

Together

Benefice Magazine

Cheddar, Draycott and Rodney Stoke



The richness of Autumn



November 2025

£1

BENEFICE INFORMATION



Benefice Contacts

Rector: **Rev. Stuart Burns** **07754943424**
(Day off: Friday) **Office: (01934) 742535**

Associate Priest: **Rev. Thea Oliver** **(01934) 744739**
07767892313

Associate Priest: **Rev. Ruth Motion** **07729264213**

Benefice Office Administrator: **Samm Richards**
beneficecdrs@gmail.com **(01934) 742535**

Benefice Baptism Co-ordinator: **Julie Hope** **(01934) 742234**

St. Andrew's, Cheddar

Church Music: **Wayne Hahn** **(01934) 713357**

Churchwardens: **Alan Philps** **(01934) 713357**
Marguerite Strang **(01934) 742708**

Deputy Churchwarden: **Gill Spencer** **(01934) 740054**

Treasurer: **Dawn Hill** **(01934) 906637**

PCC Secretary: **Lorraine Grover Ng** **(01934) 744264**

Safeguarding Officer: **Jim Reeve** **(01934) 900451**

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

Pastoral Letter – Ruth Motion



Dear Friends,

As the year draws on and the countryside settles into its winter rest, November offers us a time of reflection — both in the Church's year and in the rhythm of rural life that surrounds us. The fields are quiet now, the leaves are falling, and there's a sense of stillness that invites us to pause, remember, and give thanks.

At the beginning of the month, we mark All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, giving thanks for that great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us in faith. We remember those who we love, but see no longer. These days remind us that we are part of something much greater than ourselves — one family of faith that stretches across time and space.

Then, as always, we come together for Remembrance Sunday. Across our villages, people will gather to honour those who gave their lives in war and conflict. It is one of the most moving moments in our national and spiritual life — when silence speaks louder than words, and gratitude mingles with sorrow. As we stand in remembrance, we also look forward in hope, praying for peace in our world and for the courage to be peacemakers in our own communities.

November also carries us gently toward Advent, that season of waiting and watching for the light of Christ. Even as the days grow shorter, we are reminded that God's light still shines in the darkness — and the darkness has not overcome it. In our homes, our churches, and our benefice life together, may we be ready to welcome that light anew.

So, as we move through this season of remembrance and hope, let us hold one another in prayer — giving thanks for all that has been, and trusting God for all that is yet to come.

Ruth

Bishop's Letter



Let's walk into the light

A story that's often told in our churches comes from the fourth chapter of John's Gospel. It tells of Jesus, in the blinding heat of midday meeting a Samaritan woman at the well in a town called Sychar. The woman is hoisting up heavy buckets of water in the hot sun. She's there because she's a woman with 'a reputation' and it's the only time of day she can avoid the muttering of her neighbours who meet at the well at cooler hours.

In an extraordinary encounter, Jesus sees deep into the woman's heart. Through their conversation Jesus brings about her healing and restoration into the community from which she is estranged. It's a story of life, possibility, new beginnings and forgiveness.

The woman at the well is not the only Biblical story set in Sychar. There's another, contained in the 34th chapter of the Book of Genesis. This is a tale of terror that's never heard in our churches; the rape of a girl called Dinah. It's a dark, nasty tale of violence that wrecks the life of individuals, families and the entire community. So we don't speak about it. We keep it hidden.

Sometimes people say to me of safeguarding '*It's just a tick box exercise*', an onerous compliance requirement. Rather I would say that our work in safeguarding asks fundamental questions about the kind of places we want our churches to be. Just like the Bible passages I've mentioned, we can be places of hiddenness, silence, and hurt. Or places of life, new beginnings and restoration.

Accounts like the Makin review have shone light on our story. We've also been working hard to bring about change. While we cannot be complacent, I am intensely proud of all that was revealed about safeguarding in Bath and Wells by our independent audit that happened earlier this year. This told us that we are moving towards a much better story. So let's build on the momentum we have created. Let's walk into the light.

Bishop Michael



READINGS AND SERVICES

	Cheddar	Draycott	Rodney Stoke
2nd November All Saints	10am Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am
	4pm All Souls Service		Patronal Service
9th November 3 Before Advent	10am Remembrance Holy Communion	10.45am Remembrance Service Draycott Memorial Hall	
	3.15pm Remembrance Civic Service		
16th November 2 Before Advent	8am BCP Communion	9.30am	11.15am
	10am Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
23rd November Christ the King	10am	9.30am	11.15am
	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Matins
30th November Advent Sunday	10am	9.30am	11.15am
	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion

	Psalm	First Reading	Second Reading
2nd November All Saints	149	Ephesians	Luke
		1: 11-end	6: 20-31
9th November 3 Before Advent	17: 1-9	2 Thessalonians	Luke
		2: 1-5, 13-end	20: 27-38
16th November 2 Before Advent	98	2 Thessalonians	Luke
		3: 6-13	21: 5-19
23rd November Christ the King	46	Colossians	Luke
		1: 11-20	23: 33-43
30th November Advent Sunday	122	Romans	Matthew
		13: 11-end	24: 36-44

FROM THE REGISTERS:

FROM THE REGISTERS:

Funerals:

Our prayers are with those who mourn the death of Dean Lukins RIP.





Psalms (all 150 of them!)

Praise, prayer, hope, consolation – these are but a few of the facets of the collection of the 150 ancient songs that make up the biblical Book of Psalms, as published in successive editions of the Book of Common Prayer.

Sometimes attributed (wrongly, so we're told) to King David, the texts that so many of our readers know and love came from the quill of Bishop Myles Coverdale, who, in 1535 first submitted his translations into English – later to appear in the 1549, 1662, and 1928 Prayer books. Since then, several other versions have appeared – probably more accurate to the original Hebrew text, if lacking in the poetic flow of the Coverdale's English.

For musicians, the psalms have been a never-ending fount of inspiration, and across the centuries there have been thousands of musical settings, many of which still, find a place not just in cathedrals and churches, but also in concert halls. Chanted daily in monasteries in the form of Gregorian chant, and still said and sung in churches and cathedrals up and down the land to what we know as Anglican chant, the 150 psalms are neatly divided in the days of the month, both morning and evening – starting with the 1st morning (1, 2, 3 4 and 5), and ending with the 30th evening* (147, 148, 149 and 150).

Embracing every human emotion, some are short – Psalm 118 has just 2 verses – whilst the longest is 119, *A Meditation On God's Law*, with its 176 verses, never sung all at once, but divided into segments for the 24th, 25th and 26th days of the month. As I write this, the longest psalm appointed for any day of the month – the 15th Evening – is about to be broadcast live from Wells Cathedral, in a Radio 3 Choral Evensong (if you missed it, you can still catch up on the BBC iPlayer). The 73 - yes, 73 – verses of Psalm 78 recount in graphic detail the dramatic events of Exodus 14, with the Israelites in the wilderness, passing through the Red Sea, and God 'raining down manna on them also for to eat'.

You might think it would be every chorister's terror to have to sing all those verses in one Service, but most usually look forward to the drama, even if it means negotiating about 7 or 8 different changes of (Anglican) chant at crucial points in the text. Too long for us ? – well there's always Psalm 118, or maybe more familiar and more comforting, the one that everyone knows and loves – No.23 – *The Lord Is My Shepherd*.

Barry Rose

* when the month has 31 days, it's usual to say or sing 147 and 148 on the 30th , and 149 and 150 on the 31st .

THE ST. ANDREW'S REORDERING GROUP



The St. Andrew's Reordering Group, together with Cheddar Schools, are planning a Decorated Christmas Tree Event in the church for December.
Final details in next month's magazine.



COME CELEBRATE THE FESTIVE SEASON
WITH DRAYCOTT & RODNEY STOKE PTAF'S
**SUGAR. SPICE & EVERYTHING NICE:
A FESTIVE DECORATING AFTERNOON**

DECORATE YOUR OWN GINGERBREAD HOUSE
HOT CHOCOLATE & MINCE PIES
CHRISTMAS MUSIC
FESTIVE FAMILY TOGETHER TIME
EVERYONE WELCOME

NOVEMBER 30 1PM- 3PM

DRAYCOTT MEMORIAL HALL
TO BOOK TICKETS PLEASE EMAIL DRSPTAF@GMAIL.COM

KINDLY SPONSORED BY

FREE ENTRY
TICKETS
£10 PER
GINGERBREAD
HOUSE

STALLS
WELCOME
£5
PER TABLE

dotcom
workshop

CHURCH ROTAS NOV.

CHEEDAR (St. Andrew's)	Nov 2	Nov 9	Nov 16	Nov 23	Nov 30
	MP	HC	HC	HC	HC
		Remembrance Sunday			Advent Communion
Sidesperson (8.00)	n/a	n/a		Marie	n/a
Sidesperson Team Leader	Ade	Richard S./Gill	Ken B.	Fiona	none
Sidesperson 1	Rosemary	Gill	Marguerite	Iris	Margaret G.
Sidesperson 2	Frankie	Helen	Adrian	Anne L.	Jennie
Sidesperson(s) 3 and 4	n/a	Peter	Jo	Anne H.	n/a
Junior Sidesperson	n/a	Ellen	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cleaning 1	Rosemary	Walsh family	Mo	Margaret B.	Ade
Cleaning 2	Paul	Davies family	David S.	Peter	Frankie
St. Nectan Chapel Flowers	tba	tba	tba	tba	Advent
Church Flowers - Altar	Harvest	Remembrance	Remembrance	Remembrance	Advent
Church Flowers - Table	Harvest	Remembrance	Remembrance	Remembrance	Advent
Brass Cleaning	Ade	n/a	Gerry	n/a	Dawn
Coffee/Tea 1	Gerry	Rosemary	Anne L.	Ann B.	Ann D.
Coffee/Tea 2	Sylvia	Fiona	Pam B.	Frankie	Davies family

DRAYCOTT (St. Peter's)	Nov 2	Nov 9	Nov 16	Nov 23	Nov 30
	HC	MP	HC	HC	HC
		<i>Remembrance Sunday</i>			
Organist/Music	David	Ian	Barry	David	tba
Reader 1	Roger	n/a	Martyn	John	Tricia
Reader 2	Sue	n/a	Lynda	Iain	Jeff
Sidesperson(s)	Roger + Sue	n/a	Chris	John	Tricia + Jeff
Coffee/Tea	Roger + Sue	n/a	Chris + Gill	Chris + Karen P.	Tricia + Jeff
Cleaning	Karen + Chris		Heather	Tricia	Tricia
Flowers	Lynda	Valerie + Nettle	Claire	Tricia	Tricia
		<i>(HALL, foliage)</i>			

RODNEY STOKE (St. Leonard's)	Nov 2	Nov 9	Nov 16	Nov 23	Nov 30
	MP	HC	HC	BCP	HC
		<i>Remembrance Sunday</i>			
Sidesperson	Megan	Sue	Megan	Ann	Sue
Reader 1	Joanne	tba	Heather	Angela	Jo Symes
Reader 2	Megan	tba	Megan	Ann	Joanne
Organist	Joanne	Joanne	Joanne	Barry	Joanne
Cleaning	Ann + Sue				
Flowers A	Ann	Pippa	Lesley	Denny	Advent
Flowers P	Megan	Honor	Jenny	Sally	Advent

Benefice Harvest Events

ST. LEONARD'S – Sunday 28th September

Harvest Service and Supper

Our annual Harvest Service was really well attended and led by Rev Stuart Burns. The service started with a harvest favourite, *Come Ye Thankful People*, *Come* and finished with the most popular hymn of all at this time of year, *We Plough The Fields And Scatter*. The church looked absolutely stunning, and thanks go to all those who decorated the church with flowers and produce with. Thanks also to the bell ringers.

After the service the congregation headed upstairs in the village hall for the Harvest Supper which was a bring-and-share event. Many thanks to all who attended and provided savoury and sweet food. The food and company were great as always. A special thank you goes both to Warren's and Seager's stalls for donating a great selection of fruit and vegetables.



The produce that was donated was taken to the Connect Centre in Wells who were delighted and were very appreciative. The vegetables will be used to make soup for the homeless and others in need.

Joanne Turner

ST. ANDREW'S – Friday 3rd October and Sunday 5th October

Although the numbers attending the Harvest Supper on the Friday were lower than usual, there was nothing disappointing about the fare on offer – musical or gastronomic. The evening began with a half-hour set from The Axbridge Singers. This demonstrated both topicality and versatility with numbers ranging from the traditional *John Barleycorn* to a rendition of the 1958 Frankie Lymon & The Teenagers doo-wop hit, *Why Do Fools Fall In Love?*

Two Zulu songs also formed part of the song choice, with Rev. Stuart later enlightening us as to the origins of each piece. The Singers also included a few 'St. Andrewnians' (sic) such as Mary Reeve and John Morgan. We were grateful for their contribution, which ensured the evening began at a cracking pace.

Food was fish-and-chips provided by Tucker's and we are most appreciative of Jo and Huw Davies for arranging this. Tartare sauce, vinegar, ketchup, salt and pepper were also on offer at each table. There was a plenitude of wonderful desserts, all kindly made by parishioners. Thank you, everybody for a very convivial evening.



Our Harvest Service two days later saw many more attend, and it was lovely to welcome back Pam True, after a long health-enforced absence. The Harvest donations were passed on to the Cheddar Food Bank and everybody was again very generous. Rev. Stuart also incorporated a link in his sermon, referencing his South African upbringing and elaborating upon the Zulu songs featured in Friday's Harvest Supper.





ST. PETER'S – Sunday 6th October

The Harvest Festival on Sunday 6th October was followed by a delicious Jacket Potato Lunch. Later in the day, we joined other villagers in Draycott by hosting a stall as part of the village Yard Sale. A huge thank you to everyone who came along and supported us.

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to send a wonderful collection of harvest gifts—donated through the school, church, and community—to the Sisters in Bristol, in support of their Loaves and Fishes project.

Thea Oliver

SOSP NEWS

Advent Festival at St Peter's – Saturday 7th December

10:30 AM – 1:30 PM

This year we're introducing a new creative twist to our Advent Festival!

We hope to have the church beautifully decorated with Christmas Bells—made in any medium (paper, wood, fabric, clay, metal, etc.)—by anyone who would like to take part.

Whether you knit, paint, sculpt, or craft, we'd love your bell to be part of our display!

Why not put the date in your diary and come along to enjoy our usual Coffee and Cake, followed by a delicious Soup Lunch?

For more information or to get involved, please contact:

Karen on (01749) 870067.

Layout and design suggestions:-

If you're printing this for a noticeboard or newsletter:

- (1) Use warm autumn colours (gold, rust, olive) for the Harvest section.
- (2) Switch to festive reds and greens for the Advent section.
- (3) Add small symbols (pumpkins, wheat sheaves, bells, stars) beside headers.
- (4) Use a friendly serif font like Georgia or Garamond for body text and a decorative script for the titles (e.g. Great Vibes or Alex Brush).
- (5) Include a photo or illustration of St Peter's Church, or last year's festival.

LET YOUR CREATIVITY LOOSE AND HAVE FUN!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE RESULTS OF YOUR
ENDEAVOURS.

St. Leonard's - Diary Dates



PATRONAL & THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Sunday 2nd November

11.15 AM

This is a non-Communion service. Please stay for refreshments afterwards.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

**Tuesday
11th November**

10.50 AM

*We remember and honour
all those who sacrificed
everything for us*



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday 15th November

In Church Hall

11.00 AM – 3.00 PM

Refreshments.

**Stalls will include Cakes &
Produce, Tombola, Ceramics,
Pre-Loved & Vintage,
Jewellery, Lucky Dip,
Raffle and other stalls.**

In aid of church funds.

St. Andrew's Monthly Lunch Club is back!

The Third Thursday of each month*

12.30 PM at The Riverside Inn, Cheddar

Please see Philip Wait for details

** Unless previously notified*



Our grateful thanks to Jo and Huw Davies for hosting these events.

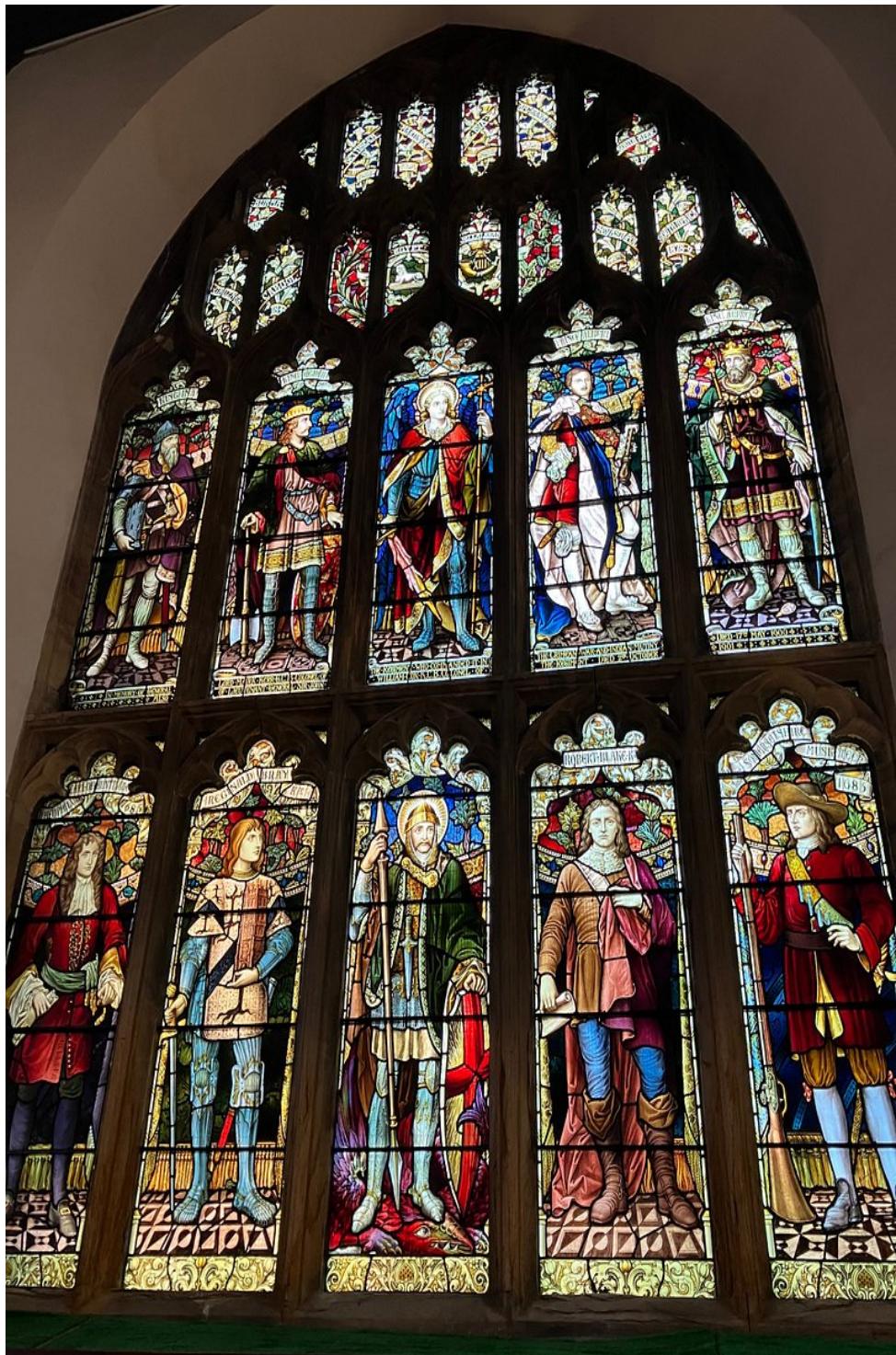
A WELL-MERITED 'RETIREMENT'

After many years of loyal service as a member of the St. Andrew's brass-cleaning team, Marion Clegg has decided now is the time to step back from this task.

Marion has always been – and continues to be – a fantastic servant of the church in so many, many ways: most of which are unseen and unheralded. Thank you so much, Marion – your unstinting hard work has always been hugely appreciated.

Eileen York

Stained (Glass) Splendour



This photograph of the magnificent window in the Soldiers' Corner in Taunton Minster (St. Mary Magdalene) cannot truly hope to convey the stunning effect of the whole. The Somerset Light Infantry considered the church its spiritual home, following the arrival of the regimental depot in Taunton in 1881.

The glass was by A.L. Moore and installed in 1902, to commemorate two former Light Infantry commanders. It was paid for by the First Battalion, with each soldier donating a day's pay – voluntarily or otherwise.

CARYS IS THE FRONT COVER STAR OF OCTOBER'S VALLEY LIFE MAGAZINE



https://donate.justgiving.com/page/carys-walsh_1

"I just want to say a huge thank you for all the amazing support so far – it really means so much to me. 

I've started putting up the posters I have made around Cheddar to help spread the word, and it's been lovely seeing the community getting behind this cause. I'm also really excited to share some new fundraising ideas I've got planned over the next few months.

Every donation and kind message is helping me get one step closer to that 26.2 miles in memory of dad and in support of the amazing South Western Ambulance Service Trust Charity.

Thank you again for being part of this journey with me, and please continue to share with me 

Carys Walsh

'GATE DRESSING' – HELP REQUIRED

Never mind the tradition of well dressing, here in Cheddar we've long had the tradition of adorning St. Andrew's' gates and arch with wonderful seasonal decorations, courtesy of the consummate skills and ever-fertile imagination of Pam Bell and her team. Husband Terry has rightly decided that climbing ladders to affix creations to the arch is now a task for a younger person. Said ladders will be provided, so anybody seeking to join the Dressing Team, which involves just a few hours on perhaps six occasions per annum, please contact Pam on (01934) 743279.

THANK YOU, TERRY, FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK OVER THE YEARS!

FLOWERS OF LOVE

“Why are they selling poppies, mummy
Selling poppies in town today?”

“The poppies, child, are flowers of love
For the men who marched away”

“But why have they chosen a poppy, mummy
Why not a beautiful rose?”

“Because, my child, men fought and died
In the fields where the poppy grows”

“But why are the poppies red, mommy
Why are the poppies so red?”

“Red is the colour of blood, my child
The blood that our soldiers shed”

“The heart of the poppy is black, mummy
Why does it have to be black?”

“Black, my child, is the symbol of grief
For the men who never came back”

“But why, mummy, are you crying so?
Your tears are giving you pain”

“My tears are my fears for you, my child
For the world is FORGETTING AGAIN”

(Anon)

(Thanks to Jo Symes)

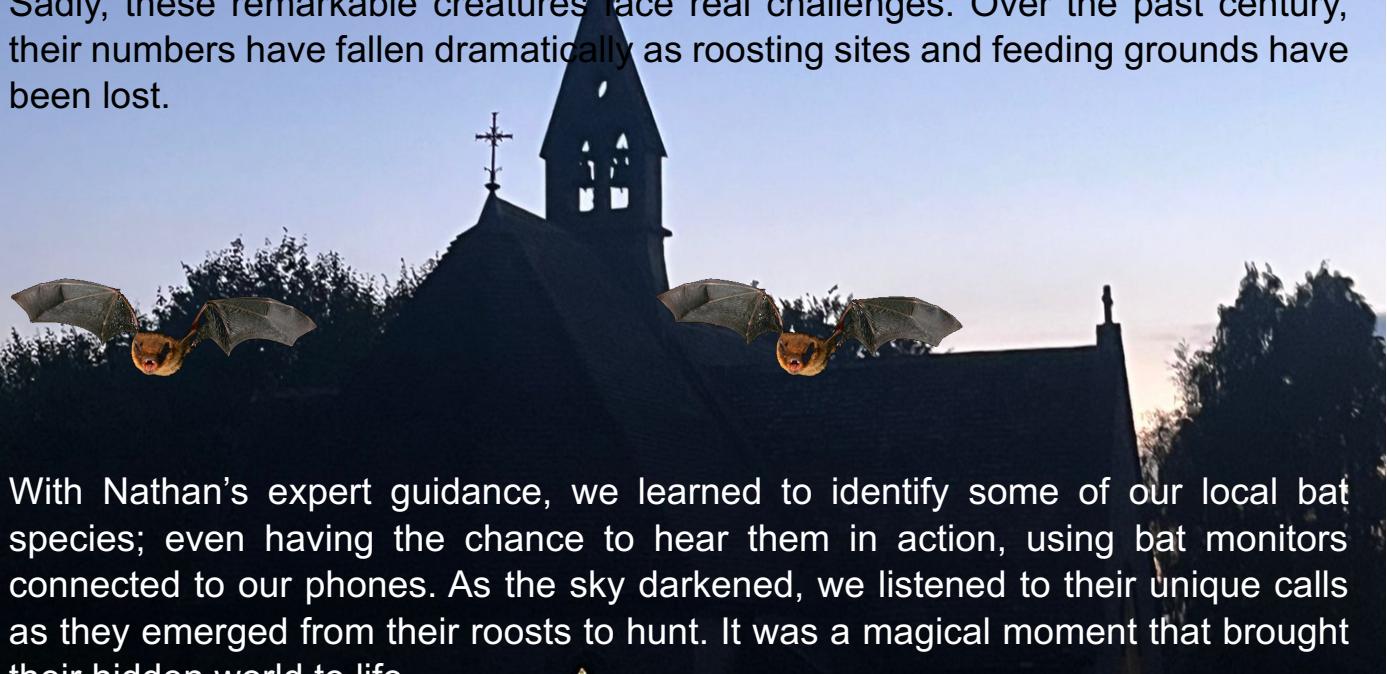
A Batty Evening at St. Peter's

On September 19th, St. Peter's church was alive with curiosity and excitement as SOSP (Supporters Of St. Peter's) hosted a crepuscular conversation – that's an evening talk, referencing creatures like bats, who are most active at dusk – with Nathan Orr, Nature Recovery Ranger for the Mendip Hills National Landscape.

Nathan shared his fascinating work in wildlife conservation, from creating safe habitats for threatened species like adders to inspiring people of all ages to connect with and protect local wildlife.

The focus of the evening was bats: mysterious, misunderstood and utterly essential to our environment. Bats comprise over a quarter of the UK's mammal species and more than 20% of such species worldwide. They're vital indicators of a healthy ecosystem and their wellbeing is directly linked to our own.

Sadly, these remarkable creatures face real challenges. Over the past century, their numbers have fallen dramatically as roosting sites and feeding grounds have been lost.



With Nathan's expert guidance, we learned to identify some of our local bat species; even having the chance to hear them in action, using bat monitors connected to our phones. As the sky darkened, we listened to their unique calls as they emerged from their roosts to hunt. It was a magical moment that brought their hidden world to life.

Rev. Thea

(Huge thanks to Nathan for sharing his knowledge and passion and to everyone who joined us for this special event. Together, we can help protect these incredible creatures and the beautiful landscapes we share with them).



Looking Back... 131 Years Ago

Draycot and Rodney Stoke Parish Magazine.

AUGUST, 1894.

Draycot.

We kept the Festival of S. Peter, our Patron Saint, as usual, with a Choral Celebration of Holy Communion in the morning, and with Evensong at 7-30, with a Sermon by the Rev. G. Cotesworth. On the following Monday we had our Annual Communicants' Tea in the Vicarage Garden.

In preparation for our Dedication Festival, the Rev. V. S. S. Coles, Librarian of the Pusey House, Oxford, paid us a visit, giving an address to the Communicants, on Friday evening, July 20th. Mr. Coles showed us how we are brought to God by contact with our Lord Jesus Christ, God and Man. Jesus saved us by His Incarnation; and if we would rightly understand the Holy Communion, we must understand what the Incarnation means. The Eternal Son took a body and soul in the first moment of their existence, and made them His own; no new person came into existence when He was born, as is the case with us, but He was in person what He had always been, the son of God.

The benefit we receive in the Sacraments is by contact with God, but Sacraments are not a charm; there must be faith, a certainty in the heart given us by God, an assurance given us of the truth of certain facts. Faith is the deep, humble desire to surrender ourselves to that One Being Who is both our God and our Brother.

Mr. Coles went on to show how our Lord spoke, in S. John vi., of giving Himself to us in the Holy Communion, saying, "He that eateth My Flesh and drinketh my Blood, dwelleth in Me and I in him. As the living Father hath sent Me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth Me, even he shall live by Me." He added, the flesh profiteth nothing, it is the Spirit who giveth life, that is the Holy Ghost who carries on the work of our Lord on earth, now He is gone to Heaven. Our Lord has ascended, and His risen body has received a glory of which He gave His Disciples glimpses at His Transfiguration, when He walked on the water, and when at the last supper He took the bread and wine, and said: "This is My Body;" "This is My Blood;" that is the flesh and blood of which He spoke when He said: "Except ye eat the Flesh of the Son of Man, and drink His Blood, ye have no life in you: whoso eateth My Flesh, and drinketh My Blood, hath eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

On Sunday morning Mr. Coles preached from the text, "Behold my steward shall deal very prudently," Isaiah lii. 13, drawing from it a lesson of our need of Christian Preparation. In the afternoon he gave an address to about 60 men on 1 Tim. ii. 8, "I will then that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands without wrath and doubting." The subject was the special difficulties which keep men from the practice of religion. In the evening the text was Isaiah liii. 6, "All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way, and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all." The Son of God suffered to show us what an awful thing sin is. The suffering in the world is all for good. There is a pledge that it will do good to those who seek God through Christ.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY COFFEE MORNING

Saturday
6th December

Hannah More
Cottage
10 AM – 12.30
PM

Enquiries: Pat Groves (01934) 74234



PAUL + SIMON



Singing the songs of Christmas
& Gaafenkael

SAVE THE DATE!

Cheddar
Village
Hall
SAT.
24TH JAN.
2026

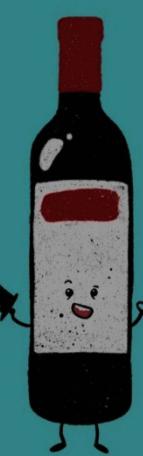
Further
details tba.

*In aid of St.
Andrew's
reordering
funds*

CAPTION COMPETITION

As a piece of post-Holiday Club fun, your suggestions are invited as to what Hamish might have been intending to do with this branch. (The world's largest stringless longbow, perhaps?)

All ideas to the editorial email address – a selection may appear in a future *Together* magazine.



Carys's London Marathon

Fundraiser

Do you love wine, cheese, chutney
& good company?

Please join us on Friday 2nd
November 7pm onwards
10 Springfield Close
BS27 8AR

Tickets £10 - available from Ceri
Unlimited

Raffle

St. Leonard's Church

CHRISTINGLE

Sun. 14 Dec. 11.15 AM

Join us! Learn how to
make your Christingle
orange, to take home
and learn its meaning.



Ever Thankful

In the early morning sunshine
On a cold November day,
Beneath the sleeping Mendips
You could hear them on their way.

The steady sound of leather boots
As heels hit frozen road,
Weighed down by khaki kit bags
But they didn't feel their load.

The tower of St. Leonard's loomed,
Oh, what a welcome sight!
To those who wore the uniform
Returning from the fight.

The spirit of our forefathers,
Aye! And mothers too.
We're marching back down Millway
And coming into view.

They smiled to be at home again,
With all the local folk,
In their ever 'Thankful Village'
That we know as Rodney Stoke.

Rod Morris



Rod wrote the following, having been asked permission to publish his poem:-

"Remembrance is an important part of my family. I served in HMS Brilliant during the Falklands War and lost good friends in the South Atlantic. My father was a Desert Rat in the 8th Army serving as a mine disposal Sapper. My grandfather joined the Royal Navy in 1912 at the age of 12 and fought onboard HMS Amethyst at the Battle of the Dardanelles. He kept a photograph of his own Dad, my Great Grandfather of him in the uniform of the South Wales Borderers during the Boer War. Anything that helps us to remember is absolutely fine by me".

In Days Of Yore

“From about 1700 onwards, the Anglican Church (St. Andrew’s) treated Cheddar very badly, because, like so many other parishes in the country at that time, there were absentee clergymen. High-born families would arrange for the living of Cheddar and such places and one man might hold several. They might be in Yorkshire or Leicestershire or somewhere and all held by some chap who was at Oxford or Cambridge or off on the Grand Tour.

This character would draw £400 for the living and then appoint a curate at £20 a year and that wretched fellow would live into old age hoping for a church of his own, with an income. The result was that Cheddar had a succession of boozy curates who had long since given up – just did it for the money.

There was one whose only contact with the place was to ride over from Wells to take a Sunday afternoon service. People were being buried without a service and children were not baptised. The Church was just disintegrating”.



“...you must have heard of Jack Plumley the highwayman who lurked with his horse in the small caves to avoid capture. In the old days they always used to hang wrongdoers at Hangman’s Rock at the top of Shute Hill. I understand they were buried under the sycamore on the north side of Cheddar Church. It’s dark there and it is a tradition that no-one law-abiding should be buried there”

(Both unattributed sources extracted from Cheddar Memories by Chris Howell, 1984)

Fortunately, there is absolutely no resemblance whatsoever to our present-day clergy! The sycamore tree referred to and seen in the above illustration was approximately where the 2022 memorial to all those killed in the 1972 air disaster is sited).



All are welcome to our

All Souls Service

where we remember
those we love but see
no longer.

4pm Sunday
2nd November
St. Andrew's Church,
Cheddar

THE ANNUAL ROSE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Barry and Nicola Rose will again entertain everyone, with seasonal music to suit all tastes, plus guest artistes (*to be announced*).

SUNDAY 28TH DECEMBER
ST. PETER'S CHURCH, DRAYCOTT
4.00 PM

Full details in next magazine. Mark the date!

Apposite Anagrams

listen = silent

the detectives = detect thieves

a gentleman = elegant man

dormitory = dirty room

Fourth of July = joyful Fourth

conversation = voices rant on

slot machines = cash lost in 'em

snooze alarms = alas, no more 'z's

the eyes = they see

the Morse code = here come dots

astronomer = moon starer

eleven plus two = twelve plus one

For All The Saints...

St. Congar (c.470-27th November) - Abbot/ Bishop

Congar grew up in Pembrokeshire (Dyfed). He was one of three missionaries sent across the Bristol Channel by the Bishop of Llandaff; St Pedroc to Exmoor, St Decumen to Dunster(then to Wick St Lawrence) and Congar to the old Iron Age and Roman settlement at the foot of Cadbury Hill. He is said to have thrust his staff into the ground which grew into a yew tree that can still be seen there!

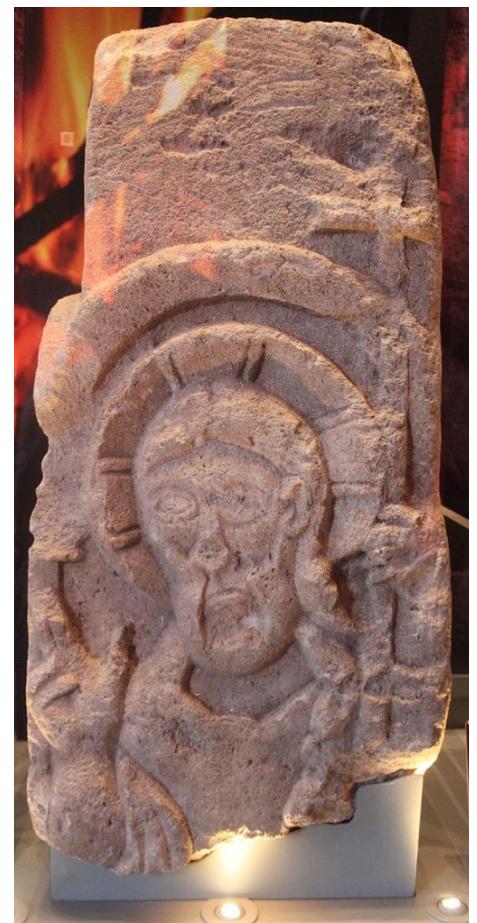
He drained the surrounding ground to make farmland and built a cell to which a wattle and daub Church was added. This was soon replaced with a stone building with shelters for twelve followers and became a place of pilgrimage which continued till the Middle Ages. The site of the cell is now the Merle Chapel in the Church of St Andrew in Congresbury.

Congar gave his name to the Church at Badgworth, the centre of a Bishopric which preceded the diocese of Wells. Churches dedicated to Congar can be found in Brittany and St Inunger, Cornwall where he spent time as a hermit. He returned to Wales but died later on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, his body was brought back to Congresbury for burial.

The parish of Congresbury claimed to have enshrined his body during the Middle Ages and it was mentioned in several pilgrimage guides. Though a minor saint he is mentioned in a 1060 litany of Winchester and his feast featured in most medieval Somerset calendars. His festival was celebrated in the past at Dunster Priory and Muchelney Abbey. He preached oneness with nature, abstemiousness, poverty, the study of the Bible and the lives of the saints.

The current Church of St Andrew built by Bishop Jocelyn of Wells in 1215 meant, as with many Celtic saints, Congar's legacy was forgotten by the 'modern' Roman Christian church of tithes, purgatory, hierarchy and indulgences. A carved stone believed to represent St Congar (seen above, right) can be viewed in the Museum of Somerset in Taunton.

Pat Groves



What Is...A Pyx?

Unless you are a member of the Goldsmiths' Company, where the term refers to a box at the Royal Mint wherein specimen gold and silver coins are kept and subjected to annual tests, or an archaeologist, a *pyx* denotes a container that houses the consecrated bread for the Eucharist.

Often a silver or gold chalice-like cup with a lid, pyx comes from *pyxis*, a Latin translation of a Greek descriptor for a receptacle fashioned from boxwood. Used in Anglican, Catholic and Lutheran churches, to list a few, it is frequently utilised to take the Eucharist to those who are ill, housebound or otherwise unable to receive Holy Communion in a church.



In such cases, the pyx will normally be of a round, lidded design, for ease of transportation to those receiving Home Communion. Although silver is the metal most commonly associated with a pyx; traditionally with a gold inner, it can also be constructed from other metals or materials such as leather.

For Holy Communion received in church, a silver or gold lidded vessel is often used, although the flatter, clamshell version suffices for a smaller number of communicants.

Leather or another resolute fabric is also used to make the *burse*: the pouch a pyx can be placed within. This burse can have cords attached, rendering it able to be secured, with no risk of losing the pyx and the consecrated host within, if it is affixed to the administrating clergy member or designated person.



The September St. Andrew's Church Vicinity Bash



Fourteen volunteers, some of whom are pictured above, toiled long and hard a short while back, to transform the area around the church. The impressive results of their labours can be seen below.

Thanks to each and every one of you.



POETRY AND PERSPIRATION

The summer of 1975 was relentlessly furnace-like: not as hot as its' successor but enough to unfreeze any cryogenically preserved artefact. Before beginning full-time work that September, the long weeks represented a road of epic length to many youngsters. Or so it seemed.

Salvation from ennui came from an occasional member of the congregation. This widow offered my friend Mark and me the then-enormous sum of £10 between us if we would paint her bathroom. Youthful insouciance meant we thought it'd be the work of a mere few days. Hubris corrected our assumption.

The 'bathroom' turned out to be a separate toilet, situated in a space little bigger than a cupboard. There was a tiny window no more than six inches square on the outer wall. We'd also been told that the paint would be provided for us.

Which it was, but the rusty tins and buttermilk substance was like no other paint we'd ever encountered. *"Oh, I've had it since before the war"* we were blithely informed. *"But it's never been used, so it'll be fine"*. Prolonged stirring of this paint failed to thicken the consistency. Armed only with paintbrushes and overweening optimism, we set to work.



Manouevering around each other and the fixture itself was difficult enough but the paint was like discoloured, watery condensed milk, never mind 'buttermilk' and simply ran down the walls. Somehow, after three or four days and the application of approximately forty-five coats, the paint adhered and the walls were covered thickly enough to hide the previous dark blue colour.

We were permitted a ten minute midday break in our long days, whereupon tea and biscuits were provided. Our patron was an eccentric lady, prone to being effusive one day and uncommunicative the next, with neither of us knowing which mood she'd be in before we arrived every day.

One morning, before we began, she showed us a selection of insect-inspired short poems by people who used lower-case lettering to describe themselves, *a la* e.e. cummings. Bored during our break that day, I instantly composed a parody in mere seconds, called 'the greenfly'. In entirety, it read: *i amma little greenfly/sitting onna leaf/i'm a funny little fella/for i have not got my teef.* Unfortunately, I forgot about it and left it at her house.

The atmosphere turned glacial the next day – the only thing that was during our eight days of toil. Both tea and biscuits were withdrawn. Never got paid for our endeavours either. Not so much *instant karma* as *instant froideur*.

Ade Macrow



ADVENT GROUPS

The theme this year is *In God's Good Time*. The four sessions will comprise (1) WAITING – the Old Testament theme of the promised Messiah, (2) THEN IT HAPPENED – The Jesus event, beginning from His birth, (3) LIVING IN THE PRESENT – living out our faith day by day and (4) FUTURE HOPES – resurrection, life after death and the Second Coming.

Once again kindly devised by Rev. Judith, the weekly groups and leaders will be as follows. Sign-up sheets for all groups will be found in each church. No restriction on the number of groups you might like to enlist in.

MONDAY 2.30 PM @ 47 Hill Lea Gardens (Rev. Hilary and Ven. Rev. Judith)

MONDAY 6.30 PM (ZOOM) (Rev. Thea and Chris Green)

TUESDAY 11.00 AM @ Parish Office (aka The Den) (Rev. Stuart and others)

TUESDAY 7.00 PM @ 9 Goosander Grove BS27 3FY (Rev. Hilary and Martyn Higgs)

WEDS'DAY 7.30 PM @ Parish Office (aka The Den) (Rev. Ruth and others)

All groups commence week beginning 24th November, then weeks of 1st, 8th and 15th December. Study notes will be provided.



For ZOOM passwords,
please ask Stuart.

Today's Horoscope

<i>Aries</i>	The stars and planets will not affect your life in any way.
<i>Taurus</i>	The stars and planets will not affect your life in any way.
<i>Gemini</i>	The stars and planets will not affect your life in any way.
<i>Cancer</i>	The stars and planets will not affect your life in any way.
<i>Leo</i>	The stars and planets will not affect your life in any way.
<i>Virgo</i>	The stars and planets will not affect your life in any way.
<i>Libra</i>	The stars and planets will not affect your life in any way.
<i>Scorpio</i>	The stars and planets will not affect your life in any way.
<i>Sagittarius</i>	The stars and planets will not affect your life in any way.
<i>Capricorn</i>	The stars and planets will not affect your life in any way.
<i>Aquarius</i>	The stars and planets will not affect your life in any way.
<i>Pisces</i>	The stars and planets will not affect your life in any way.



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for the

Royal British Legion Remembrance Day Service

led by Rev. Stuart Burns and Rev. Thea Oliver

Sunday November 9th at 10.45 AM



Harvest Time - A Time for Community Celebrations

Harvest Time Song (A song for children, sung to the tune of *Round The Mulberry Bush*)

*What do we do at harvest time,
Harvest time, harvest time?
What do we do at harvest time
Harvest time in the autumn?
We pick the apples at harvest time
Harvest time, harvest time.
We pick the apples at harvest time,
Harvest time in the autumn.*



The three churches of the Benefice recently celebrated Harvest Festivals, each in their own way. Draycott made it into a two day celebration, and in so doing underlined the community spirit that is so much in evidence in this village. On the first Saturday of October, as well as coffee and cake being served, SOSP put on a fundraising Harvest Fair, with stalls, goods for sale and a tombola.

It was very evident that a lot of hard work and thought had been involved. It is always heartwarming to see the Church being used in this way, as a community venue. The church was also the depository for food offerings, not the traditional fruit and vegetables, but tins and packets destined for distribution by the Sisters in Bristol.

On Sunday a thoughtful and joyous Harvest Thanksgiving Service was conducted by Thea and Hilary. With Barry on fine form on the organ the harvest hymns were sung with gusto and enjoyment. At lunchtime a Harvest Festival Lunch was on



offer, with jacket potatoes and a variety of fillings. Truly delicious. Of course yet another serving of cake was on hand to complete the lovely lunch. Thanks are due again to Thea, Richard and the enthusiastic and hard-working SOSP team.

Meanwhile the Village Community Shop was holding its Autumn Sample Sunday, selling amongst other goodies packs of vegetables for soup making, all supplied by Seagers. These proved very popular. Also that very same afternoon there was a yard sale around the village, lots of pre-loved bargains to be had!

Harvest festivals are celebrated around the world by peoples of different faiths and traditions with offerings of food and expressions of gratitude for the harvest and nature's bounty. As with most festivals, singing forms an important part of the celebrations and I would like to conclude by quoting the first verse of the Henry Alford hymn, based on Psalm 100:

*Come, ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest home!
All is safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide
For our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come
Raise the song of harvest home!*

Susan Peel



The Men's Skittles Evening



The inaugural Skittle Evening for Men was held recently at Cheddar Football Club. Open to all, the evening proved a great success and it is hoped that these evenings of talk, refreshment and fun will become a regular calendar fixture.

TAIZE SERVICE at ST. PETER'S CHURCH

Sunday 30th November 5 PM.

Everybody is welcome to join us for an Ecumenical Taize-style service of contemplative worship to help us all prepare for the Advent season and the busyness of Christmas.

Save the date! Messy Church Christingle

Sunday 7th December
3pm - 4.30pm
Cheddar Village Hall

Followed by
Messy Church
Christingle Service
at 4.30pm
in St Andrew's
Church, Cheddar



SHINE A LIGHT!

St. Peter's Church Path Lights Appeal

As many of you know, the Church's Christmas season runs from **25th December** to **2nd February (Candlemas)**.

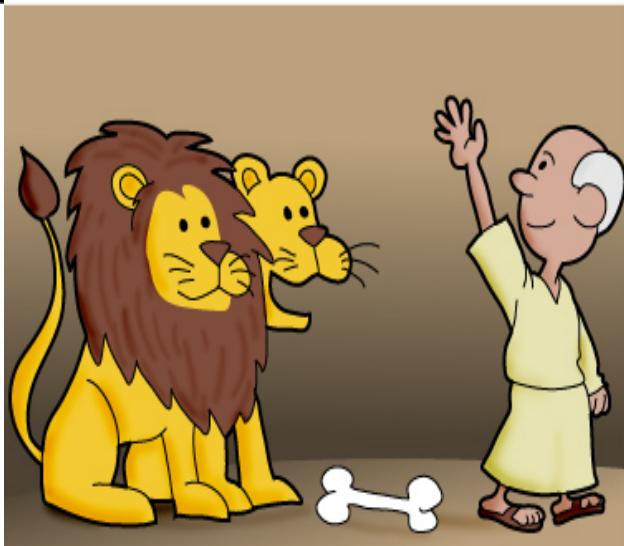
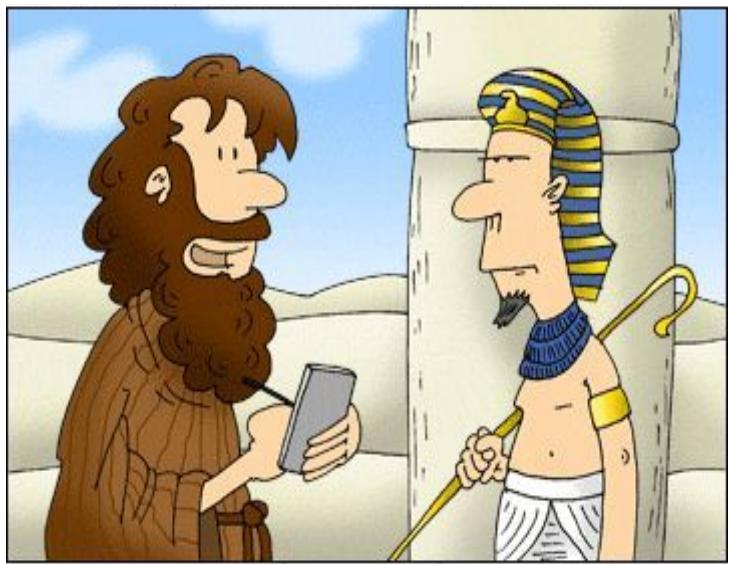
Each year, the coloured lights along our church path stay alight throughout this period; brightening our village and lighting the way for children going to and from school during these dark winter months.

Our old lights had seen better days, so new ones have now been purchased to continue this much-loved tradition. Thanks to generous support from the community, we've covered most of the cost but we **still face a slight shortfall**.

If you're able to contribute towards the remaining amount, a donation of any size would be very welcome. Please contact **Rev. Thea** for details.

Thank you for helping us keep St. Peter's path shining brightly through the winter season.





"That Daniel is a great guy. That's the most fun I ever had with a person without eating them!"

Hats off to the person who devised the word 'plethora'.

That means a lot.



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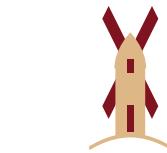
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Editor : **Ade Macrow 07856006493**

editorcdrsmag@gmail.com

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Website & Contact Information

St. Andrew's, Cheddar:

www.beneficecdrs.org

St. Peter's, Draycott:

www.beneficecdrs.org

St. Leonard's, Rodney Stoke:

www.beneficecdrs.org

Cheddar Village Hall:

cvhbooking@gmail.com (*John Sammut*)

Rodney Stoke Church Hall:

walker.owlsnest@gmail.co.uk (*Sue Walker*)

Church Bookings:

St. Andrew's: **(01934) 742708** (*Marguerite Strang*)

St. Peter's: **07828 150 807** (*John English*)

St. Leonard's: **(01749) 870 555** (*Megan James*)