

Together

Benefice Magazine
Cheddar, Draycott and Rodney Stoke



**One
Benefice,
One
Faith**

June 2026

£1

BENEFICE INFORMATION



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

Pastoral Letter – Judith Rose



June is a lovely time of the year. The days are longer and warmer. The gardens and countryside are a fresh green and the flowers at their best, but of course it will not last for the seasons change. Our world is changing, it always is. Some changes are for the better, some for the worse.

For young people changes in education, jobs, home life and friends are often taken in their stride and are exciting. For older people, however, change can sometimes be difficult and certainly challenging: retirement, bereavements, the closure of a local shop or bank and the increasing dependence on modern technology.

Paradoxically change is here to stay but Christians do have an anchor. The character of God never changes. We are told in the bible that, *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever*. This is the rock of our faith. The One we can trust no matter what the challenges or difficulties life may throw at us.

There may be much in the world, in our communities, in our lives and in the church that needs to change but other things should remain unchanged. We need the wisdom to discern the difference and the courage to embrace any changes that are necessary.

We are encouraged to put our trust in Christ and talk to Him about our worries and then boldly embrace the changes we face. If we can do that we are promised that we will know the peace of God that passes understanding.

Judith



Bishop's Letter – Fiona Gibson



Transforming our communities through the love of Christ

In the early days of the Ukraine war, the Diocese of Hereford, where I was then serving, was approached by Herefordshire Council. They had been so impressed by the work of church members during the pandemic, who stepped up to support their communities in practical ways, that they asked if the diocese could take on organising homes for Ukrainians fleeing the war.

Yes, of course, we said. And so began an ongoing partnership, where hundreds of Ukrainian guests have found homes in the Welsh Marches, and hundreds of tonnes of aid has gone across to Ukraine.

That's just what we do as the church, isn't it? We see a need in our communities and, motivated by Christ's love and teaching, we try to meet it. And we do it out of love, not seeking any reward. We are volunteers.

The word 'volunteer' comes from words meaning, 'of a person's free will.' Volunteers serve willingly. Freely. Out of love. So many in across our diocese serve our communities willingly, freely, out of love. We are deeply grateful.

There are Foodbanks, lunch clubs, debt counselling services, mental health first aiders, bereavement cafes, after-school clubs, and youth drop-ins. That barely scratches the surface. All of this is done in the name of Jesus Christ, the one who came and gave himself for us willingly; freely; out of love. And it's transformational.

One of the areas of our common diocesan life which I'll be involved with is our work around Transforming Communities. There will be a lot more to be said in the coming months, but for now, I simply want to thank all our volunteers who serve willingly, freely, and out of love and say how much I'm looking forward to celebrating what we have, and building on it together, transforming our communities through the love of Christ.

Fiona

(Bishop of Taunton)

READINGS AND SERVICES

	Psalm	First Reading	Second Reading
7th June Trinity 1	50: 7-15	Romans 4: 13-end	Matthew 9: 9-13, 18-26
14th June Trinity 2	100	Romans 5: 1-8	Matthew 9:35-10:8
21st June Trinity 3	69: 14-20	Romans 6: 1b- 11	Matthew 10: 24-39
28th June St Peter	125	Acts 12: 1-11	Matthew 16: 13-19

	Cheddar	Draycott	Rodney Stoke	PEW Parish
7th June Trinity 11	9am Breakfast Service 3.15pm First Sunday	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am Holy Communion	11am St Laurence Priddy
14th June Trinity 2	10am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer	11.15am Holy Communion	
21st June Trinity 3	8am BCP Communion 10am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am Holy Communion	11am St Lawrence Westbury-s- Mendip
28th June St Peter	10am Benefice Service Holy Communion St Peter's			



BELL RINGERS

NEEDED!

*Come and
have a go!*



**CONTACT THE
CHURCH OFFICE FOR DETAILS**
beneficecdrs@gmail.com

*All
welcome –
no experience
needed!*



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
CHEDDAR

 LEARN SOMETHING NEW
 BE PART OF A TEAM
 KEEP OUR HERITAGE RINGING

FRIENDLY
PEOPLE
GREAT FUN
KEEPING A
TRADITION
ALIVE



ANNIVERSARIES (Musical ones)

As I write this, preparations for Sunday 31st May are in full swing, and following Wayne's invitation, my musical contribution to that day will be to provide some pre- and post-Service organ music. But before, and after, our celebrations with Stuart, here are two other Sundays with anniversaries – this time, musical ones.

Sunday 17th May struck a special chord with me, since was on that day, 65 years ago, that Guildford Cathedral was consecrated, in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen, broadcast and televised to the whole nation. As the (then) country's youngest and inexperienced Cathedral organist, I had the responsibility of co-ordinating and directing the music – choir, trumpets, and organ – and to this day I still remember the feeling of apprehension as the clock moved nearer to the start time of 3.00 pm.

These occasions are rehearsed and timed down to the last second, but the unexpected can always happen... Luckily, it didn't, and the complete televised Service (in black and white in those days) is still out there on YouTube – though by today's standards, the quality of the sound and vision is not very good.

Looking ahead, this month sees another significant musical anniversary – celebrating a development that changed the face of Cathedral music for ever – girl choristers. On Sunday, 14th June, Buffie and I will be in St. Albans Cathedral, as they celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the founding of their girls' choir.

All of our Diocesan Cathedrals now have girl choristers, but if you go back 35 years, there was not one – that is, until Salisbury Cathedral paved the way in September 1991 with the formation of its girls' choir – followed by Wells, Exeter, and several other Cathedrals, including St. Albans (where I was then Master of the Music) in 1996.

These days we take their amazing musical and vocal skills for granted, but everyone has to begin somewhere, and how well I remember that morning in St. Albans, when 16 nervous young ladies and their parents met together for the first time – '*let's sing something*' we said – but what? In the absence of any hymnbooks there was one obvious choice – '*Happy Birthday To You*!' And so that will be at St. Albans this month, and also to the pioneers at Salisbury, who will surely return there later this year to celebrate their 35th Birthday.

Barry Rose

EVERYONE
WELCOME!

ST PETER'S TIDE

SUNDAY 28th JUNE

All-Ages Garden Party!

STARTS
AT

2.30
PM

FUN & GAMES FOR ALL THE FAMILY!



PIG
RACING



HOOP A
FLAMINGO



SPLAT THE
RAT



GUESS THE
SWEETS IN
A JAR



GUESS THE
WEIGHT OF
THE CAKE

...and lots more besides!

DELICIOUS REFRESHMENTS!



CREAM TEA



BURGER
IN A BUN



HOT DOG

OR
POSSIBLY
ALL THREE!

TOKEN

All games and refreshments can be purchased using tokens,
available to buy on entry with cash,
or this year we will have a card machine too!



SOSP (SUPPORTERS OF ST PETER'S)

♥ SUPPORTING THE VILLAGE CHURCH
AND OUR COMMUNITY ♥

OAKLANDS FIELD
EASTVILLE LANE
DRAYCOTT

Bring your friends and neighbours too!

CHURCH ROTAS

JUNE 2026

CHEDDAR (St. Andrew's)	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28
	<u>BS</u>	<u>HC</u>	<u>HC</u>	<u>n/a</u>
Sidesperson (8.00)	Breakfast Service 9.00 AM <i>Cheddar Village Hall</i>	<i>n/a</i>	Marie	Benefice Service at St. Peter's
Sidesperson Team Leader		Richard S./Gill	Ken B.	
Sidesperson 1		Helen	Marguerite	
Sidesperson 2		Peter	Adrian	
Sidesperson 3		Gill (<i>if not TL</i>)	Jo	
Sidesperson 4		Ellen	<i>n/a</i>	
Cleaning 1	Mo	Margaret B.	Davies fam.	Ade
Cleaning 2	David S.	Peter	Davies fam.	Frankie
St. Nectan Chapel Flowers	Marguerite	Anne L.	Anne L.	Marion
Church Flowers - Altar	Alan	<i>tba</i>	<i>tba</i>	Jo
Church Flowers - Table	Alan	<i>tba</i>	<i>tba</i>	Ann B.
Brass Cleaning	<i>n/a</i>	Eileen	<i>n/a</i>	Jean D.
Coffee/Tea 1	Breakfast Service	Mary	Frankie	Ann B.
Coffee/Tea 2		Jim	Anne H.	Sylvia

DRAYCOTT (St. Peter's)	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28
	<u>HC</u>	<u>MP</u>	<u>HC</u>	<u>Ben. Service</u>
				<u>HC</u>
Organist/Music	Barry	Ian	Barry	David
Reader 1	Roger	Tricia	Jeff	John
Reader 2	Sue	John	Lynda	Iain
Sidesperson(s)	Roger	Tricia	Jeff	Chris
Coffee/Tea	Roger + Sue	Tricia + John	Gill + Chris	Jan + Chris
Cleaning	Karen + Chris	n/a	Heather	n/a
Flowers	Gill	Gill	Claire	Claire

RODNEY STROKE (St. Leonard's)	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28
	<u>HC</u>	<u>HC</u>	<u>HC</u>	<u>n/a</u>
Sidesperson	Alan	Megan	Sue	Benefice
Reader 1	Joanne	Angela	Sue	Service
Reader 2	Alan	Megan	Heather	at
Organist	Joanne	Joanne	Joanne	St. Peter's
Cleaning	Val + Megan			
Flowers A	Denny	Ann	Pippa	Lesley
Flowers P	Megan	Vicky	Honor	Jenny



St Leonard's Annual Church Meeting (APCM) : 16th April

The reports demonstrated the positive impact the church has beyond the regular congregation, which remains small but stable. Services have been held most Sundays, and we maintain a monthly Matins service. Church events and those arranged by the Friends of St Leonard's (affectionately known as FOSL) have included coffee mornings, concerts and quizzes. In June last year the church with assistance from FOSL had a very successful and well attended Open Day with a display of amazing crafts and the "Rodney Helmet" as well as Tower Tours and a Recorder Concert.

The Christmas Fayre and FOSL's Somerset Day have become not to be missed annual events. Special services and events in church outside our regular services such as the Pet Service and the much praised and appreciated VE Celebration drew from a wider audience. The Candlelit carol service on Christmas Eve was, as always well attended and we had Daisy, the live donkey with us on Palm Sunday.

The APCM is an opportunity for the church finances to be reviewed. Each year seems to become more challenging, and this year St Leonard's finished with a deficit. We are grateful for all contributions both large and small but regular donations have reduced, and reserves are inevitably being drawn down. It is several years since St Leonard's paid the full Parish Share as requested by the Diocese, although it has always made what has seemed a substantial contribution.

This last year saw the introduction of the Benefice Share with all three parishes working together to identify the contribution each could afford. All three are struggling and it was helpful to work together, but the payment of the share is a significant burden for our parishes.

The church is well maintained under the careful stewardship of Megan James, our churchwarden with the help of FOSL, some individual generosity and work done quietly for free or low rates by local workers. The meeting was also an opportunity to thank all the people who had done so much for the church to keep it going. This includes the cleaners, the flower arrangers, the sidespersons and readers, bellringers and keyholders as well as our Safeguarding Lead, the PCC, Churchwarden and officers. Identifying by name risks missing some out, but Joanne Turner, our organist deserves a special mention for playing three out of four Sundays and organising and promoting so many of our special events.

At the meeting Stuart gave us his inspiring comments in person and read reports from Thea and Ruth. 2025 saw us work to raise funds to refurbish the kitchen in the Church Hall. This is now nearing completion and has attracted many positive comments, and the improvement provided a cheerful note at the APCM in what are in many ways dark times. Megan is continuing to serve as Churchwarden and the elected PCC looks forward to working together with the clergy, Ministry Team, the wider congregation and community, as well as the expanding Benefice.

Sue Walker (PCC Treasurer and Lay Chairperson)

The Benefice of
Cheddar, Draycott and Rodney Stoke

FREE HOLIDAY CLUB



Based on stories Jesus told

Monday 24th to Thursday 27th August

The Village Hall, Cheddar
from 9.30-12.30

for children aged from 5 to 12 years

Email: beneficecds@gmail.com for more details

SAVE THE DATE!

Bank Holiday Monday

31st August



**The St. Andrew's Reordering
Group**

will be holding a

**HISTORY & TOWER
TOUR DAY**

More details on how to join in
the fun and volunteering
opportunities to be revealed in
the next July/August *Together*
magazine and in forthcoming
Pew Notes.

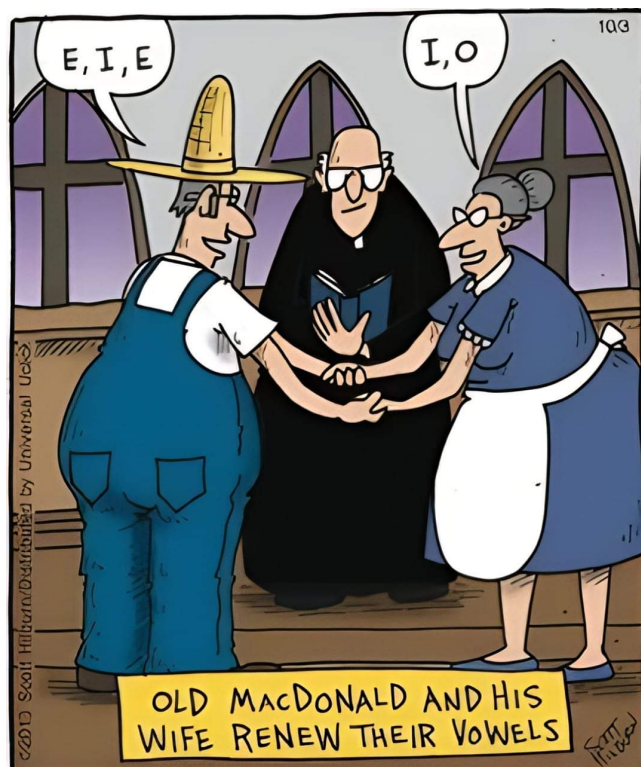
St. Andrew's Coffee Mornings?

As our sister churches in Draycott and Rodney Stoke host very successful Coffee Mornings, I wonder whether there would be sufficient people in Cheddar to organise, book and oversee any similar functions?

These mornings would, of course, be contingent on not clashing with either St. Peter's or St. Leonard's.

Please let me know if you might be interested in becoming part of any such team.

Anne Brownbill



I will lift up my eyes unto the hills



These very familiar and well-loved words are taken from Psalm 121, also known as the *Song of Ascents*. On a recent visit to Cross and nearby villages I noticed the words of this beautiful psalm posted on the gateway to the Church of St Andrew in Compton Bishop, a picturesque village nestling at the foot of The Mendips in the hilly surroundings beneath Crook Peak.

Although small, Compton Bishop is well worth a visit and combines well with some stunning walks from Cross or the hamlet of Webbington which has many excellent footpaths leading up to Crook Peak and Shute Shelve. The church of St. Andrew dates from the thirteenth century with a fifteenth century pulpit with tracery panels, carved friezes and cresting. The visitor cannot fail to be delighted by its lovely position at the foot of the hills which form the western end of The Mendips.



How lucky we are to have these lovely and accessible hills as the dominant feature of our landscape and the backdrop to our daily lives. The Mendips provide nationally important habitats supporting a wide range of flora and fauna - birds, butterflies and small mammals. There are, according to The Mendip Society eight champion species – the Cheddar pink, the water vole, the skylark, the adder, the black oil beetle, the greater horseshoe bat, the hazel dormouse and the small pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly.

The dry-stone walls which are an historic feature of the area not only divide the pasture land but also provide the habitats for the above mentioned flora and fauna and for many more besides. Designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty the range features rocky outcrops, caves, limestone gorges and, of course, sweeping views. Many outdoor activities take place on these hills, not only hiking but also climbing, horse riding and caving.

Psalm 121 promises God's protection for travellers, whether on actual physical journeys or on the metaphysical journey of life. It would seem fitting to conclude by quoting two more lines from the psalm:

*My help comes from the Lord
The maker of heaven and earth.*

Susan Peel

-oOo-

Treasure Trail

Centred around St. Leonard's
Church and

Stoke Street, Rodney Stoke

Saturday 20th June

1.45 – 4.30 PM

(Start and finish at church hall)

Parking opposite the church.

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

Draw takes place at 4.15 PM.

Lovely refreshments available.

All proceeds and donations
towards church funds.

The previously-advertised
RECORDER CONCERT from 1.00 –
1.45 PM has unfortunately had to be
cancelled. Apologies.

THE LLH TRIO ST LEONARD'S CHURCH



LUNCHTIME CONCERT

JULY 17TH - 1PM

ST LEONARDS CHURCH

RODNEY STOKE

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!

GROWTH AND CHANGE

Dear God

Help us to remember that every flower, however beautiful, must first grow through the mud.

Help us to remember that you are there to support us and to help us overcome any obstacle.

Help us to acknowledge that change can sometimes be frightening but that instead of resisting change, we should embrace it and that change is a chance to learn, grow and adapt.

Help us to remember that sometimes we need to change in order to bring more people to You.

Amen.

The featured prayers are often written and contributed by members of the Bible Study Group that meets in The Den at 11.00 PM, most Tuesday mornings.

Should anyone from our three churches wish to submit prayers – either anonymously or acknowledged – please email Ade at the usual editorial address.

Rodney Stoke Church Hall Kitchen Renovation

The kitchen hall was last refurbished over 20 years ago and was really in need of updating to complement our already decorated and improved hall. Megan (our project manager) envisaged a clean, bright and welcoming space and together with Sue applied for grants from the Benefact Trust and Somerset Community Foundation to help fund the work.

Together with members of FOSL (Friends of St Leonard's) a plan was drawn up. FOSL also contributed generously to the project and money also came from PCC funds. The renovation was undertaken by Steve Moore whose excellent work, help and advice has been invaluable. Thanks also to Paul Dyer for all his help with the electrical work.

The church hall was originally Rodney Stoke School and during the alterations Steve was able to strip and renovate the old original door together with its natural stone surround. Over the years the kitchen has been well used for events such as coffee mornings, clubs and activities, jubilees, the Coronation, the Christmas Fayre, harvest suppers, parties, open days as well as being hired out for private events which have taken place in the hall.

It is now a lovely bright and welcoming area and a real asset to our village. Please support our events and come along and see it for yourselves.

Honor Neave and Angela Hall



NOT SO MUCH A DOXOLOGY: MORE A 'DIXOLOGY'

William Chatterton Dix: A Brief Biography

by Ade Macrow

is still available. Copies from St. Andrew's Church or, if none there, please contact Samm
beneficecdrs@gmail.com or speak to Ade



The booklet outlines the life and career of the well-known Cheddar hymnist.

All profits to the Reordering Fund.

**Just
£3**

REORDERING RECIPES

As a further fundraising idea for the reordering of St. Andrew's Church, a suggestion has been made that people may wish to contribute their favourite recipes; perhaps with an anecdote pertaining to their choice.

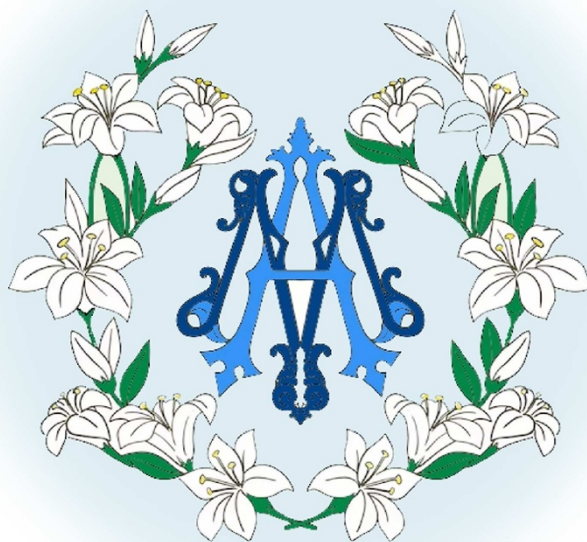
If interested, please let Joan Bradley- Balmer know.

The Mendip Consort of Recorders

directed by Joyce Rudall

Ave Maria

a mixed selection



Sunday June 28th @ 12.00 midday

Church of St Peter

Draycott BS27 3SF

Free entry and light refreshments;
a donation to the church would be appreciated.

Bringing the Gospel to the Rugby Pitch

It seems Rev Ruth and Rev Thea have discovered a new mission field — the rugby pitch.

They have joined Cheddar Valley RFC's Walking Rugby team, "The Mature Cheddars", and are now active members, enthusiastically taking part in training sessions and even playing in matches.



Walking Rugby is a gentler version of the game and aimed at the more mature player: no scrums, no tackling, and — most importantly — no running! Although some members may dispute that after an energetic Tuesday evening session.

The team welcomes people from all walks of life, and the two clergywomen have quickly become part of the rugby family, proving that community, fellowship and good humour can flourish well beyond the church walls.

Who knew spreading the Good News could also involve passing an oval ball and discussing tactics over a post-match pint?

Poors Land Trust

Grants are available towards school uniforms, for the children resident in Rodney Stoke, starting school in Reception, moving to Middle or moving to Upper school. Also small 'one-off' payments for starting further Education or Apprenticeships. **Only residents in Rodney Stoke are eligible.**

Inquiries to **Lynda Moore** by **Monday 3rd August - 01749 870712 or 0759 813 4544**. Requests after this date will not be considered. Any Rodney Stoke Senior Citizens who would like a Christmas 'box' please also advise Lynda. The payments are possible due to a generous donation in the past.

If anyone would like to make a donation to ensure the continuation of the charity please contact Lynda.

For All The Saints...



St. Boniface (Winfrid) c. 675-754 : 5th June ***Apostle of Germany and Patron Saint of Devon***

Born in Crediton of a respected and prosperous family as Winfrid, Boniface led a monastic life at Exeter before going on to Nursling, near Winchester. He taught in the Abbey School until at the age of 30 years he became a priest. Little is known of the Abbey, but it seems to have had an extensive library.

When in 716 Abbot Wynberth died, Boniface was expected to take his position following the Anglo-Saxon custom of hereditary appointments, Boniface declined and set out on a mission to Frisia. He travelled to Utrecht and spent a year there with the monk Willibrord preaching in the countryside, but their efforts were frustrated by war between Charles Martel, Prince and Duke of the Franks and Radbod, King of the Frisians. Willibrord returned to Luxembourg and Boniface to Nursling.

The next year Boniface went to Pope Gregory 2nd. in Rome,. It was while he was there that the Pope changed his name from Winfrid to Boniface after the 4th century martyr Boniface of Tarsus. He was appointed missionary bishop of Germany.

Travelling among the pagan tribes he met with opposition from the worshippers of a massive sacred oak tree known as the Donar Oak. Boniface took an axe to it and at that moment a great wind arose and the oak was blown over. The pagans were amazed that Boniface was not struck down by their gods and under his instruction were converted to Christianity. He built a Church from the wood which was the beginning of the monastery in Fritzlar.

Boniface never gave up hope of converting the Frisians, however, and set out with his retinue in 754. He baptised a great number of converts and later summoned a general meeting for confirmation near Dokkum, although before reaching their destination they were attacked by a band of robbers. Some of Boniface's company were armed but Boniface persuaded them not to retaliate saying '*Cease fighting, lay down your arms, for we are told in Scripture not to render evil for evil but to overcome by good*'.

The robbers finding that the chests being carried contained books, not the gold they were expecting, tried to destroy them. An eyewitness said that Boniface was holding aloft a holy book as he died: this book, bearing incisions which could have been made with axe or sword, is now housed in the abbey in Fulda in Germany.

Boniface is credited with re-organising the Christian Church in Germany and is judged as having a deeper influence on European history than any other Englishman. His UK shrine is located in the Roman Catholic Church in Crediton, Devon. The church has a bas-relief sculpture of the felling of the oak which was unveiled by Princess Margaret. There are several St, Boniface Churches in the U.K. and St. Boniface Down, the highest point in the Isle of Wight is named after him.

Pat Groves

GOD'S WONDERS

For all the turmoil caused by humans everywhere, there are still very many signs of the beautiful world God has bequeathed to us. The hare's foot inkcap – *coprinopsis lagopus* - mushroom (below) was seen in St. Andrew's churchyard not long ago.

This delicate fungus with its lace-like, translucent cap has a lifespan of less than a day in this form, as its evanescence means it dies after a few hours with the maturation process causing the gill edges to deliquesce into an inky black liquid. Another small cause for rejoicing that the Earth possesses such marvels, if only we take the time to observe.



God, St. Francis and Lawns



GOD: St. Francis my son, you know all about gardens and nature. What happened to the dandelions, thistles and stuff I started eons ago? The perfect no-maintenance plan. Those plants grow in any soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar attracts butterflies, honey bees and song birds. I expected to see a vast garden of colours but all I see is green rectangles.

ST. FRANCIS: It's the Suburbanite tribes that settled there, Lord. They began calling Your flowers 'weeds' and set out to kill them and replace them with grass.

G: Grass? It's so boring. It attracts little, barring grubs and worms. It's not colourful and is temperamental with temperature. Is this really what Suburbanites want?

SF: Apparently so, Lord. They grow to great pains to grow it and keep it green. Each Spring, they fertilise the grass and poison any other plant that appears.

G: They must be really happy with the rain and warm weather that makes the grass grow so quickly.

SF: It seems not. As it grows, they cut it. Sometimes twice a week.

G: So they bale it like hay?

SF: No, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

G: Is it a cash crop for sale then?

SF: No, Master. Just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

G: Now let me get this straight. The Suburbanites fertilise grass so it grows but when it does so, they cut it and pay to throw it away?

SF: Yes, Lord.

G: They must be pleased when I cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That slows growth and saves them a lot of work.

SF: Err... when the grass stops growing, they get hoses out and pay more money to water it, so they can continue to mow it and pay to have it thrown away.

G: What nonsense. At least they kept some trees. Trees grow leaves in Spring, providing beauty and shade in Summer. In the Autumn, the leaves fall to the ground and form a blanket to keep moisture in the soil, thus protecting the trees. In addition, as the leaves rot, they make compost to enhance the soil. A natural circle of life.

SF: You'd best sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have another idea. They rake the fallen leaves into piles and have them taken away.

G: What do they do to protect the roots in Winter and keep the soil moist and loose?

SF: After disposing of the leaves, they go out and buy something called mulch. They spread it around in place of the leaves.

G: And where do they obtain this mulch?

SF: Another shock, Master. They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

G: Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore!

(from Bill Blyth's Welcome To My Garden. Thanks to Marie Pearson)

-oOo-



Just wanted to say a huge THANK YOU to those supporting St Andrew's Church on easyfundraising.

Simply by taking an extra step when you shop online and collecting a free donation for us for the reordering fund, we've currently raised over **£105.71**.

If you're not one of our supporters yet, please join today at:
<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/st-andrews-church-cheddar>

Church Curiosities



Recorded in the reign of King Henry III, St. Adhelm's, Worth Matravers, Dorset is a Grade 1 listed Norman chapel, situated 354 feet above sea level. It has a unique and strange design but also served as a look-out point for Corfe Castle. Inside, the central column has initials and dates from the 17th century.

Falling into disuse before 1625, the chapel roof was noted as having partially collapsed in 1797. Less than forty years later, the roof remains were overgrown with grass and the groins had also become partially ruinous. Reconstruction was funded by the 3rd Earl of Eldon in 1874, who also presented a baptismal font.

Damp in the chapel interior threatened St. Aldhelm's existence but fortnightly services continued, with the organ being transported to and from the chapel, to ensure it remained dry at all other times. The earthworks surrounding the chapel were designated a Scheduled Monument in 2000 and on 4th June 2005 Rowan Williams, then Archbishop of Canterbury, dedicated the new altar table made from stone from St. Aldhelm's quarry, as part of the celebrations to commemorate the 1,300th anniversary of the consecration of St. Aldhelm by the Bishop of Sherborne.

The chapel is still used for special holy days and similar occasions, such as marking King Charles' coronation, Easter Sunday, Christmas and others.



The very plain and simple interior, showing altar table, priest's stall and stonework largely unaltered since the chapel was constructed by the Normans.

AN ORGANIST EXPLAINS

by Horatio Netherwallop

CADENCE The part where everybody hopes you're going to stop.

CAGE An American composer of experimental music and where many think he should be kept.

CANTATE DOMINO Singing and playing down the local pub.

CAPO Clip device placed around the neck of a guitar to hide the fact the guitarist cannot play the chords as written. This needs to be distinguished from a device put around the neck of the guitarist, known as **ORGANIST'S HANDS**.

CASTANET What a Spanish fisherman does.

CATGUT Material for strings. So-called because it comes from sheep.

Mothers' UNION
150 years



This year MU is celebrating 150 years since Mary Sumner, a Vicar's wife, founded the first branch at Old Arlesford Rectory. In 1876, her eldest daughter had just given birth and she was reminded how difficult she had found being a young mother. She planned a meeting of mothers in her parish to offer mutual support. Her plan was radical in its day as it involved calling women of all social classes to support one another and to see motherhood as an important profession.

As part of its 150th Celebrations, Cheddar MU is planning to donate **150 items to Cheddar Foodbank**. So we are asking members to collect gifts of non-perishable food items, toiletries or household cleaning products and bring them to our afternoon tea in August or you can pass on to Rosemary at any time before.



Blind Willie Johnson

If ever anyone's life was synonymous with continual hard times, Blind Willie's was such. Born in Texas on January 25th 1897, Willie Johnson was deliberately blinded at the age of seven, by his stepmother throwing acid into his face.



The only known photograph, taken in 1927

His birth parents and all the Johnson children attended Marlin Missionary Baptist Church: an act that determined Johnson, even from the age of five, to become a Baptist preacher. Another decisive factor in his future life was his father giving him his first, cigar-box, guitar.

Very sensibly separating from his second wife, Johnson's father moved to Hearne and Blind Willie performed religious songs on street corners, with a tin cup tied around his neck to collect money. Heard singing on Sundays in Marlin Church of God in Christ,

Johnson was offered a recording contract with Columbia, in its now incredibly-inappropriately named 'Race' series of 78 RPM discs.

His recording career only ran from 1927-1930 and just twenty different songs were issued, although his religious-only repertoire was vast and he performed several hundred hymns and gospel paeans. Many of these were his own compositions and *Dark Was The Night, Cold Was The Ground*, along with *Jesus, Make Up My Dying Bed* and *I Know His Blood Can Make Me Whole*, became huge sellers. *John The Revelator* was another Johnson-written song, and of interest to all those studying the Book of Revelations..

He returned to Texas with his common-law wife at an unknown later date and songs such as *Lord, I Can't Keep From Crying* and *Keep Your Lamp Trimmed And Burning* was recorded under the pseudonym Blind Texas Marlin. These later recordings have never been discovered.

Touring throughout America, the Reverend W.J. Johnson also opened The House of Prayer in his birth state. A house fire in 1945 completely destroyed the couple's home and, now abandoned by his wife and in his perpetually impecunious state, Johnson took to sleeping in the charred ruins, lying on and wrapped in donated newspaper which rapidly became soaked from the incessant rain.

Cold, sick and suffering from pneumonia, Blind Willie resorted to again singing on street corners to earn mere cents. Contracting malarial fever too, hospitals refused to admit him on the grounds that he was both blind and black.

Dead by September 16th that year, his likely burial site is somewhere in Blanchette Cemetery, Beaumont, Texas. This was a segregated cemetery which rapidly became untended, overgrown and forgotten about, merely resembling another piece of weed-filled land. A very sad end for a man that, for all his tribulations, never wavered in his devotion to our Lord.

Ade Macrow

-oOo-



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difference?**

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Correct Road Code, Wrong Bird

Driving home after Messy Church recently, I had to stop at the pelican crossing on Station Road, Cheddar because a crow was walking across, with head held high and as if he owned the crossing!

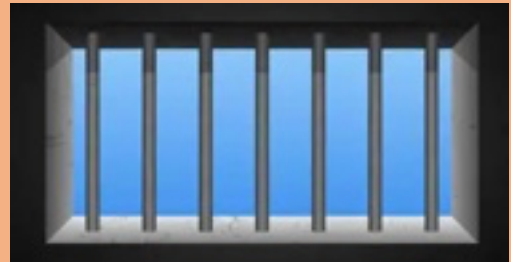
Pam Bell

Redeemer Lord

Thank You for the many Christian initiatives, organisations and individuals who are working to uphold justice across society.

*Please help them to support people trapped in poverty
immigrants who need help
those caught up in the judicial system
prisoners and their families
victims of crime and others.*

*For Jesus' sake
Amen.*



ST. ANDREW'S FRIENDS AND FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT



A total of 59 people attended this event, held on the evening of the 9th May, raising the considerable sum of **£577.82** towards the St. Andrew's Reordering Fund. Our very grateful thanks to Ruth, Fiona, Mike, Claire, all who came and competed and the Cheddar Gorge shops who so generously donated gifts for both the raffles.

Big Brekkie

St. Peter's, Draycott - Saturday 9th May

This event, with proceeds going towards Christian Aid, was once again very well-attended and provided more than adequate sustenance for all. Our thanks to all who served in any way by collecting, cooking, serving or eating the breakfast fare.



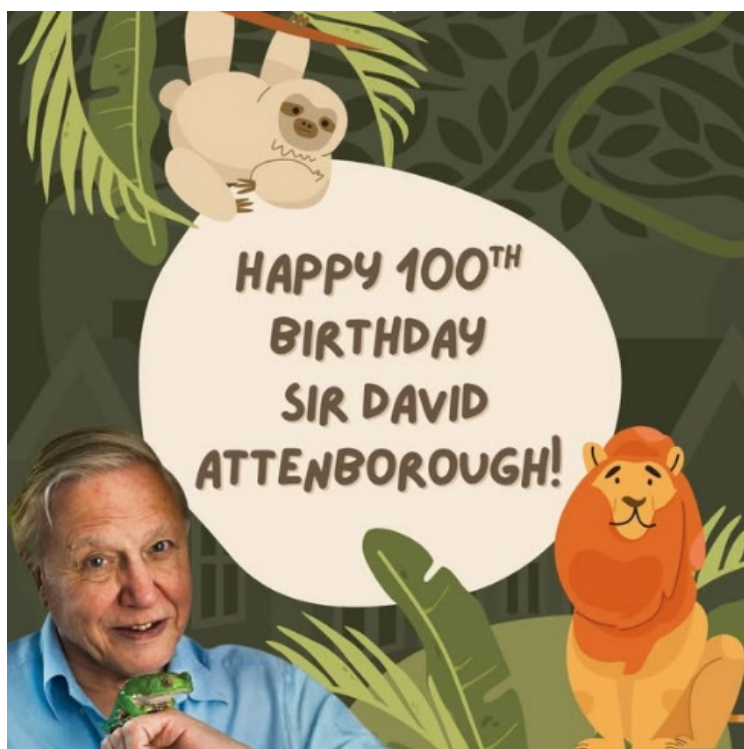


Draycott and Rodney Stoke C of E First School

On Friday, 8th May, the children at Draycott and Rodney Stoke C of E First School joined pupils from across the country in a live celebration of the 100th birthday of Sir David Attenborough.

They learnt fascinating facts about his remarkable life and achievements, enjoyed a live talk from Steve Backshall, presenter of *Deadly 60*, and watched a special birthday message from Sir David himself.

The children asked thoughtful questions and enthusiastically shared their own knowledge of the amazing animals and environments Sir David has explored over the years.



The event also linked beautifully with this term's Christian theme of kindness, reminding us of the importance of caring for God's creation and showing kindness and respect to the world around us. Sir David's lifelong dedication to protecting our planet is an inspiring example for us all.

We thank Sir David for everything he has done — and continues to do — to protect our world and wish him a very happy birthday from everyone at the school.

Mrs Sarah Netto (Headteacher)

CARYS' LONDON MARATHON



Wow – I did it! I completed the London Marathon on Sunday April 26th. What an insane day, full of every emotion. Having most of my family and friends there supporting me and spotting them every so often was something I may never get to experience again.

I cannot thank you enough for all the support you have shown me throughout my journey. I have raised over **£20,000 (with Gift Aid) in Dad's name, which is unbelievable.**

One of the youngest runners at just 17 years old, Carys was running on behalf of the South West Ambulance charity, who did so much to help the Walsh family at that tragic time. Not only that but she participated while in the midst of revising for her 'A' Level examinations.

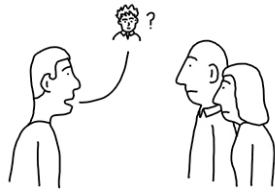
We are all proud of you, Carys.

REBRANDING THE CHURCH

HOW TO DESIGN A NEW LOGO



HOLD A MEETING



SEE WHETHER ANYONE HAS A NIECE OR NEPHEW WHO KNOWS ABOUT THIS KIND OF THING

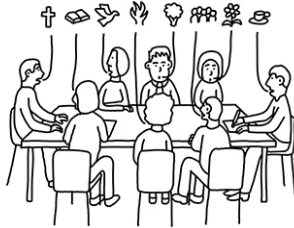


LET THE SUNDAY SCHOOL HAVE A GO

LIBRARY



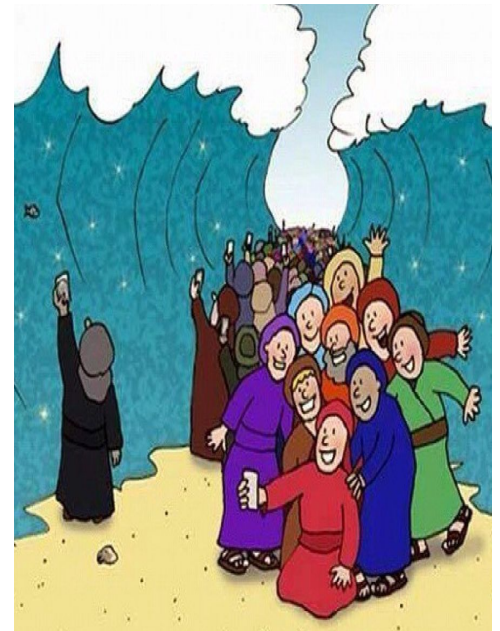
LOOK IN A BOOK OF FONTS



APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO THRASH OUT THE DETAIL



UNVEIL THE FINAL DESIGN AT THE 10AM SERVICE



If there had been mobile phones at the Red Sea...

A TIME OF SILENCE

PLEASE IGNORE ALL DISTRACTIONS

COUGHING

SNEEZING

SNIFFING

YAWNING

WHISPERING

RUSTLING

RUMMAGING

LAWNMOWERS

THE MICROPHONE (FEEDBACK)

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL (MISC. NOISES)

THE URN (BOILING)

THE TRAFFIC

THE PERSON AT THE FRONT DESCRIBING, AT SOME LENGTH, THE BENEFITS OF A TIME OF SILENCE, BEFORE EXPLAINING VARIOUS PRACTICALITIES

SIDESPERSONS WHO THINK THEY CAN'T BE HEARD

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