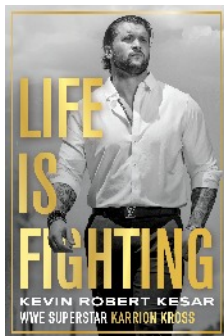
Langdon confronts ethical dilemmas, betrayal, and truths that challenge his own beliefs. The novel escalates into a gripping finale as the duo uncovers a revelation that could redefine history, science, and faith in unimaginable ways.

The pacing is tight, and the twists will keep readers guessing. Brown does an incredible job of layering smaller discoveries into larger revelations, keeping every chapter packed with meaning and momentum. Every clue not only drives the story forward but also forces Langdon—and by extension, us—to rethink what we believe about the world.



Life Is Fighting

Kevin Robert Kesar



Karrion Kross's physique — a hulking 6'4", 265 pounds — and the unbridled intensity in his eyes is enough on its own to inspire fear in opponents.

Factor in his

unique combination of precision and abject ruthlessness, and it becomes clear that anyone stepping in the ring with Kross is in immediate danger. A master of catch wrestling and sambo, Kross has done battle around the world. He boasts an array of devastating suplexes, including his dreaded Domsday Saito. And if that's not enough, he's more than happy to put opponents to sleep with the Kross Jacket.

For all his menacing exterior, the human being behind the character — whose real name is Kevin Kesar — is a soft-spoken, highly thoughtful individual with a powerful story.

Recognized by peers for his exceptional love for his profession, Kesar endured numerous setbacks on the way to achieving his dream. Along with his wife, Elizabeth — known in WWE as Scarlett — he has repeatedly found the fortitude to bounce back stronger, personally and professionally. This book is full of fascinating stories, heartache, humor, and even some advice for those with similar aspirations. Readers will be immersed into Kesar's unique mindset as he pulls back the curtain

on what the journey (and the fight) to the top of sports entertainment is really like.

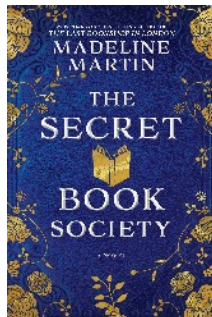
The Secret Book Society

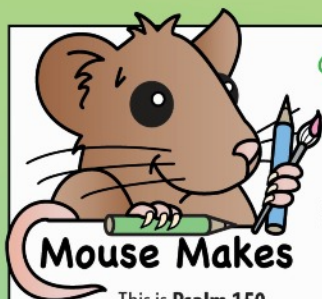
Madeline Martin

London, 1895: Trapped by oppressive marriages and societal expectations, three women receive a mysterious invitation to an afternoon tea at the home of the reclusive Lady Duxbury. Beneath the genteel facade of the gathering lies a secret book club—a sanctuary where they can discover freedom, sisterhood, and the courage to rewrite their stories.

Eleanor Clarke, a devoted mother suffocating under the tyranny of her husband. Rose Wharton, a transplanted American dollar princess struggling to fit the mold of an aristocratic wife. Lavinia Cavendish, an artistic young woman haunted by a dangerous family secret. All are drawn to the enigmatic Lady Duxbury, a thrice-widowed countess whose husbands' untimely deaths have sparked whispers of murder.

As the women form deep, heartwarming friendships, they uncover secrets about their marriages, their pasts, and the risks they face. Their courage is their only weapon in the oppressive world that has kept them silent, but when secrets are deadly, one misstep could cost them everything.



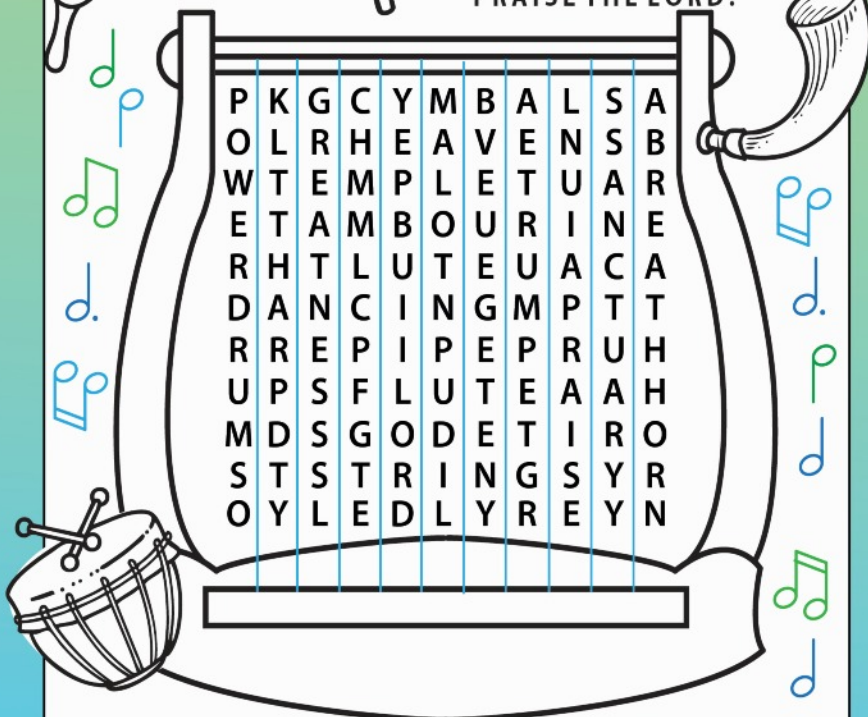


Mouse Makes

This is **Psalm 150**,
a song of praise to God,
it tells us why and how
to worship God.
*How do you praise and
worship God?*

Praise God in His Temple,
Praise Him in His mighty heavens.
Praise Him for His acts of power,
Praise Him for his surpassing greatness.

Praise Him
with the sounding trumpet,
Praise Him
with the harp and lyre,
Praise Him
with tambourine and dancing,
Praise Him
with the clash of cymbals,
Praise Him
with the resounding cymbals.
Let everything that has breath
PRAISE THE LORD!



PRAISE • GOD • TEMPLE • HEAVENS • SANCTUARY • POWER • GREATNESS
TRUMPET • HORN • PIPE • FLUTE • HARP • LYRE • LUTE • STRINGS
TAMBOURINE • DANCING • CYMBALS • DRUMS • BREATH • LORD



For or against: slavery and salvation

Much of our world operates around the challenge to be ‘for’ or ‘against’. And generally, it is easier to be against things than for them! Look at the tendencies of the media, politics and religious disputes.

On October 18, Anti-Slavery Day, people across the UK will recommit themselves to the fight against modern slavery and human trafficking, one of the great evils of our time. Like William Wilberforce and what we now call historic slavery, we need to fight against the oppression and exploitation of our sisters and brothers today. Abolition is the proper aim of being anti or against. And the challenge is growing with:

- More vulnerable people susceptible to false promises
- Increasingly flexible working arrangements which gives space for criminal agencies to provide goods and services based on exploitation and slave labour
- Police and prevention resources being ever overstretched
- And our own insatiable appetite for cheap products
- There is much we need to learn to oppose and abolish.

But, in facing these almost overwhelming challenges we must not neglect what is primary for our Christian witness, the call to notice, reach out, rescue and restore. The call to love, to be for those who are hidden, neglected, hurting and ignored.

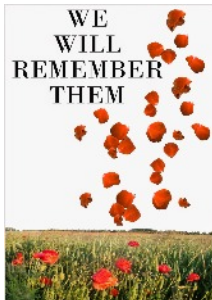
In Anti-Slavery Week, give time to thinking how you or your church or home group could better learn how to contribute to the fight against modern slavery. *The Clewer Initiative* has some amazing resources to help us open our eyes and assist the authorities and reach out towards victims.

But, alongside these prayers and practices, consider how you could go the extra mile in the way of the Good Samaritan. Going beyond the indifference of the priest and the Levite, too busy to stop, notice, reach out, rescue; rather how can we better contribute to establishing systems like the partnership between the Good Samaritan and the innkeeper— systems to provide care and the basis of restoring proper health and opportunities to those whose cries represent the voice of Jesus for those willing to listen.

Be against modern slavery this October, but more, be for those who need our friendship and our partnership.

Bishop Alastair Redfern
Honorary Assistant Bishop

The Poppy Appeal – could you help by giving some time this autumn?



The 2025 Poppy Appeal will be launched this month. The Poppy is a powerful symbol worn by people right across the UK to commemorate the sacrifices of

our Armed Forces and to show support to those still serving today. The Royal British Legion was first set up to help those returning from the First World War. Almost a century on, they're still helping today's Service people, veterans, and their families coping with bereavement, living with disability or finding employment.

However, the Poppy Appeal would not be able to continue without the dedication of the teams of volunteers who stand in the streets, shops and supermarkets. Each town and village has their own Poppy Appeal Organiser - also a volunteer - who runs these teams, arranges for cover, drops off and collects the boxes.

The Poppy Appeal is always grateful for the work of these dedicated people, but the volunteers say they proud to be selling Poppies to show support for those who sacrificed their lives for us.

If you want to volunteer, or if you would like a visit from a local volunteer who can speak to your community/church group, please go to:

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer>.

Complaints – how do you make them effective?

Perhaps it is a British thing, but we do not like to complain, do we? Nowadays, most large organisations, especially public bodies, want us to complain if something is wrong, because good service standards are important. They have well designed complaints systems and independent ombudsmen to oversee it all. The first thing is to try to resolve an issue informally. If this has not worked, use the proper procedure. You can probably find how to on the company's website.

Be precise about what you are complaining about. Be clear – use account numbers, references and dates. Put in the names of persons involved, if you know them. Do not leave it too long because most procedures have deadlines.

Keep it short, simple and to the point. Ask a friend to look at it first, to make sure they understand what you are complaining about. Be firm but polite and business-like – you are more likely to be listened to. It may be helpful to use numbered points, in date order. Keep a note of dates. Be reasonable. It may be an apology will suffice, but do not be fobbed off. Think about what outcome you want. Is it an apology? If so, get a genuine apology. If you are told “we are sorry you felt let down” that is not an apology; “We let you down” is.

Perhaps you want the organisation to change their ways so something bad does not happen to other people. And another thing: if you get a good service from someone, tell the company. It might make their day.

**

Time to make your Will?



Been putting off writing or updating your Will? Next month the charity Will Aid's 'Make a

Will Month' will offer you the opportunity to put your affairs in order, secure your loved ones future and give to charities helping those in need.

Participating solicitors are inviting people to contact them to book appointments for November, when they will prepare basic Wills without charging their normal fee. All that they will ask in return is that clients consider making a voluntary donation to Will Aid. The suggested donation is just £120 for a single Will, or £200 for a pair of mirror Wills. The money raised is shared by nine UK charities: namely ActionAid, Age UK, British Red Cross, Christian Aid, Crisis, NSPCC, SCIAF (Scotland) and Trocaire (N. Ireland).

As many as half of all UK adults in the UK don't have a Will. They have not made any legally valid provision for what they would like to happen after their death. This can lead to a great deal of stress and uncertainty, as well as financial hardship, for those left behind.

Even if you have a Will, it is important to keep it up to date. Experts recommend routinely reviewing a Will every three to five years, and making a new Will as soon as significant family changes occur. More details at <https://www.willaid.org.uk/register>.

Please book early as solicitors tend to fill their appointments very quickly.

**

Send your love with these flowers

A flower used by Victorians when they wanted to send a 'hidden message' of love is making a big comeback. It is the aster. It's popularity in bouquets has quadrupled in



two years. Sales at Tesco alone have soared by nearly 350 per cent. And no wonder: asters are vivid, fast-growing British flowers with a good vase life. They come in blue, purple, pink, dark pink, red and white – all with a bright yellow centre. They originally came from Japan and are related to dahlias and chrysanthemums.

The Victorians believed that asters symbolised love, patience, wisdom, elegance and grace. That made asters a sure winner for bearing discreet messages of affection.

More than five million were grown in the UK this year, so there must be a lot of love about!

**

Seats to avoid on passenger planes

Have you flown recently? How was your seat? It seems that some seats are rather weird. Like the Jet2.com passenger who discovered that his seat came with an armrest that was literally 1.5 inches long. The reason? It was an emergency exit row seat and needed

to be kept clear. Or those planes (like some with Loganair and BA) which offer you rear-facing seats in row one. That means bracing yourself for a difficult take-off, and then you'll spend the trip with everyone else staring at you. And, as going backwards makes some people airsick, they may have to watch you throw up...

Or those seats which should have a window, but don't. Yes, windowless window seats really do exist. Some 777s and some 737s have these – something to do with air conditioning ducts.

As for the worst seats for odours – try to avoid being near the loos and the kitchen. The queues for the loos mean that you keep getting prodded by people's elbows, and the smells can be so nauseating that some nurses on social media even advise bringing along Vicks VapoRub, to distract your nose.

**

Younger drivers and older drivers



Drivers aged 17 to 24 are twice as likely to be killed or seriously injured as those aged over 70. So says recent data from the Department for Transport. But there has also been a rise in the likelihood of serious accidents involving drivers aged 86 or over. Police data reveals that older drivers are more likely to cause accidents by failing to look properly. Young drivers who cause accidents are often found to be drunk or high on drugs. Meanwhile, the Government is preparing to introduce compulsory eye tests for the over-70s. This has been greeted with relief by driving agencies.

One commented that it is “totally inadequate” that drivers aged over 70 “can self-certify that they can see.” He remembered a case where it was found that an older driver who caused a death had self-certified his eyesight as being fine, when he could barely see his own steering wheel.

**

Plastic carrier bags

This year marks ten years since England introduced the 5p charge for single-use plastic carrier bags. The



charge has had a dramatic effect – with a reduction of 98% in sales. In 2014, 7.6 billion single-use plastic bags were sold in the UK. By 2023, 133 million single-use bags had been sold in the major supermarkets. The average person in the UK now buys only about two single-use plastic bags per year.

##

A FEW SMILES

The Good Old Days!

Grandpa was always going on about the good old days, and the lower cost of living, in particular to his grandson.

"When I was a kid, my mom could send me to the store, and I'd get a salami, two pints of milk, 6 oranges, 2 loaves o' bread, a magazine, and some new blue jeans... all for a dollar!!

"Grandson, "You can't DO that anymore..... they got those darn video cameras everywhere you look."

I just got subscription to a Magazine About lettuce...

It's fun to leaf through, and full of crisp facts -*And that's just issue 1!* The publishers assure me that it's only the tip of the iceberg! Gee, I can't wait for issue 2 to see what facts remain!

A new family doctor

I went to a new family doctor today. The waiting room was spacious, new renovation, nice and beautiful nurses. And it got a sign:

"We respect our patients' privacy, we will not call you by name".

Quite good eh, I thought.

Completed the registration, I sat down in the waiting area, reading the latest car magazine. A moment later, the nurse speak with the mic:

"The man age 32, with haemorrhoids, please proceed to examination room number 3".

Lot's wife

A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his

wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt.'

His son looked up, concerned. 'What happened to the flea?'

I was happily watching the Bermuda Philharmonic Orchestra when suddenly the guy on the triangle disappeared.

God's Plan for Ageing?

Most senior citizens don't get enough exercise. In His wisdom God decreed that senior citizens become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys and other things thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made senior citizens lose coordination so they would drop things requiring them to bend, reach and stretch. And God looked down and saw that it was good. Then God considered the function of bladders and decided senior citizens would have additional calls of nature requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good. So if you find as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will. It is all in your best interest, even though you mutter under your breath.

Moscow newspapers

In Moscow, an old grandmother goes to the newspaper store, buys a newspaper, glances at it briefly, and immediately throws it away. The next day, the grandmother goes to the store again, buys a newspaper, looks at it briefly, and immediately throws it

away. So it goes day in and day out, one morning the sales clerk asks the grandmother curiously:

"Grandmother, why do you always throw away the newspaper immediately?", whereupon the grandmother answers, "... oh, I just look at the obituaries...". The salesman is astonished, "But the obituaries are not on the front page...". The grandmother replies, "...the obituary I'm waiting for will be on the front page..."

The CEO of a company was in need of a secretary

He spread ads all over town. A few days later, there was a knock on his door. It was a dog. He had a newspaper in his mouth. He opened it to the classifieds page and pointed to the ad that the CEO had placed. The CEO was impressed. But he thought it was a joke, so he decided to test the dog:

"Look, I need a secretary who understands the basics of computers" The dog went to one of the secretary's desks, climbed on the chair, turned on the computer and the printer in total tranquility.

The CEO was amazed, but decided to go further:

"That's good, but I need a secretary who understands spreadsheets" The dog quickly opened Excel, scanned rows and columns of data and then used pivot tables to create dashboards of charts. The astonished CEO desperately followed:

"Well, that's really fantastic, but my secretary must be bilingual!"

The dog replied: "Meow"

Nurses in Heaven

Three nurses died and went to heaven, where they were met at the Pearly Gates by St. Peter. To the first, he asked, "What did you do on Earth and why should you go to heaven?" "I was a nurse in an inner-city hospital," she replied. "Very noble," said St. Peter. "You may enter." To the next, he asked the same question: "So what did you do on Earth?" "I was a nurse at a missionary hospital in Africa," she replied. "How touching," said St. Peter. "You, too, may enter." He then came to the last nurse, to whom he asked, "So, what did you do back on Earth?" After some hesitation, she explained, "I was just a nurse at an HMO." (A Health Maintenance Organization)

St. Peter pondered this for a moment, and then said, "Okay, you may enter also." "Whew!" said the nurse. "For a moment there, I thought you weren't going to let me in." "Oh, you can come in," said St. Peter, "but you can only stay for three days."

This morning at about 7:45, I was in a long line at a grocery store that opens at 8:00 for senior citizens only.

A young man came from the parking lot and tried to cut in at the front of the line, but an old lady beat him back into the parking lot with her cane. He returned and tried to cut in again but an old man punched him in the gut, then kicked him to the ground and rolled him away.

As he approached the line for the third time he said, "Look, if you don't let me unlock the damn door you're never going to get in there!"

A frog walks into a bank and walks up to the teller. He says, "my name is Kermit Jagger and I'd like to take out a loan." The teller says, "nice to meet you, I'm Patti, but I have to tell you, we don't loan money to frogs." Kermit says, "no it's ok. I have collateral. Here is this priceless heirloom. Oh! And I hate to throw this around but my dad is Mick Jagger." Patti takes the small ceramic elephant and says, "I'll need to get my manger".

Manager comes over and says, "what's the problem Miss Whack?" To which Patti replies, "well you see this frog here wants to take out a loan, he says he's Mick Jagger's son and he produced this tiny elephant for collateral. This is highly unusual and I'm not sure what to do." The exacerbadated manger rolls his eyes, sighs, and says:

"Oh for God Sake! It's a knick knack Patti Wack, give the frog a loan. His old man is a Rolling Stone!"

Tim decided to tie the knot with his long time girlfriend.

One evening, after the honeymoon, he was organizing his golfing equipment. His wife was standing nearby watching him.

After a long period of silence she finally speaks: "Tim, I've been thinking, now that we're married maybe it's time you quit golfing. You spend so much time on the course. You could probably get a good price for your clubs."

Tim gets this horrified look on his face.

She says, "Darling, what's wrong?" "For a minute there you were beginning to sound like my ex-wife."

"Ex-wife!" she screams, "I didn't know you were married before!" "I wasn't," he replied.

A man is driving down a highway, and he hits and kills a rabbit. He gets out of the car and walks over to the rabbit. He picks it up and starts crying, thinking he's a horrible person. Someone else driving down the highway stops and walks over to him, and asks, "What happened?" The man replies, "I hit this rabbit with my car and now it's dead!" The other person gets a thoughtful look on their face and goes back to their car. They rummage around in the trunk, and eventually walk back over to the man holding a spray bottle. They spray the rabbit with the bottle, and it comes back to life. It starts hopping away, turning back every few hops to wave at the two people. The man, astounded, turns to the other person and asks, "What was in that bottle?"

The other person replies, "It's hare spray."

A businessman went into the office and found an inexperienced handyman painting the walls. The handyman was wearing two heavy parkas on a hot summer day. Thinking this was a little strange, the businessman asked the handyman why he was wearing the parkas on such a hot day.

The handyman showed him the instructions on the can of paint. They read: "For best results, put on two coats."

Sorry, that was a really awful joke

St James the Least of All

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

**On what those adverts from parishes wanting clergy
REALLY mean...**

*The Rectory
St James the Least of All*

My dear Nephew Darren ,

So, you are being encouraged to look at adverts for parishes for that happy day when you will have charge of your own church. You wonder if you should look to moving to another part of the country; I suspect it may be better if you look to moving to another planet, as your reputation may not yet have travelled that far.

Reading the specifications that parishes provide, giving a picture of life in their community, need to be read in the same way as estate agents' specifications for houses for sale. Both demonstrate a triumph of optimism over reality. Let me help you decode some of the statements you will find:

- *"We look to grow our Sunday School" – We do not have a Sunday School.*
- *"We have an enthusiastic choir" – We have a choir totally out of control.*
- *"Our youth group is always eager to learn" - Our youth group experiments with some strange substances.*
- *"The new incumbent should be sympathetic to our musical tradition"- The new incumbent must be able to play the organ as well as lead the Services.*
- *"While cherishing our traditions, we see the need for change" – We always see the need for change, but alter anything at your peril.*
- *"Plans for church renovations are in hand" – The building is in imminent danger of collapse.*
- *"We have a large range of church groups" – You will have to run a large range of church groups single handedly.*
- *"The vicarage is being refurbished" – The vicarage is a death trap. Its rising damp and dangerous electrics will not be fixed for many months yet.*
- *"There is opportunity for developing ecumenical relations" – No one in living memory has ever spoken to clergy of other denominations in our town.*
- *"The new incumbent should have a sense of humour" – He or she will need it when reading this specification.*
-

My dear nephew, caveat emptor. Let the buyer beware!

*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@bishophullparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

Community Room & School Hall
Rick Moon 354908

Frank Bond Centre - Nadia 07958
246046

Neighbourhood Beat Team

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

Robin Close Hall - 356389

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

BISHOP'S HULL ORGANISATIONS

BH Flower, Fruit and Vegetable Show
- Amanda Gallacher 337720

Bishop's Hull HUB -
booking: bhhubbookings@gmail.com
General enquiries and events:
bishopshullhub@gmail.com
Bishops Hull Hub cafe -
bishopshullhubcafe@gmail.com

BH Short Mat Bowls - Alan Chapman
01823 630641
bhsmbc@yahoo.com

BHVH & Playing Fields Trust -
Paul Bulbeck 283941

BH WI — Sue Hazelwood 01823
323986

British Martial Arts and Boxing
Association Tae Kwon Do
alecmhay@aol.com

Brownies - Sheena Grinter 331184

Community Woodland Volunteer -
David 272415

Nia (Dance Fitness) - Jackie
07949735139

FBC Activities - Carolyn 283941

Infinity Martial Academy - Jon 07736
714370
jonakkc@hotmail.co.uk
Pilates - Larissa
lapilates7@gmail.com / larissa@la-pilates.com

Somerset Hills Chorus - Brenda
Palfrey 07857 244272

Tae Kwon Do - Sebastian Morey-
Weale 07900 517767

Tai Chi - Bev Fernandes 07880
555984

Zumba - Felicity 07939 580327

REFUSE / RECYCLING
/GARDEN COLLECTIONS

Dates below taken from Somerset
Council Website.

Please note new day for recycling and
refuse collections.

**Recycling: Every Thursday - all
areas**

BISHOP'S HULL, SHUTEWATER,
UPCOTT & BARR

Refuse:	Thursday
Garden:	Monday
	<u>RUMWELL</u>
Refuse:	Thursday
Garden:	Wednesday

STONEGALLOWS

Refuse:	Thursday
Garden:	Monday

BH COUNCIL PRIVACY
STATEMENT AND POLICY

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

SERVICES AT ST PETER & ST PAUL OCTOBER 2025

Wednesday 1 October	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 5 October Trinity 16	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8.00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	2 Timothy 1:1-14 (1195); Luke 17:5-10 (1051)	Paul Curry
Wednesday 8 October	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 12 October Trinity 17	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	2 Timothy 2:8-15 (1195); Luke 17:11-19 (1051)	David Ager
Wednesday 15 October	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 19 October Trinity 18	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	2 Timothy 3:14- 4:5 (1196); Luke 18:1-8 (1051)	Sally Adams
Wednesday 22 October	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 26 October Trinity last after	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 (1197); Luke 18:9-14 (1052)	Rosemary Lockley
Wednesday 29 October	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		

GRASS CUTTING



CHURCH DIRECTORY (01823)

Church web site: www.stpeterandstpaul.org.uk

Vicar:

Rev. Philip Hughes

336102

(Usual day off - Friday)

phil2overflowing@gmail.com



Rev Philip Hughes

Church Wardens: Tim Venn John Perry

Treasurer

Electoral Roll Officer

Safeguarding Officer: Beverley Keitch

Other PCC Members - Rachel Horder. Mark Dakin
Sue Martin Hilary Harper . Lillian Priest

St Peter and St Paul's PCC 2025-2026

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



10 And you? The PCC is a great team to belong to and is there to assist the Vicar in the Mission and function of the church. If you think God may be calling you to serve in this way there are lots of opportunities, so do have a chat with one of the fab team!