

Together

Benefice Magazine

Cheddar, Draycott and Rodney Stoke



The light of God

March 2025

£1

BENEFICE INFORMATION



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(St. Peter's & St. Leonard's information on inside back cover)



Pastoral Letter – Ruth Motion

Take up, not give up!

Wednesday 5th March marks the beginning of Lent. Pancake Day, a day of feasting and excess gives way to a traditional time of cutting back and religious observance. I am sure most of us have at different times tried, maybe even succeeded in “giving up” something. Usually something like chocolate or cake.

But maybe this year, for Lent, you might want to try something different, something positive. What could you take up rather than give up? Perhaps you could challenge yourself to take up a new habit. Here are some ideas:

Perform one act of kindness every day.

Make a Lenten gratitude journal by writing about one thing you are grateful for every day.

Pick one of your strengths and find a way to use it every day.

Contact a friend or loved one every day. Use Lent as a time to reconnect with people you haven't heard from in a while.

Find time to pray every day. (10 to 15 minutes counts).

Do some form of exercise every day. It could be a short walk around the block or doing sit-ups while you watch the TV, but it has to be every day!

Make sure you get 8 hours of sleep every night.

Eat vegetables each day.

I'd love to hear from you to know if you decide to take up for Lent. Apparently it only takes 66 days for a new habit to become permanent. If you take up something new for the 40 days of Lent, you are over halfway there!

Ruth

Bishop's Letter



Open yourself afresh

Did you ever wonder where the term 'Lent' comes from? The word is a gift from our Anglo-Saxon past. It means 'lengthen', a naming of the longed-for reality of this time of year when we become aware that, at last, the short days of winter are coming to an end, the nights are drawing out and the days are getting longer, they're lengthening.

As well as naming what we're seeing, Lent has its meaning within the life of the Church. Its season of 40 days is a time of preparation for the coming of Easter, our annual celebration of Jesus rising from the dead. It reflects the 40 days that Jesus was tempted in the wilderness after his baptism. So, for much of Christian history it's been a time of prayer and fasting - the origin of our 'giving something up for Lent'.

Lent developed from the practice of the early Church. Back then, as still happens today, converts entered into the faith through baptism. The main time that baptism took place was Easter Eve, the night before Easter Sunday. Lent marked the final, intensive 40 days of preparation experienced by those to be baptised (known as catechumens) in readiness for their embarking fully on their new life with Christ.

The time to get ready for Lent is now. This year its first day, Ash Wednesday, falls on the 5 March. There's so much we can do to bring this season home into our hearts. Why not join your church's Lent Group? Read one of the Lent books available at this time of year? Take something up? Commit to a regular time of prayer? Find out about getting confirmed? Lent is a rich gift to us to go deeper into our Christian life. As the days lengthen and the light comes, I encourage you to use this time to open yourself afresh to the one who comes to us afresh with new life at Easter - the risen Lord, Jesus Christ himself.

Michael, Bishop of Bath & Wells

Readings for Sunday Services in March 2025

	Psalm	First Reading	Second Reading
2nd March Sunday before Lent	99	Exodus 34: 29-end	Luke 9: 28-43 <i>a</i>
9th March Lent 1	91: 1, 2, 9-end	Deuteronomy 26: 1-11	Luke 4: 1-13
16th March Lent 2	27	Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18	Luke 13: 31-end
23rd March Lent 3	63: 1-9	Isaiah 55: 1-9	Luke 13: 1-9
30th March Mothering Sunday		Colossians 3: 12-17	

Services for Sundays in March 2025

	Cheddar	Draycott	Rodney Stoke
2nd March Sunday before Lent	10am Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am Holy Communion
9th March Lent 1	10am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer	11.15am Holy Communion
16th March Lent 2	8am BCP Communion 10am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am Holy Communion
23rd March Lent 3	10am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am Matins
30th March Mothering Sunday	10am St Andrews Mothering Sunday		

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

M. U. LENT LUNCH

Soup, bread and cake



Tuesday 4th March

12.30 – 2.00 PM

Cheddar Village Hall

Donations towards MU
Worldwide Projects



BEETLE DRIVE



6pm on Saturday 15th March
in Cheddar Village Hall



Messy Church families & everyone from
the Benefice of Cheddar, Draycott
and Rodney Stoke
are invited to a family fun evening!



Please email Samm on beneficecdrs@gmail.com
to guarantee a place
NO entry fee, donations for the evening welcome.



RODNEY STOKE COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 15th March 10.30 – 12.00 midday
Stalls to browse and Raffle

(in aid of church funds)



Held in
Church
Hall

OUR ATLANTIC ROOTS indie-folk/alt. country music

FRIDAY 14th MARCH 2025 7.30PM (doors open 7.00)

Mark Church Somerset TA9 4NG

Tickets: 07725-149-581 £10 adult, £5 under 16's

For more info: ouratlanticroots.com/tour
or email: ouratlanticroots@gmail.com

"A Christian couple
from Cornwall with
mellow, laid-back
music"

Rev. Joy Hawes

Axbridge Deanery
Secretary

LENT GROUPS

In preparation for Easter, you are encouraged to join a Lent Study Group. There will be 5 weekly Bible studies, commencing the week beginning **March 10th**.

The theme this year is: **Lord, Teach Us To Pray**. This will look at The Lord's Prayer, Personal Prayer, Prayer In Worship, Praying With Others and Prayer In Gethsemane.

Group details:-

Monday 2.30 PM at 47 Hill Lea Gardens (*Leaders: Hilary Thomas and Judith Rose*)

Tuesday 11.00 AM in Parish Office (Den) (*Stuart Burns + others*)

Tuesday 6.30 PM – Zoom (*Thea Oliver and Chris Green*)

Wed'day 7.30 PM in Parish Office (Den) (*Ruth Motion + others*)

Friday 10.00 AM in Roman Catholic Church Hall (*Marie Grady*)

Please sign the appropriate list in your church if you would like to join a group.



THANK YOU!

As the name of the re-launched, newly-unified magazine for all three churches deliberately implied -*Together* - the intention was to present a modern-looking, interesting but diverse publication, with no one parish being dominant; a focus on the entire benefice being the *raison d'être* behind the magazine.

With the second year of *Together* having now begun, I would like to thank every single person whose contributions have made it the success it has been deemed to be.

My especial thanks to Samm, for all her hard work. Please keep the submissions coming: they all enhance the glorious gallimaufry the magazine offers.

Ade (Editor) editorcdrsmag@gmail.com

CHURCH ROTAS

CHEDDAR (St. Andrew's)	Mar 2	Mar 9	Mar 16	Mar 23	Mar 30
	<u>MP</u>	<u>HC</u>	<u>HC</u>	<u>HC</u>	<u>Beefice Serv.</u>
Sidesperson (8.00)	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	Marie	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
Sidesperson Team Leader	Ade	Richard S./Gill	Ken B.	Mel	David B.
Sidesperson 1	Rosemary	Gill	Marguerite	Iris	Denise
Sidesperson 2	Frankie	Helen	Adrian	Fiona	Jennie C.
Sidesperson(s) 3 and 4	<i>n/a</i>	Peter	Jo	Anne L./Ann H.	<i>n/a</i>
Junior Sidesperson 1	Martha	Ellen	Leo	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
Junior Sidesperson 2	Gabriel	<i>n/a</i>	Hugh	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
Cleaning 1	Walsh fam.	Mo	Margaret B.	Margaret R.	Ade
Cleaning 2	Davis fam.	David S.	Peter	Alan R.	Frankie
St. Nectan Chapel Flowers	Ade	<i>Lent</i>	<i>Lent</i>	<i>Lent</i>	<i>Lent</i>
Brass Cleaning	<i>n/a</i>	Jean D.	<i>n/a</i>	Ade	<i>n/a</i>
Church Flowers	<i>Lent</i>	<i>Lent</i>	<i>Lent</i>	<i>Lent</i>	<i>Lent</i>
Coffee/Tea 1	Jim	Rosemary	Deborah	Victoria	MU members
Coffee/Tea 2	Mary	Fiona	Hale fam.	Martha	MU members

DRAYCOIT (St. Peter's)	Mar 2	Mar 9	Mar 16	Mar 23	Mar 30
	<u>HC</u>	<u>MP</u>	<u>HC</u>	<u>HC</u>	<u>Benefice Serv.</u>
					<u>St. Andrew's</u>
Organist/Music	David	David	<i>tba</i>	Barry	<i>n/a</i>
Reader 1	Roger	Tricia	Gill	Lynda	<i>n/a</i>
Reader 2	Sue	Jeff	Iain	Martyn	<i>n/a</i>
Sidesperson(s)	Roger	Tricia/Jeff	Iain/Olivia/Ruari	Chris	<i>n/a</i>
Coffee/Tea	Sue	Tricia/Jeff	Chris/Gill	Chris	<i>n/a</i>
Cleaning	Karen/Chris	<i>n/a</i>	Heather	Tricia	<i>n/a</i>
Flowers	Tricia	<i>Lent</i>	<i>Lent</i>	<i>Lent</i>	<i>Lent</i>

RODNEY STROKE (St. Leonard's)	Mar 2	Mar 9	Mar 16	Mar 23	Mar 30
		<u>HC</u>	<u>HC</u>	<u>BCP</u>	<u>Benefice Serv.</u>
Sidesperson	Steve	Megan	Alan	Sue	<u>St. Andrew's</u>
Reader 1	Ann	Megan	Alan	Jo Symes	<i>n/a</i>
Reader 2	Joanne	Angela	Joanne	Sue	<i>n/a</i>
Organist	Joanne	Joanne	Joanne	Barry	<i>n/a</i>
Cleaning	Lynda/Honor				<i>n/a</i>
Flowers A	Sally	<i>Lent</i>	<i>Lent</i>	<i>Lent</i>	<i>Lent</i>
Flowers P	Honor	<i>Lent</i>	<i>Lent</i>	<i>Lent</i>	<i>Lent</i>

SEE YOU IN THE MORNING

*See you in the morning
At the break of day
See you in the morning
When the clouds have passed away
See you in the morning
When faith gives way to sight
See you in the morning
When darkness becomes light
See you in the morning
To separate no more
See you in the morning
When we land on Heaven's shore
See you in the morning
When the trumpet sound shall blast
See you in the morning
When our crowns we cast
See you in the morning
Dressed in robes of white
See you in the morning
When doubts have taken flight
See you in the morning
Forever we shall sing
See you in the morning
With the King of Kings.*

Anne Linington

(submitted by Margaret Bassett)

A HUGE 'THANK YOU' TO COLIN SYMES



At the end of St. Leonard's last PCC meeting, Colin Symes was presented with a bird table to be situated just outside the front door where he can easily access feeding the birds. This was due to Colin retiring after 40 years of helping to maintain St. Leonard's Church.

He will remain on hand to continue giving advice to Alex who has taken over this huge task. Colin has given so much time to being part of looking after the Grade 1 listed building.

In addition, also advising on electrical aspects, updating anything for health and safety purposes, checking the roof and guttering, fire alarms, lighting, monthly checks in the church hall, maintaining and looking at the outside of the building and vegetation and the list, as you can imagine, goes on and on.

Gary has helped Colin in recent years and Alex is extremely grateful that Gary will continue with this. Thank you Gary for all that you do in this role. The time, effort, commitment and dedication that Colin has given to the upkeep of St. Leonard's is amazing, and we are so appreciative.

Colin, thank you so much.

Joanne Turner

THE MACROW 'PHONE Our landline has been refusing to allow us to either make or receive calls. It has therefore been sent into permanent exile. Please note my new (only) number: **07856006493** Ade

For All The Saints....

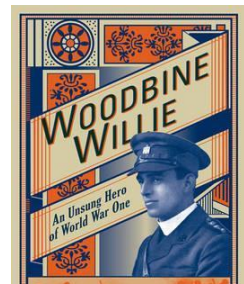
Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy 1883-1929 : Priest & Poet (aka The Cigarette Saint Of No-Man's Land)

Kennedy was born on 8th March 1883 in the slum district of Quarry Hill in Leeds where his father was vicar of St. Mary's Church. He later attended Leeds Grammar School & Trinity College Dublin.

While Vicar of St Paul's in Worcester he volunteered as Chaplain at the Western Front and was stationed at a training depot where as well as ministering to the troops, he would, at his own expense, hand out copies of the New Testament and packets of Woodbines to the men being sent to the Front.

In 1916, when the rules changed, he was finally allowed to go to the Front himself. He was awarded the Military Cross for his bravery in rescuing the wounded, both English and German, while under fierce fire.

Geoffrey Kennedy became renowned for giving the dying their 'last smoke' - earning him the nickname 'Woodbine Willie'! While in the trenches a nervous soldier challenged him asking him who he was, he replied "*the Church*" and on being asked what the Church was doing there, he replied "*it's job*".



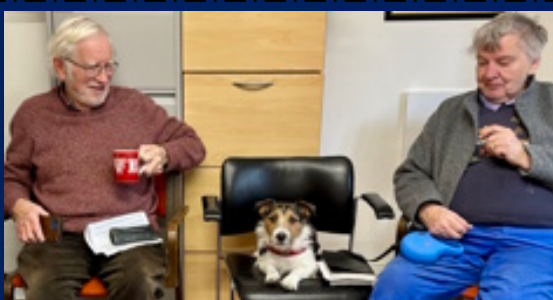
After the war he was Vicar of St. Edmund the Martyr in London, Chaplain to King George V and subsequently joined the Christian socialist & pacifist movements, touring and lecturing. It was while on tour that he died in Liverpool when he caught influenza.

His funeral took place in Worcester with more than 2,000 people lining the streets between the Cathedral and his old parish of St. Pauls in silent remembrance. Packets of Woodbines were thrown on the cortege in tribute.

Here is an excerpt from one of his poems about World War One:-

Waste of blood, waste of tears: waste of youths most precious years

Pat Groves



**SO ENLIGHTENING EVEN
DOGS JOIN IN!**

Bible Study in The Den
Every Tuesday, 11 AM.



Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958)

RVW was a child of the vicarage – Down Ampney in Gloucestershire. On his mother's side he came from the Wedgwood and the Darwin families, so he had religious, artistic and scientific blood coursing through his veins and, in his case, it came out in his love of music.

As a young man he spent his time cycling round the villages of southern England collecting folk music; hundreds of tunes that he heard old folks singing, and in this he was only just in time because in a period of growing travel and nationwide communication this local music was on the point of dying out. We sing some of these folk tunes as hymns today, such as *O Little Town Of Bethlehem*, *I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say* (the tune *Dives And Lazarus*) and *It Is A Thing Most Wonderful*.

In 1914, he refused to fight, and spent his war as a stretcher bearer in no-man's-land, which must have been one of the most dangerous jobs of all. Among his pre-war compositions are the *Tallis Fantasia*, based on Thomas Tallis's tune to Psalm 2 *Why Do The Nations Rage?* and *The Lark Ascending*, first performed in Somerset, in Shirehampton Public Hall.

His first major work after the war was his *Mass In G Minor*. I know quite a few settings of the communion service by various composers but this is perhaps the most deeply spiritual of them all. RVW was anything but a conventional composer. He did not follow trends; everything he wrote is totally recognisable as his own work and he kept his writing up to the end of his life. His *Ninth Symphony* was premiered in 1958.

As to his religion, he always said he was agnostic, but he meant that there were parts of the creed which he could not honestly accept at face value as historical fact. If RVW was not a Christian soul, humbly working in the best way he knew to further Christ's kingdom, then I don't know who is.

When I was a boy, he was my great hero and I remember being desolated when I heard that he had died. He was laid to rest in Westminster Abbey to the sound of one of his own favourites among his compositions *Five Variants Of Dives And Lazarus*. If it's not already familiar to you, all this music is readily available for you to listen to on YouTube.

David Cheetham.

Thoughts from St. Peter's, Draycott



I am writing this article on a cold Sunday morning in February having just attended a very uplifting service of Morning Prayer, a service based on Celtic prayers and traditions for which, I think, we must thank Thea.

The service was uplifting for many reasons – the thoughtful, insightful sermon from Hilary, the beautiful solo from David Cheetham, the meaningful prayers and readings, and Ian Amer-White's fine organ playing. The congregation was small but we were all very appreciative.

Earlier in the week St. Peter's opened its' doors to the Rodney Stoke and Draycott Women's Institute. The W.I. normally meets in the Draycott Memorial

Hall but in February the hall becomes the venue for the spectacular pantomime by the Mendip Players.

The church was heated and welcoming and the members enjoyed learning about the islands in the Bristol Channel. The blank wall in the church proved to be ideal for showing a very interesting and beautiful film featuring the wild life, the geography and the history of those three islands. Thank you to Neil Clark for entertaining and educating us: two principal aims of the W.I.



It is right and sensible for churches to be used in this way. It has become normal practice for churches to be more than venues for Christian worship. In many instances they are meeting places for the community, hosting coffee mornings, concerts, exhibitions, keep fit classes, play groups and so much more.

This is not new. For centuries church buildings have played a central role in the life of rural communities.

Susan Peel



ROTARY YOUNG MUSICIAN DISTRICT FINAL 2024-25

If you read this before **Sunday 2nd March at 2.00 PM**, do please consider calling in to **Churchill Academy** just before that time on that day if you would like to see our District Final of Rotary Young Musician, which I have been persuaded to run again this year. There is **free entry with refreshment provided**. This year we have 13 candidates under age 18 from across Somerset and Dorset who each perform on their chosen instrument (this year includes piano, violin, cello, flute and brass) or sing two or three chosen pieces for a maximum of 13 minutes each.

In addition to taking part, students gain a certificate of participation, feedback from our adjudicators and something for their CV. The winner from each of the instrumental and vocal sections gains a prize and goes forward to a Regional Final in Bristol on 16th March. It was through this event in 2018 that I met the brilliant young violinist Poppy McGhee. She has since played for us in two concerts at St. Andrew's and has just gained a place in the National Youth Orchestra, as has one of our young competitors this year, so I anticipate a high standard with music ranging from Beethoven and Schubert to Rachmaninov and Vaughan Williams, plus more recent items.

Music has slipped quickly down the teaching priority list in recent times, so there is an increasing need to provide these opportunities and it is a very enjoyable afternoon. Someone recently said *"If you want to see young people at their best, watch them making music together. If you want to see education at its best, watch the students making music together. If you want to see society at its best, watch people making music together. The more music that is put into a school, the more amazing things come out of it"*. Can't argue with that.

Roger Burdock

FROM THE REGISTERS:

Baptism:

We welcome into the Church family:

Grace Smale

Funerals:

Our prayers are with those who mourn the death of:

Richard Lovell, John Irving, Bob Chadderton, Allen Attwood, Keith Irwin RIP.



Loaves & Fishes Project

Latest News

Since our first newsletter last year, there is much to report. Some of which follows:-

Christmas 2024

On 17th December we served 450 clients with the help of our amazing team of volunteers. Each Christmas parcel contained 3 bags of food and a bag of gifts. Father Christmas came and gave chocolate selection boxes to the children in the queue - so there were smiles all round.

Fuel payments

We continue to help those who use prepaid top-up systems for their gas and electricity. Thanks to those who donate money we are able to continue to support the vulnerable. This costs approximately £32,000 a year.

Finances

We are very much in need of more financial support. Due to rising costs and fewer donations of food and money, we have used up our reserves. Thankfully we have received a large donation which has meant we are keeping afloat, but the reality is that this will not last.

Easter 2025

We have included an appeal for eggs for this Easter - we hope you can help us. Eggs will be distributed at the beginning of April.

Prayer

We continue to ask for your prayers, as we pray and give thanks for all those who support us as well as our clients.

Thank you to all our volunteers and supporters - this project would not be possible without each and every one of you.

Rev. Sr. Theresa Mary CSC

Contact information and for unabridged Newsletter:

82 Ashley Road, Bristol. BS6 5NT Tel: 0117 9413 268

bristoladmin@sistersofthechurch.org



St Andrew's PCC Meeting - Wednesday 22nd January 2025

A warm welcome to 2025! At St Andrew's, we are striving to offer more than just a warm welcome in spirit - we are quite literally working on it! Heating has been a key concern, and while we are eager to restore warmth to our church, careful consideration is needed as we evaluate installation tenders.

This process is ongoing, and we anticipate that the new system may not be in place until April. In the meantime, services will be held in the Village Hall, when available, to ensure everyone's comfort.

Reflecting on recent months, our Christmas services were truly heartwarming. The Crib Service, SALT gathering, and other festive celebrations were wonderfully attended, bringing together the community in the spirit of joy and reflection.

Looking ahead, plans are in place for essential tower repairs, continuing our commitment to maintaining the church's historical fabric. Additionally, the quinquennial inspection is scheduled to take place, ensuring the long-term care of our cherished building.

We are also establishing a new working group dedicated to St Andrew's reordering project. Its' focus will be on supporting faculty permissions, engaging the wider community, and spearheading fundraising efforts to enhance our church's future.

As we move forward, preparations are underway for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on 7th April at 7 PM. This year, a completely new Electoral Roll will be compiled, as required every six years. We encourage everyone to participate actively - whether by updating your details or considering nominations for new PCC members. Your involvement is vital to the life and growth of our church.

Finally, looking to our calendar of events, we are excited about the upcoming Passover Supper - a special occasion for fellowship and reflection.

Our next PCC meeting is scheduled for 26th March.

Lorraine Grover Ng, PCC Secretary



Shroving Song (Somerset Version)

(Pat recalls being taught this traditional folk song (Roud 1516) – of which there are innumerable variants and titles – by her mother, who had, in turn, learned it from her mother)

Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, when Jack went to plough,
His mother made pancakes and didn't know how,
She boiled 'em, she spoiled 'em, and when they went black,
She took 'em from the oven and said 'Jack eat that!'

Jack's mother made a pudding, 'twas done in an hour,
She 'adn't no eggs and she 'adn't no flour,
She 'adn't no vigs, adn't she 'adn't no fat,
She dapped 'em on the table and she said "Jack, eat that!"

Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday when Jack went to plough
His mother made pancakes and didn't know how,
She turned 'em, she burned 'em and made 'em so black,
She put too much pepper in and poisoned poor Jack.

Pat Groves



ACCOMMODATION SOUGHT

Many of you will know **Temple** and it is almost a year since, at Stuart's request, we accepted Temple into our home. In that time, he has settled in well and, because he now works six nights a week at Greenhill and Daneswood care homes, we see little of him. However, it is now time for him to move on and he is looking to rent a bed-sit, annex or small flat, ideally in Cheddar. If you have such a space, or know someone who has, please ring us, **John** and **Penelope Morgan**, on **07888 717536**.

By time of publication, Temple may have found somewhere but please check with us. Many thanks.



Music Masters

The always enlightening and fascinating articles contributed to our regular **Music Matters** by Barry Rose and David Cheetham have prompted me to recall the rather odd music teachers I experienced at school. I hasten to add that I'm not inferring that either Barry or David are peculiar, either by association or implication!

In the First Year (old money, for those used to referring to 'Year 73' or somesuch), we had Mr. Williams. Although all men over 30 seem incredibly aged to young boys, Mr. Williams had seen active service in the First World War. He sported a splendid white moustache, looking rather like Thomas Hardy..

Whatever knowledge he was trying to impart to us – long forgotten – the abiding and regular feature of every single one of his lessons was getting all 32 boys to stand up and begin singing *The Soldier's Chorus* from *Faust*. There was never any other piece selected.

Mr. W. would then pace around the classroom, tapping each schoolboy on their shoulder, which meant elimination and sitting down. He never seemed to realise that every pupil (old nomenclature, again) strove to be dismissed and avoid prolonged humiliation by becoming the sole boy left.

Mr. Ellman then taught us for the next four years. Like all youngsters, we didn't know his Christian name (Donald) or that he'd given piano recitals at the Wigmore Hall and many other esteemed venues. After moving to Cheddar, I serendipitously made contact with him again but that's another tale for another time.

It was the eccentricities that he was remembered for. One of them, and this has no relationship to music whatsoever, was his ability to leap over one of the 3 feet (old...) high chemistry stools from a standing start. We always hoped a trailing leg would see him crash to the floor but it never did. The conflation of music and chemistry stools? Don't look at me...

The occasion when Mr. Ellman asked us to bring along a record by our favourite musician is etched in school history. Presumably anticipating works by Bartok, Sibelius and the like, he hadn't reckoned on the singles by our cherished pop/rock favourites.

Enraged, he threw each precious 7” disc, frisbee-style, out of the open classroom window. One was hurled with such violence, it embedded itself in the trunk of a tree outside, rather like a plate mushroom. For years, the tree’s growth could be measured by the upwards progress of the disc.

The idea of protesting about the wilful destruction of our treasured possessions never occurred to any of us. Ellman freely admitted that the only pop song he admired was *Soley Soley* by Middle Of The Road: a bizarre admission to us desperately ‘hip’ lads. Apparently, this was due to the melody being based on something by J.S. Bach or another famed composer.

He also had a unique way with handing out lines. Instead of demanding the usual 100 or so with the usual meaningless ‘*I must behave in class*’ or somesuch, Mr. Ellman made you write a brief summation of the life and death of the composer of his choice. These always varied and a typical example was ‘*Robert Schumann was born in Zwickau, Saxony on 8th June 1810 and died in Bonn on 29th July 1856*’ Very long lines and although instructive, a strong incentive to avoid ‘earning’ such punishment.

Very different times indeed. Stationers’ Company’s Boys’ Grammar School had more than its fair share of eccentrics and Donald Ellman was up with the biggest of them.

Ade Macrow

NB: No old-fashioned descriptive terms or measures have been harmed whilst writing this article. All have lovingly been preserved, in conditions of utmost comfort.

-oOo-

GOD WILL PROVIDE....

Scientists in Japan have discovered a new mushroom that devours plastic. Propagation and cultivation of this fungi is now underway.

SOSP NEWS

Saturday 1st March Coffee And Cake (with Welsh Cakes!), from 10.30-12 noon, followed by **Pre-Lent Soup Lunch** 12 noon -1.30 PM for Christian Aid

A date for your diary: **Jumble Sale** on **Saturday 26th April** ... please start sorting out now... but please hold on to it until the day!

Looking ahead to **Advent 2025**... and beyond - as you will know the Church's Christmas season runs from 25th December to Candlemas, hence every year the coloured lights on St Peter's Church path are kept alight until February 2nd cheering up our village and lighting the children to and from school. However, the lights have seen better days, but new lights will be very expensive, so SOSP are asking for donations towards the cost of replacing them, if you can help, please contact me. Thanking you in advance.

Rev. Thea



IT'S ALL IN THE TRANSLATION...

Message Bible: Mama, I am hungry.

Amplified Bible: Mummy, I am hungry (*famished, starving*).

NIV Bible: Mother, I am hungry.

King James Bible: Henceforth, let it be known unto thee, birth giver, that my belly consists of emptiness.



For All The Saints

EXTRA!

Who is St David?

St David, (*Dewi Sant* in Welsh), was a leading figure and monk in the early Welsh Church who lived in West Wales in the sixth century. We know very few hard facts about David, but as he lived 1500 years ago, in a land where people passed on their history by speaking it not writing it down, that is not very surprising!

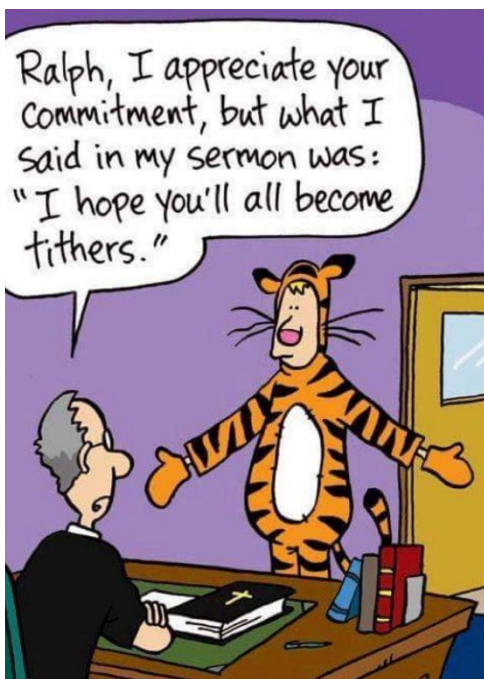
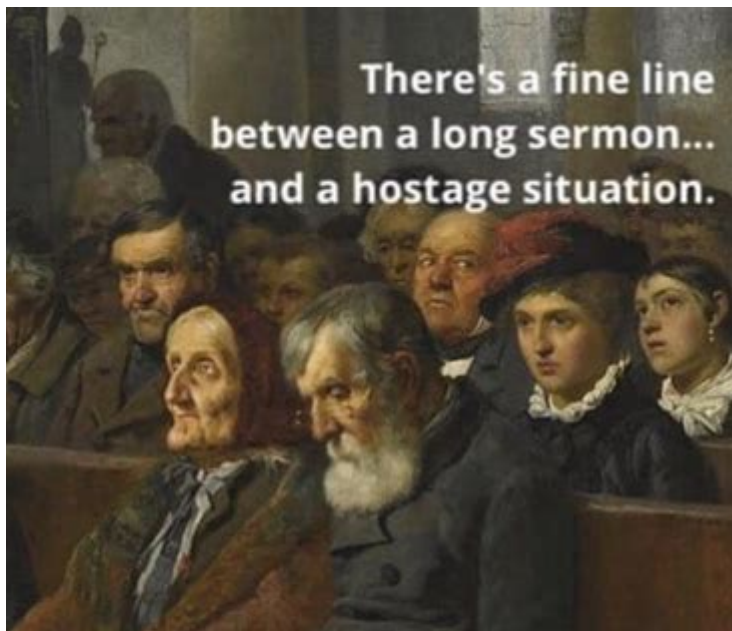
He was reputed to have been unusually tall for the time (about 6 feet) and was a powerful speaker. One of the most famous stories about David's preaching is that when speaking at the Synod of Brefi (now Llanddewi Brefi in Ceredigion) the earth beneath his feet rose up to create a hill so his words could be heard, and he could be seen.

Celtic Christianity had a close relationship with the natural world, but it was sometimes a harsh one. David was a 'waterman' or '*dyfrwr*'; that is someone who drank only water (not the more common barley beer) and who would stand up to his neck in the sea reciting the psalms as a penance. However, many stories also tell of David's kindness and his humility.

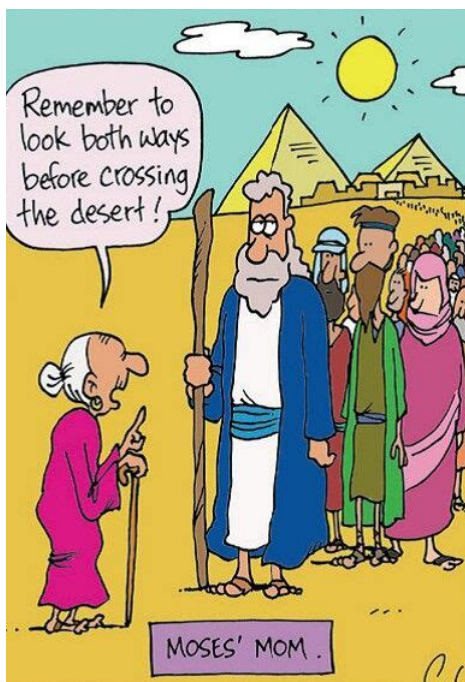
He was a great healer and scholar, probably speaking several languages including an early form of Welsh, Latin and Old Irish. He founded a monastic community living a simple, austere life in the Celtic monastic tradition which connected the people of Wales with Ireland, Cornwall, France and the Scottish Isles. He drew followers from all over Wales and he travelled a great deal to preach.

David died on March 1st in either 589 or 601 (the oldest chronicles disagree) - the day we now celebrate as St David's Day, and a national and international celebration of Welsh culture and identity, but he is especially associated with the area around the cathedral he founded: St David's in Pembrokeshire.

David's legacy is his example and his final words, "*Be joyful, keep the faith, do the little things you have seen me do*".
(Rev. Thea)



A man asked his priest if he'd conduct a funeral ceremony for his dog. "Sorry, I can't perform such rites for animals". The man said "pity, I was thinking of making a £5,000 donation to the church". The priest replied "why didn't you tell me your dog was Anglican?"



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