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Pathways

Editor Maggie Inglis

Tel: 01984 631793

All copy for the December 2020 edition
should go to Maggie by 12th November

qtbpathways90@gmail.com

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Pathways

November 2020



Remembrance Poppies in a garden at the Bishops Palace Wells.

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Bicknoller † Crowcombe † Elworthy † Monksilver
Nettlecombe † Sampford Brett † Stogumber †



Quantock Towers Benefice

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Associate Vicar and Rural Dean: The Reverend Ben Flenley
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Gill Southwood	Bicknoller	656874	Michael Pulvermacher	Stogumber	01823 254588

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	steve.pryde99@gmail.com	
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	656156	
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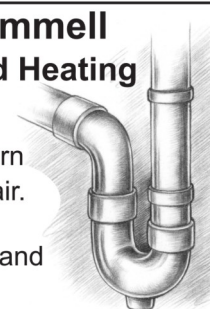
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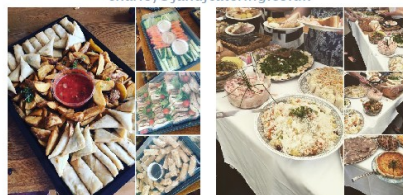
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Thanksgiving, Remembrance, Christmas & Farewells



It seems quite novel to be writing my editorial for Pathways after a 6 month absence! The Diocese is still not allowing us to distribute parish magazines, owing to the Covid19 regulations, but instead we have decided to have a slightly limited print run of 80%, and leave copies in each church for individual subscribers to pick up for themselves.

First of all may I start by **thanking** each and every one of you who sent me such lovely cards and letters of condolence when my beloved Andrew died so unexpectedly in June – I say unexpectedly, we knew he had cancer but he had initially been given ‘years’ to live by the consultant, and then ‘weeks’ in early June. The very day he died the Doctor told me on the phone it would probably be ‘days’ rather than weeks, but ‘you can never tell’. In the event he had passed on to heaven within 4 hours of that conversation, and alas I was not with him at the end as it all happened so quickly. However I am genuinely glad that he did not suffer longer, after only a week back in hospital. I had well over 300 cards & letter – not ALL from the Benefice! – so it has been impossible to thank you all personally, but they were all much appreciated, as has been the hospitality I have received from so many of you since. A very large THANK YOU indeed. It really helped to know how much you all cared, and I was quite overwhelmed by how many people turned up to line the lanes – appropriately socially distanced of course - of Bicknoller for his funeral. And indeed outside Minehead railway station where the hearse passed by on its way to Bicknoller there were over 30 of his rail chums clapping him on his way.

The funeral in Bicknoller Churchyard took place on 25th June on what must have been the very hottest day of the year. Thanks to Bishop Nigel for conducting it, and Ben for preaching – as well as the friend who introduced us in 1983. Andrew’s death leaves a huge hole in my life, but life goes on, despite the Pandemic.

So, looking ahead, there will (at time of going to press, who knows what further restrictions we might face?) be services in all 6 churches at 10.50 a.m on **Remembrance Sunday, 8th November**. Then looking further ahead, we are at this point in time planning all the usual services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, with the exception of the Stogumber childrens nativity – which we hope will take place in a much more limited form, and possibly outside. More details will be in the December issue of Pathways, so watch this space and the Church Porch for details! Alas we are not allowed to sing in church, except for small socially distanced choirs, so the usual Carol Services will not be able to take place, but we are working on possible substitutes for these events.

Christmas services Because we are worried about numbers, please can everyone who wants to attend Midnight Mass at 11.00pm in Stogumber, e mail the Church Warden Julian Spicer: julianspicer@hotmail.com. This will probably have to be a ticketed event in order not to have too many people in church. We can safely accommodate approximately 50 people socially distancing – slightly more if some are in family bubbles, slightly less if there are lots of single people. Similarly Bicknoller can safely accommodate approximately 30 people, so please let me know if you want to come to their Midnight Mass at 11.00pm. There will also be the usual 2 Bethlehem Masses at Sampford Brett and Monksilver, @ 9.00 p.m on Christmas Eve, so it would be useful if you can let their churchwardens know if you intend to come. Crowcombe and Nettlecombe will have their Christmas morning services (Communion and Family Services respectively) at 10.30 on Christmas Day – again please let Churchwardens know if you would like to come. Thank you & sorry to have to be so prescriptive. It is also hoped to have some form of 9 Lessons and Carols in Stogumber the Sunday before Christmas, but this will be announced in the next Pathways.

Ben Flenley's Farewell I think most people know by now that sadly we are losing Ben (and Kathryn) at the end of the year when they retire to Sussex. So Ben's final Eucharist will be on Sunday 27th December at 10.30 in Stogumber. Because it is highly likely that more than 50 people will want to attend, we are also planning a farewell Evensong at 6.00pm in Crowcombe Church on the same day, as needed. Again please contact Julian Spicer to express an interest, by the first week in December. We will have the 2nd service if necessary. Of course if by then all public worship is banned again, we will have to do it on Zoom! Take care everyone and stay safe. Remember masks have to be worn in church by law.

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Andrew Sillett – an appreciation

My first recollection of Andrew was one Sunday in Bicknoller church, soon after he and Angela had arrived in the Benefice. He was sitting just in front of me. As the strains of the last hymn died away, I noticed that he seemed immobile, eyes closed, slightly slumped. Concerned, I leant forward and said, "Andrew, are you ok?" He opened his eyes. "Ahh...those words...that music...Graham Kendrick!" (Graham Kendrick is a contemporary hymn writer whose songs often contain deeply moving words). The passion, faith and humility of the man were revealed in that one moment.

Andrew Ernest Wellesley Sillett was born in Germany in 1950, educated at Charterhouse and Birmingham University, and then completed his Articles in London which enabled him to become a Solicitor of the High Court. The famous Lord Denning signed his qualification certificate which Andrew was always honoured to display on his study wall. He became a specialist in Town and Country Planning law and was very proud to become a member of the Law Society Planning Panel. He worked mainly in local government, his last job being in the legal department of Reading Borough Council.

The high point in Andrew's life was the day he married Angela, since when he energetically and enthusiastically supported her in her ministry. He absolutely adored Angela – and also his nieces, great nephews and great niece, not to mention five Godchildren.

His many interests – all pursued with great passion – included his membership of the RSPB, and of course, steam trains! He had a fabulous singing voice which he developed following training at a young age, auditioning successfully for the Royal Choral Society, of which he was a member for 25 years. He was even allowed to join Stogumber Village and Church choirs(!) In fact his love of steam trains and singing overlapped on more than one occasion when he came puffing in to choir practice (slightly late), still dressed in his orange Day-Glo boiler suit, covered in soot from head to toe. He once confided to me, "I might have risen higher in the legal world, but I think I am a bit too eccentric!"

Eccentric Andrew might have been, but in the most endearing way. His elder brother Hugo told me this about him: "He always provided comfort, inspiration, wisdom and encouragement to me, and to everyone who knew him. He was a golden man with a golden heart."

And so say all of us.

David Gover



Andrew enjoying a sit down on a Minehead train.

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Letter from the Right Reverend Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath
and Wells

For Parish Newsletters – September 2020



I am writing this whilst receiving treatment in hospital, although by the time you read this, I hope that I may be back home having completed my first course of chemotherapy. The first thing I want to say, and I am sure this is echoed by so many, is what wonderful treatment and care I have received from everyone in the hospital. Their kindness, concern and professionalism are beyond words.

What is an unusual experience for me however, is that I have not been allowed to leave my room and the doors and windows have been kept firmly shut. Looking out of my window and craning my neck upwards I am just able to get a glimpse of the sky outside. Without that I would not know whether it was sunny or cloudy or raining outside. Not that I am in any way complaining. I am safe and receiving the best care imaginable. It is also important whatever may happen to keep a sense of proportion. I vividly recall hearing Terry Waite speak when he came to the diocese on one occasion. It is unimaginable what he went through in those 1763 days in Beirut – the first four years of which were spent in solitary confinement, blindfolded, in a basement room with no windows, with no books or papers, chained to a radiator and sleeping on the floor. His courage and faith are remarkable and have inspired so many people since. I remember him once being interviewed and being asked what the happiest moment of his life was, one that he would cherish forever. He replied: 'When my blindfold was taken off during my release in November 1991. I'd been in the dark – in a basement or blindfolded - for years. For the first time in five years I saw the sky, the grass, the colours, and I felt the wind on my face.'

Terry Waite is also very clear about how the prayers of so many others supported him through those years. As I write I am also very aware of all the prayers that have and are being said for me. That is both humbling and encouraging and once I am getting out and about again, I look forward to being able to thank you personally.

With my thanks, best wishes and prayers for you,

Bishop Peter

One more step...

By Bishop Peter

When I was a vicar, one thing I really enjoyed, even though it seemed to come round rather quickly, was writing the letter for the parish magazine. I know that not all parishes are able to produce a magazine and some find a website a better way to reach people, however, I do appreciate reading them when I can. So I would like to express my thanks to all those involved in writing, editing and producing parish magazines. They are often still an effective way to share what we are doing in our church and also to share with others the good news of the gospel. Recently I was reading one which



had an article by someone recalling a visit made to the north west of the USA some 40 years ago. They spoke about the warmth of their welcome and the joy of being invited to preach in the church. What caught my eye, was they remembered visiting Lake Wallowa where it is said: 'the air is so pure and the sky so clear that one can see the dawn of the day after tomorrow'. What a glorious expression. Of course, the truth is we don't know what the future holds and at the moment things are challenging and uncertain for all of us and indeed for the world.

One night recently when I was in hospital, unable to sleep and waiting for the dawn to break, I found myself singing the words of 'One More Step Along the Way I Go' which has the chorus: 'And it's from the old I travel to the new, Keep me travelling along with you.' Maybe as we look to the future, with the joys and challenges that it will bring, that should be our prayer - Lord help us to travel with you wherever you may be leading.

With my warmest greetings,
Bishop Peter

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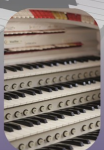
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A time to listen

By Bishop Ruth.

I was expecting to be on sabbatical as I write this but of course you will all now be aware that Bishop Peter is receiving treatment for leukaemia and thus I am back in the diocese. He is as cheerful as ever and very much values your care, thoughts, prayers, cards, flowers and so many warm messages. Thank you! Please keep praying for him, Jane and the family.

Coping with the 'unexpected', whether it is news about health, the pandemic or a personal diagnosis like +Peter's; or a change of plan such as my sabbatical, can set us in a spin. We don't always know how to respond. It requires us to adapt, to

change, to rethink how we will live.

I'm reminded of the story of Elijah who felt overwhelmed by the circumstances around him. A national drought both from rain and faith left him feeling vulnerable and alone. And although God made Himself very evident in the events of Mount Carmel, Elijah still felt under siege and fearful, wanting to die rather than face the wrath of Jezebel. And so he ran! And in the book of Kings we find God meets with him. First of all bringing him refreshment of body and mind through sleep and food. And then, when his well-being is restored, he discovers the voice of God, not in the strength of storm or wind but in a 'still small voice'.

I wonder where and how you might hear the voice of God? Across the diocese we are entering into a listening project to hear what God might be saying to us, in and through the strange times in which we now live. We welcome your thoughts so please do share them with us.

Praying God's blessing on us all

Bishop Ruth



manna

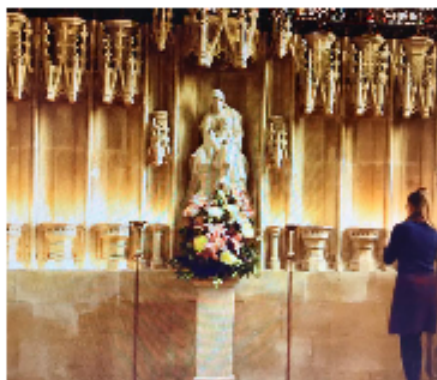
From the Church of England Diocese of Bath and Wells ☦ November 2020

A time to remember

With All Soul's, Remembrance Sunday and Armistice all falling in November, it is a time to look back, to mourn, but also to look forward with hope. And, despite the challenges of Covid, church communities will still gather, either online or in person, to remember loved ones lost recently and those who lost their lives in service to their country.

This year in particular, All Souls can offer a space for grieving for those who may not have been able to say farewell in the way they would have chosen; may not have been able to grieve alongside family and friends at a funeral or held a service to give thanks for a life well-lived.

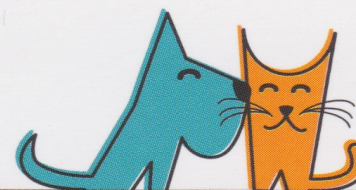
Space to grieve is important as those who sent the names of loved ones to be included in the recent 'From Lamentation to Hope' service at Wells Cathedral said. They expressed their gratitude for the



service which one person said, 'went some way towards beginning to heal the pain of inevitably sparsely attended services'.

The service remains available to watch or share with others on the Diocese of Bath and Wells YouTube channel.

You can also find an All Souls or Remembrance service on the Church of England website on 1 and 8 November. Alternatively, you can find details of local services at AChurchNearYou.com.



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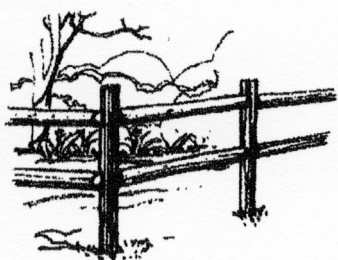
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Interview

Where is God in all this?

Manna talks to **Dr Tim Davy**, Research Fellow and Lecturer in Biblical Studies and Mission at Redcliffe College.

Why do you think people who are suffering are drawn to the Book of Job?

It's a bit like a moth to a flame. It seems to touch something quite deep within us in terms of our human experience, dealing with universal themes like suffering, family matters, wealth and poverty. They resonate with our experience of life, but at the same time like the moth we may get a bit burned because although we know the answers are there, they aren't always that easy to find. It is a maze and people can't always see through its complexities and get to the real gold.

Did you choose to study Job to make it more accessible for people?

I took quite a circuitous route to studying Job. I was initially focusing on the The Widow, the Orphan and the Stranger from the Book of Deuteronomy. This was inspired in part by the time my wife and I



Dr Tim Davy

spent working in Russia where we witnessed the terrible situation of children living on the streets, sheltering from the weather in the sewers in winter.

What insight does the book offer to help give us hope?

One of the key things in the book is that it faces the struggle that we all have, head on. It's wonderful that we have the book of Job as it is a book reflecting on suffering, which is a universal experience that we don't understand. It isn't about persecution which, terrible though that is, we know why it is happening.

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However, I am hoping that this gentle request for possible donations will reach others who may feel able to help— perhaps those who have reason to visit graves in the peace and tranquillity of our Churchyard. We would welcome any donation if you feel able to contribute.

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A volunteer is needed.

It is well known by now that I (Ben) shall be retiring at the end of December. I would be delighted to give training to anyone willing to learn how to run a Zoom service: it really isn't difficult. I would add that our Clergy/Readers would be very happy for others to be in control of the simple technology!

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Welcome back to the readers of Pathways:

Whilst it is lovely to be able to produce Pathways again for you of course I cannot guarantee that the advertisers are still able to offer the services that they advertised before or that they are still in business. Please be patient about this, I am sure we shall be getting back to the usual services that had been offered sometime before too long.



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References available

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> Telephone

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November 2020 Village Agent News:

Autumn is here and the winter flu vaccination programme is in full swing – it's especially important this year to get your flu vaccine if you are eligible for the free treatment, and maybe consider paying for one if you aren't. This year the flu vaccine is being offered on the NHS to:

- adults 65 and over
- people with certain medical conditions (including children in at-risk groups from 6 months of age)
- pregnant women
- people living with someone who's at high risk from coronavirus (on the NHS shielded patient list)
- children aged 2 and 3 on 31 August 2020, children in primary school & year 7 pupils
- frontline health or social care workers

All of the Flu Sessions for West Somerset Healthcare will be held at Watchet Surgery this year as a means of providing as Covid-19 secure an environment as possible.

Watchet surgery was closed to patients at the height of the pandemic and was used by the practice as an administration hub to enable safely socially distancing for staff. The site was used by office workers and clinical staff conducting remote telephone consultations with patients. It was opened to patients from 1 September, but only for them to attend for routine nurse and Healthcare Assistant (HCA) appointments. GP's are on site but only for telephone and video consultations. Poorly patients who need to be seen are asked to attend for a GP appointment at Williton surgery.

The flu clinics at Watchet have been carefully planned so that there is a one way system through the building and 2m social distancing whilst patients wait. Patients will have temperature and symptom checks on arrival.

So far the receptionists have not experienced any issues booking patients in for their flu jab appointments and the first few clinics are already full.

You can have your NHS flu vaccine at:

- your GP surgery or local Hospital
- a local pharmacy offering the service
- your midwifery service if they offer it for pregnant women

Somerset CCG are also looking at one-stop shop type locations where people can get Covid testing, flu vaccinations, Covid vaccinations & anti-body testing.

If you have your flu vaccine at a pharmacy, you do not have to inform a GP. It's up to the pharmacist to do that. Full details are here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/>

Contact me Izzy Silvester on 07931 014045

izzy@somersetcc.org.uk for confidential advice and support.



Sunday Service Rota and Readings November 2020

for any late changes visit www.quantocktowersbenefice.org.uk



1 November All Saints Sunday (White or Gold)

9.30 a.m.	CW Communion	Bicknoller	BF
10.30 a.m.	ZOOM Communion	QTB Cyberspace	AB-W
11.00 a.m.	BCP Morning Prayer	Stogumber	DG
11.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer	Crowcombe	GS
11.00 p.m.	BCP Morning Prayer	Nettlecombe	(JC), JW

READINGS	Revelation 7. 9-17	Psalm 34. 1-10
	1 John 3. 1-3	Matthew 5. 1-12

8 November Remembrance Sunday (Red)

8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	Crowcombe	†NS
10.50 a.m.	Remembrance Service	Crowcombe	†NS
10.50 a.m.	Remembrance Service	Nettlecombe	BC
10.50 a.m.	Remembrance Service	Bicknoller	BF
10.50 a.m.	Remembrance Service	Monksilver	PM
10.50 a.m.	Remembrance Service	Sampford Brett	GS
10.50 a.m.	Remembrance Service	Stogumber	DG

15 November The Second Sunday before Advent (Red)

10.30 a.m.	ZOOM Communion	QTB Cyberspace	AB-W
11.00 a.m.	Family Service	Bicknoller	BC
11.00 a.m.	BCP Morning Prayer	Nettlecombe	DG
6.30 p.m.	BCP Evening Prayer	Stogumber	BF

READINGS	Zephaniah 1. 7, 12-18	Psalm 90. 1-8 [9-11] 12
	1 Thessalonians 5. 1-11	Matthew 25. 14-30

ZOOM connection meeting ID 886 5105 0680 passcode 002651,

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88651050680?pwd=Mkx3L2FENHkzRlovRmZwSVpzRTdYQT09>

22 November Christ the King (Red)

9.30 a.m.	BCP Communion	Nettlecombe	AB-W
10.30 a.m.	ZOOM Communion	QTB Cyberspace	BF
11.00 a.m.	CW Morning Prayer	Bicknoller	GS
11.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer	Crowcombe	Geoffrey Billson
11.00 a.m.	CW Communion	Stogumber	AB-W

READINGS	Ezekiel 34. 11-16, 20-24	Psalm 95. 1-7a
(Year A)	Ephesians 1. 15-23	Matthew 25. 31-46

29 November The First Sunday of Advent (Purple)

10.30 a.m.	tbc	Stogumber	AB-W, †NS
READINGS	Isaiah 64. 1-9	Psalm 80. 1-8, 18-20	
(Year B)	1 Corinthians 1. 3-9	Mark 13. 24-37	

6 December The Second Sunday of Advent (Purple)

9.30 a.m.	CW Communion	Bicknoller	AB-W
10.30 a.m.	ZOOM COMMUNION	QTB Cyberspace	BF
11.00 a.m.	BCP Morning Prayer	Stogumber	†NS
11.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer	Crowcombe	DG
11.00 a.m.	BCP Morning Prayer	Nettlecombe	(JC), JW

READINGS	Isaiah 40. 1-11	Psalm 85. 1-2, 8-13
	2 Peter. 3 8-15a	Mark 1. 1-

Members of the Ministry Team planned to lead services -

AB-W, Rev'd Preb. Angela Berners-Wilson, The Rector.
BF, Rev'd Ben Flenley; †NS, Bishop Nigel Stock;
PM, Rev'd Preb Peter Martin

BC, Bridget Capewell; DG, David Gover; JC, John Crothers
GS, Gill Southwood; MP, Michael Pulvermacher.