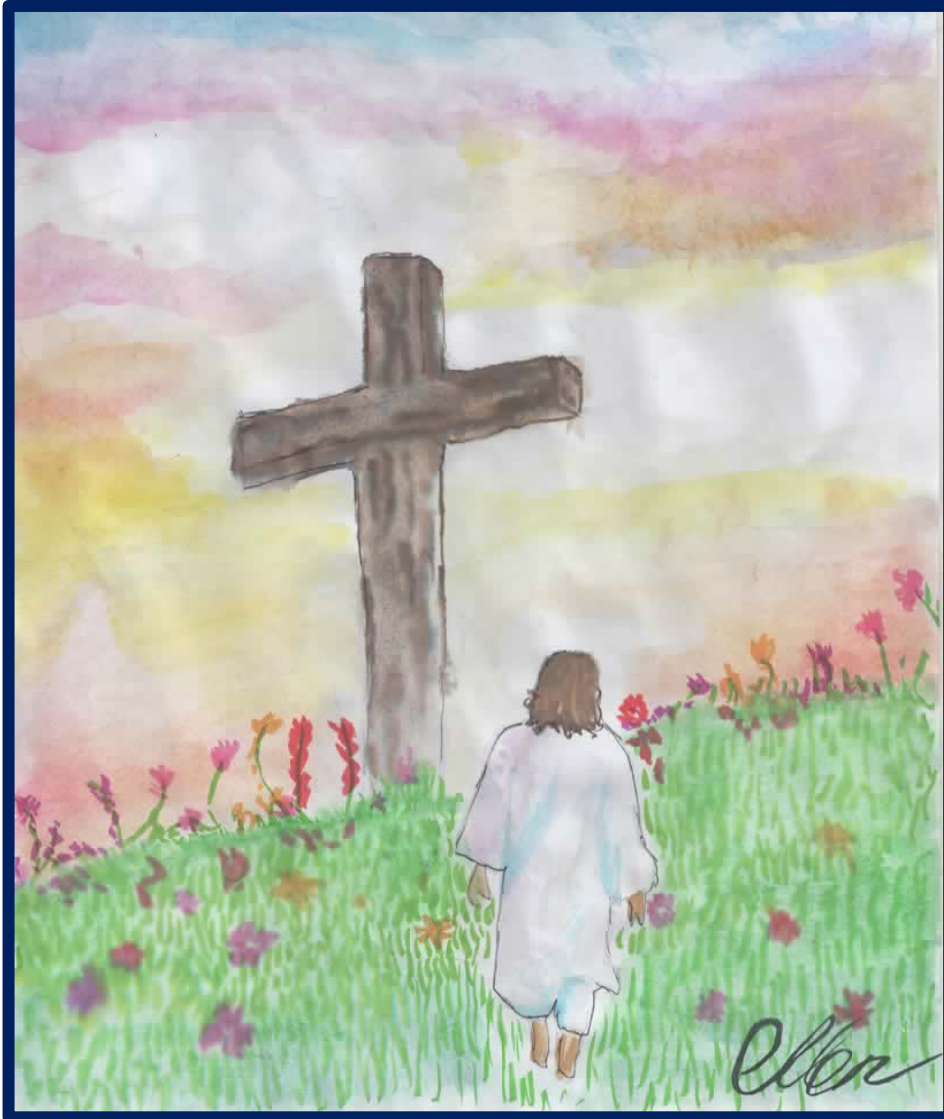


# Together

Benefice Magazine

Cheddar, Draycott and Rodney Stoke



*(Artwork by Ellen Flinders, aged 14)*

**April 2026**

**£1**

# BENEFICE INFORMATION



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07767892313

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## St. Andrew's, Cheddar

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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 – Stuart Burns



This precocious and cheeky fig tree in my garden not only budded but even offered a fig several weeks ago, despite frosts still coming in the last few days. What a brave statement against the harsh gloom of winter!

We probably all know people who, in the midst of adversity, are able to maintain a smile and cheerful encouragement to others. One reads of small, beleaguered churches keeping their doors open (some openly, some underground) offering shelter, meals and friendship to scared and homeless people in the bombed-out cities of Iran, and Ukraine.

This points us to the heart of the Easter message. Jesus used to speak of His impending death to His disciples, but never without a simultaneous assurance that He would experience a triumphant resurrection to be their Lord and friend always. Holy Week includes the remembering of Jesus' grief and betrayal on Maundy Thursday, and His torture and crucifixion on Good Friday.

These are desperately sad, but these church services are held with one eye on the glorious resurrection celebration awaiting Easter Sunday. During our children's service on the Friday, we have to show the children the empty cross of Sunday alongside the story of the horrible Friday – they belong together, they need each other – the joy of the one overwhelms the pain of the other. His new life offers us the real possibility of finding and enacting hope in dark times, and of being people of courage and optimism in times of sadness for ourselves or others.

I wish you a happy Easter that will engender a sense of joy, and may we grow in self-belief that, in Christ, we too can be instruments of the Lord's peace, hope and encouragement for those we know who may be really struggling.

*Stuart*

# Bishop's Pilgrimage



## He is risen!

Across our Diocese of Bath and Wells, churches are preparing to celebrate Easter, this most important day of our Christian calendar. Throughout Holy Week and on Easter Sunday there will be sunrise services and church services, community meals and coffee mornings with hot cross buns, and so much more.

During Holy Week, Bishop Michael will be witnessing many of these activities as he undertakes a pilgrimage walk through Exmoor and the Quantocks, calling in churches along the way.

He says, *“During this year of 2026, as a diocese together, we are having an especial focus on prayer. Pilgrimage is one of the most ancient ways that Christians have prayed, come closer to God and learned how better to walk with the Lord throughout their lives. I'm so excited that during Holy Week I'll be making this pilgrimage, meeting members of our churches, praying with them, and experiencing God in the beauty of His creation that's all around us. It's going to be an inspiring journey that I look forward to sharing with many different people.”*

One of the places that Bishop Michael will be visiting is Nether Stowey, where a large cross is placed on the mount there at the start of Holy Week. On Good Friday, Bishop Michael will be joining the Walk of Witness down from the mount, into the village and on to the church where many hot cross buns will be consumed.

The Revd Eleanor King, Rector of the Quantock Villages Benefice said, *“This walk of witness is one of the three big outdoor services that we have during the year. It is a special occasion when we are joined by members of the community, as well as our Christian brothers and sisters from other local churches.”*

Find out more at: [bathandwells.org.uk/bishops-pilgrimage](https://bathandwells.org.uk/bishops-pilgrimage)

**Bishop Michael**

# READINGS AND SERVICES

	Psalm	First Reading	Second Reading
<b>5th April</b> <b>Easter Day</b>	118:	Acts	John
	14 - 24	10: 34-43	20: 1-18
<b>12th April</b> <b>Easter 2</b>	16	Acts	John
		2: 14a, 22-32	20: 19-end
<b>19th April</b> <b>Easter 3</b>	116:	Acts	Luke
	1-7	2: 14a, 36-41	24: 13-35
<b>26th April</b> <b>Easter 4</b>	23	Acts 2: 42-end	John 10: 1-10

	Cheddar	Draycott	Rodney Stoke
<b>5th April</b> <b>Easter Day</b>	10am Easter Communion	9.30am	11.15am
	3.15pm First Sunday, Cheddar Village Hall	Easter Communion	Easter Communion
<b>12th April</b> <b>Easter 2</b>	10am	9.30am	11.15am
	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion
<b>19th April</b> <b>Easter 3</b>	8am BCP Communion	9.30am	11.15am
	9am Breakfast Service, Cheddar Village Hall	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
<b>26th April</b> <b>Easter 4</b>	10am	9.30am	11.15am
	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Matins

## FROM THE REGISTERS:

### FROM THE REGISTERS:

#### Baptism:

*We welcome into the Church family:*

Vincent Webber (St Peter's Church, 22<sup>nd</sup> March)



#### Funerals:

*Our prayers are with those who mourn the death of: Roger Reeson, Geoffrey Bathe, Susan Vickery and Rex Gould.*

# **Benefice Holy Week Services**

## **Thursday 2nd April**

**6.00 PM Passover Supper**

*followed by Reflective Service* (St. Andrew's)

## **Friday 3rd April**

**10.00 AM Good Friday 'Together' Service  
for all ages** (St. Andrew's)

**12.00 noon Good Friday  
Reflection & Communion**  
(St. Andrew's)

**6.00 PM Taize Service** (St. Peter's)

## **Sunday 5th April (Easter Sunday)**

**9.30 AM Holy Communion** (St. Peter's)

**10.00 AM Holy Communion** (St. Andrew's)

**11.15 AM Holy Communion** (St. Leonard's)



## The Bluebells of Brean Down



In the spring of 2019 my husband, Roger, and I came to spend a few days in Somerset on a house-hunting, fact-finding mission. We very much enjoyed discovering this lovely part of the world, a lot of which has since become very familiar to us both.

One of my most abiding memories from that time was discovering Brean Down with its slopes carpeted with a profusion of bluebells . I was truly captivated. I was more accustomed to seeing bluebells blooming in woodland areas so it was wonderful to see them flourishing in more open terrain.

My research has revealed that the Brean Down bluebells are the native English variety which thrive on limestone. These native bluebells are characterised by their deep colour, their sweet scent and nodding heads with petals that curl back. They are protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

Brean Down is worth a visit not only in spring but at all times of the year. It offers amazing views of the Bristol Channel. It is a promontory standing 318 feet high and is a continuation of the Mendip Hills . Many people go there to walk, taking advantage of the National Trust car park and the convenient cafes . The steps leading upwards are challenging but there is the alternative of a sloping pathway so even those less fit can make it to the top.

There has been human occupation at Brean Down since the Bronze Age and includes the remains of a Romano-Celtic Temple. Adults and children alike love to visit the fort built in 1865 and re-armed in the Second World War.

Brean Down has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest. (SSSI) Not only do bluebells thrive here but also cowslips, primroses, white rock rose, broomrape, Somerset hair grass, wild thyme, horseshoe vetch, trefoil, privet, hawthorn, and bell heather. Many birds inhabit this lovely space, peregrine falcon, rock pipit, linnet, stonechat, collared doves, and many more. Several species of butterfly flourish in this wildlife haven: chalkhill blue, marbled white, dark green fritillary, meadow brown and others.

We will be visiting Brean Down again this spring and hope to find the bluebells blooming in profusion. The bluebell is an iconic flower, symbolizing love, humility, constancy and gratitude. Bluebells are steeped in folklore and are associated with enchantment and magic, known traditionally as fairy flowers.

To conclude I am quoting two verses from Ann Bronte's famous poem, *The Bluebell*:

A fine and subtle spirit dwells  
In every little flower,  
Each one its own sweet feeling breathes  
With more or less of power.

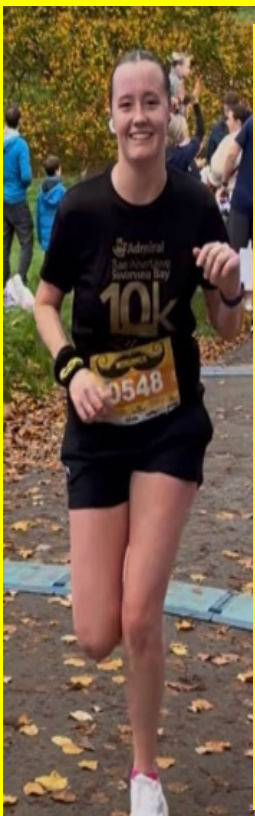
There is a silent eloquence,  
In every wild bluebell  
That fills my softened heart with bliss

*Susan Peel*



## **CARYS IS IN THE LONDON MARATHON**

### **Sunday April 26th**



*Carys says: I'm incredibly proud (and a little emotional) to say we've now raised over **£10,000** for the South Western Ambulance Charity, as I prepare to run the marathon for my dad.*

*This means more than I can put into words. Every donation, share, piece of publicity (appearances on BBC News and Points West) and message of support has helped push this total higher than I ever imagined. The support from everyone has been amazing and it genuinely keeps me motivated during the tough training runs.*

*I'm running in honour of my dad and to support the incredible work that ambulance services do every single day for families like mine. The care, dedication and compassion they show in people's most difficult moments is something I'll never forget.*

*Thank you to everyone, it truly means the world to me. We've smashed 10k...let's see how far we can push it before race day!*



## Ave Maria

Around the time that this magazine reaches you, both the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches will have recently celebrated The Feast of the Annunciation. 25th March is designated 'in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary', and across the centuries, dozens of composers have given us a wealth of musical settings of the *Ave Maria*—recited or sung at the end of the Office of Vespers and at the Angelus – *Ave Maria* (hail, Mary), *gratia plena* (full of grace), *Dominus tecum*, (the Lord is with thee), *Benedicta tu in mulieribus* (Blessèd art thou among women).....

If you recognise these Latin or English words, then I'll guess that the tune which will come to mind will either be by Bach, or Schubert, both regularly played on the radio. I'm not sure how Bach would feel about his setting, since it was never intended to be *Ave Maria*. What you hear is, in fact, his keyboard *Prelude No.1*, from the book entitled *The Well-tempered Clavier*. The music very slightly rearranged 100 years later by the French composer Charles Gounod (1818-93) who overlaid the text of *Ave Maria*.

Some twenty-five years before that, Franz Schubert (1797-1828) had written his setting of *Ave Maria*, now world famous; but the original text was actually in English, to a verse about Ellen Douglas, from Walter Scott's poem *The Lady of the Lake* – and though it begins with the phrase *Ave Maria*, it then goes on *Listen to a maiden's prayer. Thou canst hear though from the wild, Thou canst save amid despair.*

A year later, the church added the text that we know so well today. Bruckner, Elgar, Holst, Liszt, Palestrina, Rachmaninoff and Verdi are among the many others who have written memorable settings of the *Ave Maria*, and the list of modern composers who've done the same is too long to name here.

Do I have a favourite? They're all favourites, but perhaps the sumptuous 8-part setting by the German composer Franz Xaver Biebl (1906-2001) wins by a short head – (you can listen to it on YouTube – or, if you email me at [BRose80648@aol.com](mailto:BRose80648@aol.com) I'll send you a link to one of my own choirs singing it).

*Barry Rose*

# CHURCH ROTAS

## APRIL

CHEDDAR (St. Andrew's)	Apr 5	Apr 12	Apr 19	Apr 26
	MP	HC	Bkfst. Serv.	HC
Sidesperson (8.00)	n/a		Marie	n/a
Sidesperson Team Leader	Fiona	Richard S./Gill	Bkfst. Serv.	Ade
Sidesperson 1	Rosemary	Helen	Bkfst. Serv.	Frankie
Sidesperson 2	Anne L.	Peter	Bkfst. Serv.	Anne L.
Sidesperson 3	n/a	Gill (if not TL)	Bkfst. Serv.	Anne H.
Sidesperson 4	n/a	Ellen	n/a	n/a
Cleaning 1	Margaret B.	Davies family	Ade	Rosemary
Cleaning 2	Peter	Davies family	Frankie	Karen
St. Nectan Chapel Flowers	Easter	Easter	Easter	Easter
Church Flowers - Altar	Easter	Easter	Easter	Easter
Church Flowers - Table	Easter	Easter	Easter	Easter
Brass Cleaning	Dawn	n/a	Eileen	n/a
Coffee/Tea 1	Jim	Ann B.	Bkfst. Serv.	Ann L.
Coffee/Tea 2	Mary	Anne H.	Bkfst. Serv.	Pam B.

<b>DRAYCOIT (St. Peter's)</b>		<b>Apr 5</b>	<b>Apr 12</b>	<b>Apr 19</b>	<b>Apr 26</b>
		HC	MP	HC	HC
<b>Organist/Music</b>		Barry	Ian	Barry	David
<b>Reader 1</b>		Roger	Tricia	Martyn	Gill
<b>Reader 2</b>		Sue	John	Lynda	Iain
<b>Sidesperson(s)</b>		Roger	Tricia	Gill	Chris
<b>Coffee/Tea</b>		Roger + Sue	Tricia + John	Gill + Chris	Gill + Chris
<b>Cleaning</b>		Karen + Chris		Heather	Tricia
<b>Flowers</b>		<i>all hands</i>		Nathaliya	Nathaliya

<b>RODNEY STROKE (St. Leonard's)</b>		<b>Apr 5</b>	<b>Apr 12</b>	<b>Apr 19</b>	<b>Apr 26</b>
		HC	HC	HC	BCP
<b>Sidesperson</b>		Alan	Steve	Megan	Sue
<b>Reader 1</b>		Joanne	Steve	Angela	Jo Symes
<b>Reader 2</b>		Alan	Heather	Megan	Sue
<b>Organist</b>		Joanne	Joanne	Joanne	Barry
<b>Cleaning</b>		Rebecca + Angela			
<b>Flowers A</b>		<i>tba - Vicky</i>	<i>tba - Vicky</i>	<i>tba - Vicky</i>	<i>tba - Vicky</i>
<b>Flowers P</b>		<i>tba - Vicky</i>	<i>tba - Vicky</i>	<i>tba - Vicky</i>	<i>tba - Vicky</i>

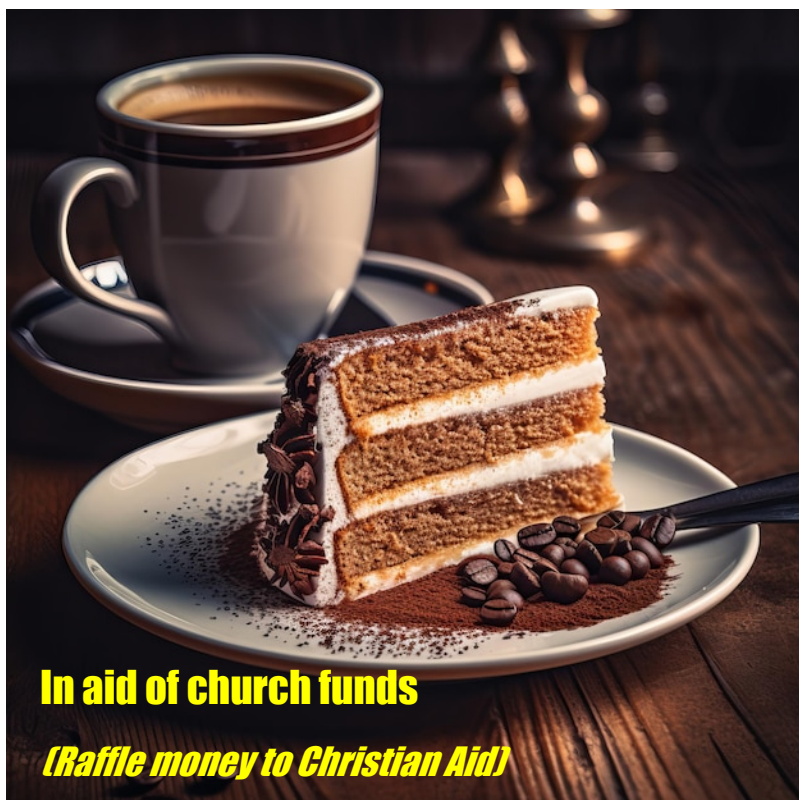


### A local musical interlude

I have just started on a monthly musical alphabet, filmed in St. Pater's Church, and the link below is to the letter 'B' (released on YouTube recently). It's a tune that many people will recognise – 'A' is also out there, if you search for it. 'C' was released on the 20th of March.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6--sE\\_IluM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6--sE_IluM)

*Barry Rose*



**In aid of church funds**

***(Raffle money to Christian Aid)***

## **COFFEE MORNING**

**Rodney Stoke  
Church Hall**

**Saturday 18th April**

**10.30 AM – 12.00  
noon**

**Raffle.**

# In the absence of gardening

A curious title but that is the situation I am in due to a severe bout of sciatica now into its third month. But enough of that, what have I been able to do?

Rather like the *Playschool* children's programme I can look through the windows. The sitting-room has two large ones, one with a view N.E. to the Mendips and the other looking S.W. across the levels to the Wedmore Ridge and the Poldens. Or, you could say, "Over the hills and far away".



Through the first window I watch Stoke Woods gradually turning from greyish/brown to a vibrant green providing a backdrop to the birds and animals which have claimed the farmyard and the field as part of their territory. A sparrow hawk (*left*) regularly makes low-flying forays from a large walnut tree into the field looking for suitable prey, voles, small rabbits and birds. I think she is a female due to her size being three inches longer than the male and capable of catching a dimmer than usual

wood pigeon. We witnessed proof of this one day in the yard where she dealt with her catch on the ground being unable to carry away such a large bird.

From the depths of a large *Lonicera* near the front door a pair of long-tailed tits are emerging with beaks full of small thin twigs and flying off to build their intricate domed nest nearby in an, as yet, unidentified tree or shrub. It is lined with moss and held together by cobwebs if you can believe it.

In the foreground of the 'Far Away' window are bird feeders and we watched the usual garden birds, tits (*right*), finches and robins fly rapidly between an apple tree and an American thorn stopping off at the café serving peanuts, seeds and fatballs in-between. Most days the greater-spotted woodpecker calls in for some nuts before taking its characteristically undulating flight to the large ash tree.





A green woodpecker (*left*) prefers to peck enthusiastically at the grassy areas of the garden scooping up ants with his tongue. His beak hasn't quite the power of the greater spotted, but he flies off with the same undulating flight laughing loudly.

The skyscape to the south-west is vast taking up half of the view and by itself a continuing spectacle. It is the backdrop for the kestrel (*right*) with its unique habit of hovering and plummeting down to catch a vole, or not, as is often the case.



While normal activities are not possible there are some compensations and now I have started writing again. What next? There are some water colours somewhere, I think!

*Ann Percival*

We live on a blue planet  
that circles around a ball  
of fire next to a moon that  
moves the sea, and you  
don't believe in miracles?



### **THE MAGPIE'S BIBLICAL ANTECEDENT**

The lone magpie's symbolism as a harbinger of doom, cf: the childhood rhyme beginning "*one for sorrow*" is well-known but perhaps fewer people realise that is the only bird that failed to mourn during the crucifixion of Jesus.

St Andrew's

# Breakfast Service



**9am**

Breakfast baps, toast, cereal and coffee/ tea

**9.30am**

A short, informal, service

**Sunday  
19th  
April**

in Cheddar Village Hall

All are welcome!

*Save the Date*

## **Benefice Celebration Service**

10am in St Andrew's Church

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May

To celebrate Rev'd Stuarts 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of being Rector of  
the Benefice of Cheddar, Draycott and Rodney Stoke

Bring and share lunch following the service

# THE LLH TRIO ST LEONARD'S CHURCH



LUNCHTIME CONCERT

JULY 17TH - 1PM

ST LEONARDS CHURCH

RODNEY STOKES

The LLH Trio are a flute and cello trio based in Somerset. Lou, Louise and Helen have arranged a wonderful programme of music, including classical, easy listening and something very modern. A wonderful way to spend an afternoon!

## Epistle From Ecuador: Latest Update

*(Stewart is Paul and Rosemary Tullett's nephew, working with his wife Anne-Claire [AC] in Shell, Ecuador)*



Stewart's parents, Ian and Audrey, visited them in mid-October for 3 weeks. They made useful babysitters when AC was on one of her medical caravans to the jungle. When AC arrived at the community there was no clean water and Stewart had to fly out to fix the problem. It took Ian and Audrey a while to get acclimatised to the altitude, the state of many of the roads (with landslides every few miles) and the driving (see picture that they took of a car overtaking before a bend even though there was a yellow, no overtaking line).

They also found it difficult to get used to the jungle noises in the evening and to finding large spiders, including a baby tarantula, on one occasion, in their house. They were able to visit one of the community projects and saw firsthand Stewart's toilets, shower area and taps. They didn't accompany him to the next village which was 2 hours upstream by canoe.

Stuart and AC have made many trips into the jungle to help the tribes with medical care and providing clean water and better sanitation. They have always found the people very welcoming and kind, usually offering them special food to thank them – and so they get to taste the local delicacies, including many varieties of grubs, fish and other foodstuffs ( pictured).



The food however is the least of it. They are offered a special drink made from fermented spittle (many people make their contribution!) which AC can't stand the smell of, let alone swallow, but Stewart bravely forces himself so as not to offend..

Stewart and AC returned to Ireland for a couple of months so that their second child, due at the end of March, could be born in Britain. They nearly didn't make it back as AC had flu, with vomiting and diarrhoea and began contractions at 34 weeks. She went to their local hospital but it has no incubator so, after finding someone to look after their toddler, Erin, they had a five hour drive to Quito through the night on roads which are bad even in daylight (there are no ambulances).

In Quito AC was given medicine to stop the contractions and the baby had steroids to help develop its lungs and most importantly she was put on a drip (which she had asked for at the first hospital). Eventually the American obstetrician in Quito decided that AC was never in labour but had an irritated uterus due to dehydration and she was given permission to travel.

This meant Stewart driving back to Shell to pick up Erin and their bags and return to Quito after very little sleep the night before. They arrived back in Britain exhausted but glad to be safely home after the drama of the past few days. Their church has found a place for them to stay and they can now fulfil the engagements they've made to speak about their work while in Ireland.

*Rosemary Tullett*

-oOo-



**The Mothers' Union Lent Lunch** held at Cheddar Village Hall on Friday 6th March again proved a great success, with 33 people attending and £260 raised through donations for diocesan projects.

Our thanks to everybody who contributed, whether by setting out tables, making soup or cake, serving tea and welcoming others.



**St. Leonard's Church APCM**

**Rodney Stoke Church Hall**

**Thursday 16th April at 7.00 PM**

*Sherry/wine and nibbles afterwards.*

# Treasure Trail

**Centred around St. Leonard's  
Church and Stoke Street in Rodney  
Stoke**

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June**

**from 1.45pm – 4.30pm**

**Start and finish at the church hall.**

**Parking opposite the church.**

**Come and join in the hunt for the  
treasure. All correct answers will be put  
into the draw to win a luxury hamper.**

**This will be drawn at 4.15pm.**

**Lovely refreshments available and a raffle.**

**All proceeds/donations will go towards  
church funds.**



## For All The Saints...

### **St. Derfel Gadarn aka Derfel the Mighty (c. 566-660) : 8th April**

Derfel was supposedly one of the seven warriors of King Arthur who survived the Battle of Camlan, at which King Arthur was killed. Three of the other survivors being his brothers - Saints Tudwal and Arthfael, also his cousin Saint Cadfan. It was said that while the others survived through good luck he survived through strength alone.

The medieval poet Tudur Penllyn wrote:-

*Derfel mewn rhyfel, gwnai'i wayw'n rhyfedd,  
Darris'g dur yw'r wisg, dewr yw'r osgedd.*

*(Derfel in war, he would work his spear wondrously, steel covering is the garment, brave is the appearance.)*

It is widely held in Welsh tradition, that after the Battle of Camlan, Derfel took on the life of a religious man and became a wandering hermit, later entering the monastery at Llantwit. Llanderfel Church in Gwynedd is named after him and was supposedly founded by him, along with a Chapel at Cymbran. He later served as abbot of Ynis Enlii (Bardsey Island), succeeding his cousin Saint Cadfan.

Llanderfel Church housed a huge image of Derfel as a warrior in full armour seated on a horse; this image was later dismantled by one of Thomas Cromwell's enforcers, leaving just a remnant of the horse, which is still in the Church. The villagers had offered the enforcer, Ellis Price, the sum of £40 to spare the image but to no avail. The wood was taken to Smithfield in London and used on the pyre of John Forest, Queen Katherine of Aragon's confessor, thus fulfilling the prophecy that the image would burn down a forest.



A fictionalised version of Derfel Gadarn appears in Bernard Cornwell's trilogy *The Winter King*. The monks of Bardsey Island at the time of Derfel bred an apple that was noted as being remarkably hardy and disease-resistant, if anyone would like to sample one of these apples, please contact the author of this piece around apple season!

*Pat Groves*

# Not found in the Bible

14 popular sayings absent from the pages of Scripture

Cleanliness is next to godliness.

God works in mysterious ways.

Moderation in all things.

God helps those who help themselves.

The eye is the window to the soul.

The lion shall lay down with the lamb.

If God brought you to it, He'll bring you through it.

This too shall pass.

Pride comes before the fall.

To thine ownself be true.

God will not give you more than you can handle.

Ask Jesus into your heart.

Hate the sin, love the sinner.

Everything happens for a reason.

Egregious grammatical error of 'lay' instead of 'lie' aside, some of the above examples are paraphrases but nonetheless surprising.

# The Godspell Truth



A trend emerged in the early 1970s for rock musicals based upon the life of Christ. The two best-known are *Jesus Christ, Superstar* and *Godspell*. Both were controversial in the depiction of Our Lord, with the latter inciting extra horror at Jesus' depiction as a circus clown, complete with red nose and a Superman-style t-shirt..

*Godspell* was loosely constructed as a series of parables based around the writings of Matthew, although elements of Luke are also incorporated. The Resurrection of Christ is briefly referenced at the end.

Both shows were enormously successful and went on to have films made of the same names but with totally different casts. *Godspell* was notable for introducing a pre-fame David Essex (then using his real name, David Cook) in the British cast and also birthed a hit single. (Although using precisely the same cartoon-like artwork, the UK and USA soundtracks featured differing – London and Broadway – personnel performing the same Stephen Schwartz numbers).

An anomaly is that the famed hit, was an entirely separate venture by an American, Holly Sherwood. She appears on neither version of the album, where *Day By Day* was performed by Julie Covington & Co. (London cast) and Robin Lamont & Co. in America. Jeremy Irons and Marti Webb were also in the UK cast. Although she went on to become an in-demand backing vocalist and an art gallery owner, little else is known about Sherwood.

So, to reiterate: contrary to the oft-bruited belief, *Day By Day*, which interpolated *Prepare Ye The Way Of The Lord*, as noted on the single, wasn't lifted directly from the soundtrack LP but was a separate recording.

The parenthesised information was presumably deliberately misleading, inasmuch as the song itself featured in the show but not Holly's rendition of it. Released by American-owned Bell Records in November 1971, it reached number 13 in the UK hit parade.

May 1973 heralded a second and final 45 RPM 7" release with a link to *Godspell*. The artist credit simply said 'Godspell' and coupled *Beautiful City* with *Bless The Lord* (Bell BLL 1309). Although not explicitly stating a connexion with the 'rock gospel', it would be natural to assume a link. Hence the omission of the suffix 'Cast' in the artist titling. After all, it wasn't oh-so-innocent Bell Records' fault if the public thought the anonymous session musicians were part of the hit musicals....heaven forfend.



Neither *Beautiful City* or *Bless The Lord* could be found on any edition of the soundtrack LP. The interest had long since dissipated by then despite the release of the film the same month and this ruse at achieving another hit was ignored.

The better-remembered and much longer running Andrew Lloyd-Webber and Tim Rice musical, *Jesus Christ, Superstar* spawned several hits by a number of acts but that's a story for a different day (by day).

*Ade Macrow*

-oOo-



**Benefice Passover Supper**

**Maundy Thursday, April 2nd**

**Cheddar Village Hall @ 6.00 PM**

*Followed by a short Service of Reflection*

*in St. Andrew's Church*

**All Welcome**



**Taizé by Candlelight**

**at St Peter's Church,  
Draycott**

**On Friday April 3rd at 6pm**

Everyone is welcome to join us for an  
Ecumenical Taizé-style Service of  
contemplative worship to mark  
Good Friday

## Draycott and Rodney Stoke C of E First School News



On Friday 6th March our whole school enjoyed a fantastic trip to **We The Curious** science centre in Bristol. We were also delighted to be joined by our friends from Shipham C of E First School, which made the day even more special.

We The Curious is an exciting interactive science centre where children can explore how the world works through hands-on activities, experiments and creative exhibits. Our visit was also the start of our celebrations for

National Science Week, and it certainly inspired everyone to start thinking like scientists.

During the day the children explored many fascinating exhibits. They stepped inside a very funny tilted house where it felt as though you might fall over, made enormous bubbles and discovered a range of intriguing science displays and optical illusions. One of the highlights was using green robes in front of a green screen so that our bodies appeared to disappear, leaving only floating heads – which caused lots of laughter!

There were also several exhibits inspired by Aardman Animations, the Bristol-based studio famous for creating characters such as *Wallace and Gromit*, *Shaun the Sheep* and *Chicken Run*. The children loved learning how animation works and seeing how these well-known characters are brought to life. Some even had a go at drawing their own characters and animating them on computers.

It was a brilliant day full of curiosity, creativity and discovery. A huge thank you to the team at We The Curious for making our visit so enjoyable, and to our friends from Shipham C of E First School for sharing the experience with us.

*Mrs. Sarah Netto* (Head Teacher)

## Edible Easter Gardens



**Very clever edible Easter Gardens made by the Holiday Club children last year.**

*(Photo: Pam Bell)*

**Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil.  
There is no point.**

# CHURCH CURIOSITIES



Now redundant, St. Mary's Church in Mundon, Essex has a very chequered and unusual history. The church is built within the moated enclosure of Mundon Hall, with the oldest surviving fabric traced to the 14th century. Like many such buildings, it is thought to have been situated on the site of an earlier Anglo-Saxon chapel. Located in the middle of the very inhospitable Dengley Marshes, the landscape inspired the grim, dystopian panoramas in H.G. Wells' *War Of The Worlds*.

Already fallen into disrepair by 1684, it was substantially rebuilt in brick, before succumbing to lack of usage in the early 20th century. The blast from a V12 rocket in 1943 rearranged the structure once again. In 1974, final closure of the now-vandalised, derelict church was announced, although all services had been held elsewhere since the end of World War Two.

The exterior understandably contains many patched together portions, encompassing a wide variety of styles but the most immediate feature is the semi-octagonal timber and plaster base to the tower and belfry.

On a positive note, the 999 year lease obtained by the Friends of Friendless Churches has seen an ongoing series of critical repairs. In particular, to investigate how and why the unstable soil was causing the church to move and how best to counter this.

WILLIAM CHATTERTON DIX  
A Brief Biography



MR. W. CHATTERTON DIX.  
(Author of "Close unto Me, ye weary.")  
From a Photo. by London. Hall, & Co.

Available now:

A brief biography of William Chatterton Dix,  
local hymn writer and poet.

Written by Ade Macrow and all profits to St.  
Andrew's church funds.

Please contact Samm for details.

## An Organist Explains

The real meanings of terms by Horatio Netherwallop

**ADAGIO** Slow. An indication of the speed at which congregations sing hymns, as opposed to **ANDANTE** (slow), **MODERATO** (slow), **ALLEGRO** (slow) and **PRESTO** (slow).

**AMBROSIAN CHANT** Style of singing used in advertisements for creamed tea.

**ANDANTINO** Diminutive form of **ANDANTE**, which means 'slow'. So 'andantino' means either 'more slow' or 'less slow', making it one of the least useful musical terms.

**ANGLAISE** A country dance which is clearly English in nature. Hence the use of a French term.

**ARMONICA** Mouth organ from London's East End.

**AD LIB** What a composer writes on the score when he cannot be bothered to write proper musical notation.

**A 440** Standard of musical pitch and named after a road in Worcester.

**Saturday  
25th April  
2.00 PM**



**Jumble  
Sale**

**Hosted by  
The Strawberry  
Special  
Draycott**



**Raising funds for St. Peter's Church, Draycott.**

**Please bring your items to **The Strawberry Special** from 10.00 AM on the day. *We regret we cannot accept any electrical items or furniture.***

**Thanks for your support!**



**A MESSY MELANGE!**

**Some of the 'fruits' of our young Messy Church members, at the latest meeting in March, with the theme of Mothering Sunday.**

**Next date: Sunday 26th April 3.00-4.30 PM**

**ST ANDREW'S  
FRIENDS & FAMILY  
QUIZ NIGHT**

**Saturday 9th May**

**6pm Cheddar Village Hall**

**Join the reordering group for a fun  
evening with family and friends**

**Teams of up to 8 with a max of 6 adults**

**£2 per person**

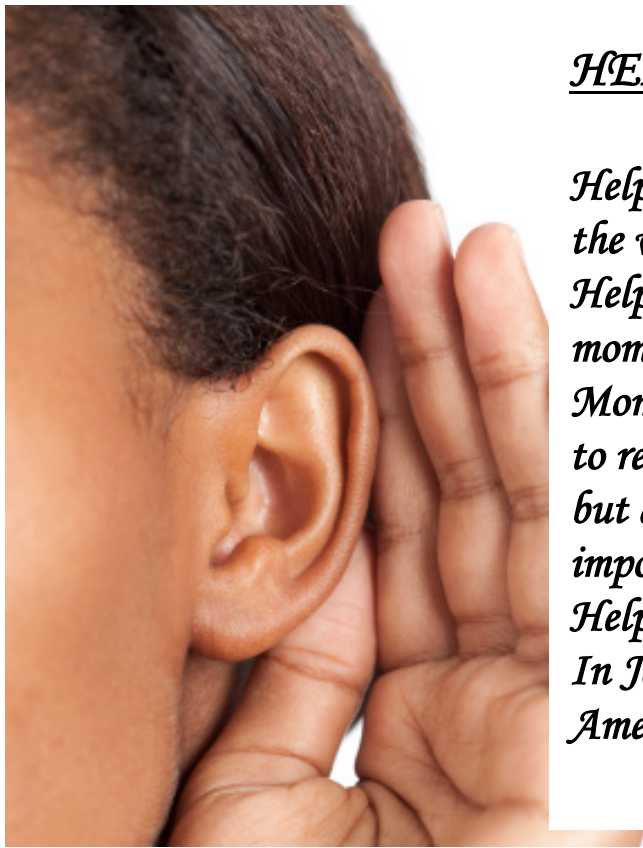
Cash / card for drinks & snacks from the bar

Raffle

Bring some £1 coins for half time games

Space is limited, book your space early via email

[beneficecdrs@gmail.com](mailto:beneficecdrs@gmail.com)



## HELP US TO LISTEN

*Help us to listen to the birds and connect with the world around us.*

*Help us, in a world full of noise, to find moments of silence;*

*Moments to connect with our inner voice and to realise that silence is not the absence of noise but an opportunity to listen to what is really important.*

*Help us to listen to our heart and thoughts.*

*In Jesus' name*

*Amen.*

## April SOSP News in short

A big thank you to the SOSP team and to everyone who kindly donated soups and cakes for the Lent Soup Lunch on March 7th, and to all who came along and enjoyed the delicious homemade soups and cakes. Your generous donations will go towards this year's fundraising for Christian Aid.

### Easter Saturday Coffee & Cake on Saturday 4 April, 10.30 AM–12 noon

Join us for coffee and homemade cakes. The winners of the Lent Chocolate Quiz will also be drawn during the morning.

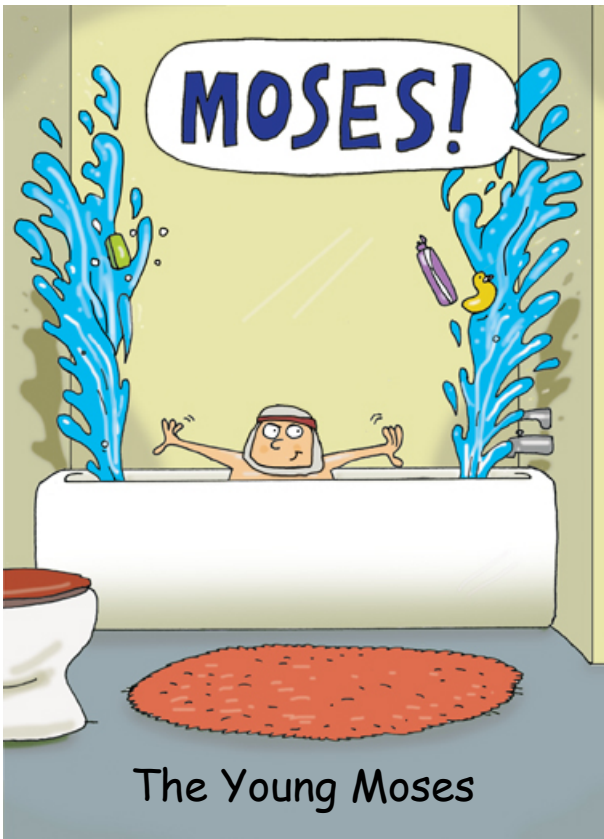
SOSP Jumble Sale on Saturday 25 April, 2 PM (see advert elsewhere in magazine)

### Christian Aid Big Breakfast: St Peter's on Saturday 9th May, 8.30 AM–10 PM

Come and enjoy a full English breakfast – fruit juice, full English, toast and marmalade, tea, coffee and cake – while supporting Christian Aid. Adults £8 | Children (under 12) £5. Contact: **Karen Percival – 01749 870067**

The Holy Rollers will be rolling again this Summer to have fun and raise funds for St. Peter's Church. (See May magazine for more information)

Rev. Thea



(See Acts 9:1-19)

02-25-2011

GO AHEAD AND CHANGE "SAUL" TO "PAUL" ON EVERYTHING AND THE TITLE FROM "MASTER PERSECUTOR" TO "YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND" ON THE LETTERHEAD

### FROM CHURCH BULLETINS

Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and the deterioration of some older ones.

Don't let worry kill you – let our Church help.

Miss Carlotte Mason sang *I Will Not Pass This Way Again*, giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.



## SIDESPERSIONS

COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT THEIR ROLE



PEOPLE WHO KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS FROM THE SIDE AISLES



FRIENDS WHO ONLY ORDER CHIPS AT A RESTAURANT



PERSONS MADE UP ONLY OF SIDES



BACKING DANCERS FOR LITURGICAL ROUTINES



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**Benefice of Cheddar  
Draycott & Rodney Stoke**

### ADVERTISING SPACE

We have space available for local businesses to advertise in our church magazine. It's a great way to promote your services while supporting our church community.

For more information, including costs, please email:  
[beneficecdrs@gmail.com](mailto:beneficecdrs@gmail.com)  
We'd love to hear from you!



**Mr Peter Everett DO MRO**

**Registered Osteopath**

**12, Woodborough Road  
Winscombe  
BS25 1AA**

**01934 844764**

**Home visits by  
arrangement**

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## St. Peter's, Draycott

Treasurer: **David Cheetham**

Secretary: **Roger Peel**

## St. Leonard's, Rodney Stoke

Churchwarden: **Megan James** (01749) 870555

Treasurer: **Sue Walker**

Secretary: **Joanne Turner**

Deanery Synod Representatives:

<b>Mike Brownbill</b>	[C]	<b>Tricia Lumley</b>	[D]
<b>Dawn Hill</b>	[C]	<b>John English</b>	[D]
<b>Margaret Gelder</b>	[C]	<b>Honor Neave</b>	[RS]
		<b>Ann Percival</b>	[RS]



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*(NB: inclusion cannot be guaranteed in next edition if deadline has passed)*

# Website & Contact Information

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[www.beneficecdrs.org](http://www.beneficecdrs.org)

St. Peter's, Draycott:

[www.beneficecdrs.org](http://www.beneficecdrs.org)

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