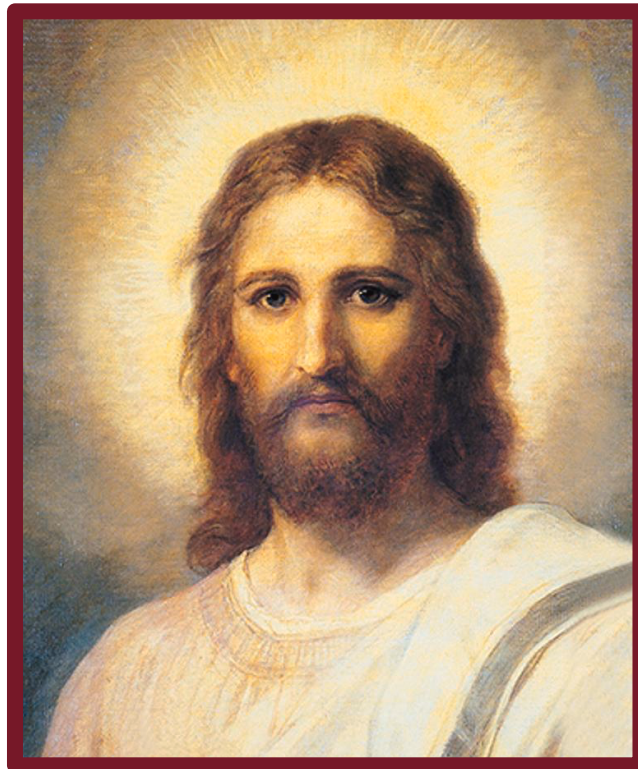


Together

Benefice Magazine

Cheddar, Draycott and Rodney Stoke



**The only influencer ever
needed**

September 2026

£1

BENEFICE INFORMATION



**Diocese
Of
Bath & Wells**

St. Andrew's, Cheddar

Rector: **Rev. Stuart Burns** 07754943424

(Day off: Friday)

Associate Priest: **Rev. Thea Oliver** 07767892313

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

Benefice Administrator: **Samm Richards**

beneficecdrs@gmail.com (01934) 742535

Benefice Baptism Co-ordinator: **Julie Hope**

(01934) 742234

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

Churchwardens: **Marguerite Strang** (01934) 742708

Alan Philps (01934) 713357

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

Treasurer: **Huw Davies** 07884261503

treasurerstandrewschurch@gmail.com

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

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

Deanery Synod: **Mike Brownbill**

Dawn Hill

Contacts for **St. Peter's, Draycott** and **St. Leonard's, Rodney Stoke**
are on inside back cover.

Pastoral Letter – Stuart Burns



Have you ever heard of Habakkuk? Funny name, but an inspiring Old Testament prophet, who, in about 600 BC, bewails gross injustice in the land, and sees that the Lord is going to bring invasion and then exile upon his people as a consequence.

He feels wretched; however, he ends his book with a beautiful psalm of hope; he states that God will ultimately help and raise up his people; see Habakkuk chapter 3, especially verses 18- 19: “.. *yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer’s; he makes me tread on high places.*” He sees himself and his people as if they were deer, leaping up crags to lofty places from where they will see very far ..

Our horizons are broadening, as we have accepted the request and the challenge to merge our benefice with the churches of Priddy, Easton and Westbury-sub-Mendip, from November. Not without some anxiety over increased workloads, ministry demands and potential costs, yet we felt the imperative to join hands with brothers and sisters in Christ, for encouragement, friendship and service for all six churches.

In life, we see difficulties and can feel overwhelmed; however, like Habakkuk, we can deal with these times by thanking God for his vision for us and his belief in us. The Lord constantly desires for you/us to flourish, especially if really challenged, and to stand tall in our own lives; he also has called us as churches to see each other, embrace each other and bless each other, so that God’s kingdom can grow more effectively in our region – our unity will attest to the graspable truth of the good news of Christ alive. Our little churches will climb up to the high places!

Please, let us all be thankful, pray for this project, and give it all our support.

Stuart

(Rector of soon-to-be-expanded Benefice)

Please refer to my piece on renaming the Benefice, further on in this magazine.

Bishop's Letter



Called to care for God's earth

Then God said, *'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'*

These words come from the account of creation found in Genesis Chapter One. I'm often asked about this text. Is it true? How do I square its words with my understanding of science? Do I believe this is how the world was made?

I don't think Genesis One is a literal account; a description offered in the style of a David Attenborough documentary. Rather I suggest that this account is so stuffed with truth that it's hard for us to deal with. Truth that's not about factual deception but that's about meaning, purpose and value. Genesis One asks 'How do we understand the world?' and 'How should we live in it?'

Take for example the words *have dominion*, to be found in Genesis 1:26 given above. These words, an interpretation of the Hebrew word *radah*, have been understood very differently.

Some would say that 'have dominion', (*radah*), has been understood as harsh domination, treading down, and using raw force; a justification for treating the non-human world as an expendable resource for human consumption that has led to our destruction of so much of the natural world around us.

Others suggest that the true meaning of *radah* is service and care. This sees 'have dominion' as a call not to crush, but to protect, nurture, and provide justice. This view sees humankind invited to act as deputies for God, called to cultivate the earth responsibly while preserving its health and flourishing.

Arguments about the interpretation of a Hebrew word may seem specialist. But how we read one of the most important passages of the Bible can shape our whole world view. Service and care or domination and destruction? These differing ideas lie at the very heart of the arguments we have about how humankind should treat our earthly home that God has gifted us. What steps will we take, however small, to protect it?

Bishop Michael

READINGS AND SERVICES

	Psalm	First Reading	Second Reading
6th September Trinity 14	119:	Ezekiel	Matthew
	33-40	33: 7-11	18: 15-20
13th September Trinity 15	103:	Genesis	Matthew
	1-13	50: 15-21	18: 21-35
20th September Trinity 16	145:	Jonah	Matthew
	1-8	3: 10-end of 4	20: 1-16
27th September Trinity 17	25:	Ezekiel	Matthew
	1-8	18: 1-4, 25-end	21: 23-32
Harvest	65	Deuteronomy	Luke
		8: 7-18	12:16-30

	Cheddar	Draycott	Rodney Stoke	PEW Parish
6th September Trinity 14	9am Breakfast Service	9.30am	11.15am	11.15am
	3.15pm First Sunday	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	St Laurence, Priddy
13th September Trinity 15	10am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer	11.15am Holy Communion	
20th September Trinity 16	8am BCP Communion	9.30am	11.15am	
	10am Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	
27th September Trinity 17	10am	9.30am	6pm	
	Holy Communion	Harvest Communion	Harvest Service	

FROM THE REGISTERS:

Baptism:

We welcome into the Church family:

Tommy Claridge (St Andrew's Church, 5th July)

Charlie and William Pritchett (St Andrew's Church, 2nd August)

Ophelia Roe (St Andrew's, Church 9th August)



Marriage:

We ask God to bless the marriage of:

Hannah Lukins and George King (St Leonard's, 4th July)

Stella Bruce and Simeon Thomas (Andrew's, 11th July)



A favourite hymn – but.....

I've lost count of the number of times that I've played *Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind* at funerals and memorial services, as well as weddings (*forgive our foolish ways* – what's that all about on your wedding day?!), and you'll also know that it regularly finds a place in our own Sunday Services. 'Nothing unusual there' I hear you saying – and with such a beautiful melody, it is often voted widely as one the best 10 hymns of all time. But there's more to this than you might think.

The 19th century USA Quaker poet, John Greenleaf Whittier, was the author of *Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind*. One of his poems, written in 1872, is called *The Brewing Of Soma*, his way of criticizing the noisy, overly emotional religious meetings of the period, in stark contrast to the reflective stillness of his own Quaker faith (it is documented that ancient Vedic priests brewed soma* — an intoxicating ritual drink, used to induce a sacred drunken frenzy in order to experience the Divine).

So, in effect, here we have a 17-verse poem about drug taking, and it's not until verse 12 that we actually reach *Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind* and Whittier's fervent pleas for peace and calm – hence, *drop Thy still dews of quietness and breathe through the heats of our desire*.

Two years after *The Brewing Of Soma* was written, *Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind* appeared in a collection of hymns, to a tune by a former Bristol Cathedral chorister Frederick Charles Maker – and it's that tune, 'Rest', which is still sung in USA churches today.

Meanwhile, Sir Hubert Parry – best-known as the composer of *Jerusalem* – was visiting Repton School, where his friend George Gilbert Stocks was Director of Music. The Sunday morning chapel service had included *Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind*, and as they left the chapel, it was Parry who suggested that a better tune might be an aria from his oratorio *Judith* (*'Long since in Egypt's plenteous land'*) though the last line of each of Whittier's verses would need to be repeated.

In 1925, *Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind* first appeared in a UK hymnal (*Songs of Praise*) for public use, and since then, Whittier's words and Parry's music have become inseparable.

Barry Rose

(* cf: usage of the word in George Orwell's *Brave New World* – Ed.)



STAMPS FOR THE MEMORIES

How many readers can recall the days when Sunday School attendance was marked by a stamp each week? These miniature masterpieces conveyed key scenes from the Bible so beautifully.

Mike Horwood had the foresight to preserve his 1945 Attendance Book, and these are just a few of the many within, together with classic cursive handwriting denoting each liturgical season.

Thank you for sharing these treasures, Mike.





St Andrew's PCC Meeting - Thursday 6th August 2026

With the windows of the Den open, we were accompanied by birdsong as we met on a beautiful summer evening. A few members were away, but we still had a good gathering, including Huw Davies, our new Treasurer, at his first PCC meeting.

There was encouraging news about the developing PEW benefice. Meetings between the churchwardens have been positive, with discussions about how the six churches can work more closely together. The intention is that the churches will begin working more closely together in the coming months, although the formal legal process will take longer. Work is also continuing towards securing a House-for-Duty priest to support pastoral ministry across the benefice.

Good progress continues on the St Andrew's for Everyone (SAFE) reordering project. The PCC has been exploring the work with our architect and looking at examples of reordering in other churches. Fundraising and grant applications continue, although it was acknowledged that significant grant funding will be needed.

Plans are well underway for the open day on Bank Holiday Monday, 31st August (*which will have taken place by publication date of this magazine issue*), combining fundraising with an opportunity for the wider community to discover more about our church. It was encouraging to hear how St Andrew's continues to serve the community.

Messy Church enjoyed a very successful summer picnic, and SALT now welcomes around 35–40 regular attendees, bringing together church members and people from the wider village. The PCC also approved the continuation of several LWA and LPA roles for the next three years.

The next PCC meeting will be on Wednesday 16th September at 7.00 PM in the Den.

If you have any questions or items you would like the PCC to consider, please speak to any PCC member.

Lorraine Grover Ng – PCC Secretary

ST. ANDREWS, CLEVEDON



On a very hot, sunny day in August we decided that the temperature might be one or two degrees lower nearer the coast. Clevedon was our destination of choice. Not surprisingly, lots of other people had had the same thought and Clevedon was very busy. Yes, it was busy but it was a real delight to witness families enjoying themselves, doing what families have always done in traditional English seaside resorts. It was good natured and, in a strange way, rather uplifting.

Clevedon, I am sure, is well known to the readers of this magazine. It is an unspoilt Victorian resort situated 13 miles southwest of Bristol on the Severn estuary. It is known for its beautiful coastal views, heritage landmarks and refined but relaxed atmosphere. Local people and visitors enjoy the marine lake, a tidal infinity pool used for swimming, boating and crabbing. The pier has had a chequered history but is the UK's only Grade 1 listed pier and was considered by John Betjeman to be the most beautiful in England, maintaining that "*Clevedon without its pier would be like a diamond with a flaw*".

None of the above was new to us as this was not our first visit to Clevedon. However, we did make a discovery that in some ways became the highlight of our day in Clevedon. Whilst walking along the coastal path we came across St. Andrew's Church, a fine ancient building in a spectacular setting. We learned that the church was built on Anglo-Saxon foundations with parts of the original 12th century church remaining and with 14th and 15th century additions.

It is the burial place of Arthur Hallam, subject of Tennyson's *In Memoriam* poem. It featured in the popular crime drama, *Broadchurch*. It is in remarkably good condition, loved and well cared for. We enjoyed the peace and tranquillity of both the interior and the very extensive graveyard – such a lovely final resting place for those buried there.

Knowing the connection with Tennyson I re-read *In Memoriam* and I would like to conclude by quoting two verses, one very well known, one less so:

*I hold it true, whate'er befall;
I feel it, when I sorrow most;
'Tis better to have loved and lost
Than never to have loved at all.*

*The hills are shadows, and they flow
From form to form, and nothing stands;
They melt like mist, the solid lands,
Like clouds they shape themselves and go.*

Susan Peel



Arthur Hallam

CHURCH ROTAS

SEPT 2026

CHEDDAR (St. Andrew's)	Sept 6	Sept 13	Sept 20	Sept 27
	<i>BS</i>	<i>HC</i>	<i>HC</i>	<i>HC</i>
Sidesperson (8.00)	Breakfast Service 9.00 AM <i>Cheddar Village Hall</i>	<i>n/a</i>	Marie	<i>n/a</i>
Sidesperson Team Leader		Richard S./Gill	Ken B.	Ade
Sidesperson 1		Helen	Marguerite	Anne H.
Sidesperson 2		Peter	Adrian	Frankie
Sidesperson 3		Gill (<i>if not TL</i>)	Jo	Iris
Cleaning 1	Davies fam.	Ade	Rosemary	Mo
Cleaning 2	Davies fam.	Frankie	Karen	David S.
St. Nectan Chapel Flowers	Ann D.	Ann D.	<i>tba</i>	<i>tba</i>
Church Flowers - Altar	Ann D.	Ann D.	<i>tba</i>	<i>tba</i>
Church Flowers - Table	Ann D.	Ann D.	<i>tba</i>	<i>tba</i>
Brass Cleaning	Ade	<i>n/a</i>	Dawn	<i>n/a</i>
Coffee/Tea 1	Breakfast Service	Anne L.	Rosemary	Jane
Coffee/Tea 2		Pam B.	Fiona	Roger

DRAYCOTT (St. Peter's)	Sept 6	Sept 13	Sept 20	Sept 27
	HC	MP	HC	HC
Organist/Music	David	Ian	Barry	John
Reader 1	Roger	Tricia	Martyn	Iain
Reader 2	Sue	Jeff	Lynda	Martyn
Sidesperson(s)	Roger	Jeff	John	Chris
Coffee/Tea	Sue + Roger	Tricia + Jeff	Chris + Ian	Chris + Ian
Cleaning	Karen + Chris	n/a	Heather	Tricia
Flowers	Lynda	Lynda	Maureen	Maureen

RODNEY STROKE (St. Leonard's)	Sept 6	Sept 13	Sept 20	Sept 27
	HC	HC	HC	Harvest Serv.
Sidesperson	Alan	Ann	Megan	Sue
Reader 1	Alan	Jo Symes	Megan	Angela
Reader 2	Joanne	Ann	Heather	Sue
Organist	Joanne	Joanne	Joanne	Barry
Cleaning	Lydia + Honor			
Flowers A	Denny	Vicky	Honor	Jenny
Flowers P	Sally	Megan	Ann	Lesley

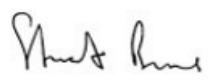
Help us name our new, great benefice!

Come to our celebration service!

The churchwardens and I needed to narrow several suggestions down to two names for our new, merged benefice of six churches. Cheddar, Draycott and Rodney Stoke and Priddy, Easton and Westbury-sub-Mendip will begin to act “as if” we are one (legalities will take much longer) from 1st November 2026.

Please email our administrator Samm on beneficecdrs@gmail.com before 15th September with your vote for the name: either **The Mid-Mendip Benefice** (which gives our geographical location), or **The Gorges Benefice** (which places us between or near the Cheddar and Ebbor Gorges). Democracy will prevail.

Please come to our celebratory launch service on **Sunday 1st November at 10 AM** in St Andrew’s, Cheddar (the largest of the six churches). Ministry team people from all six churches will lead, and everyone is invited. There will be no other services in the other five churches that day. Cake, tea, coffee and good spirit will take priority.

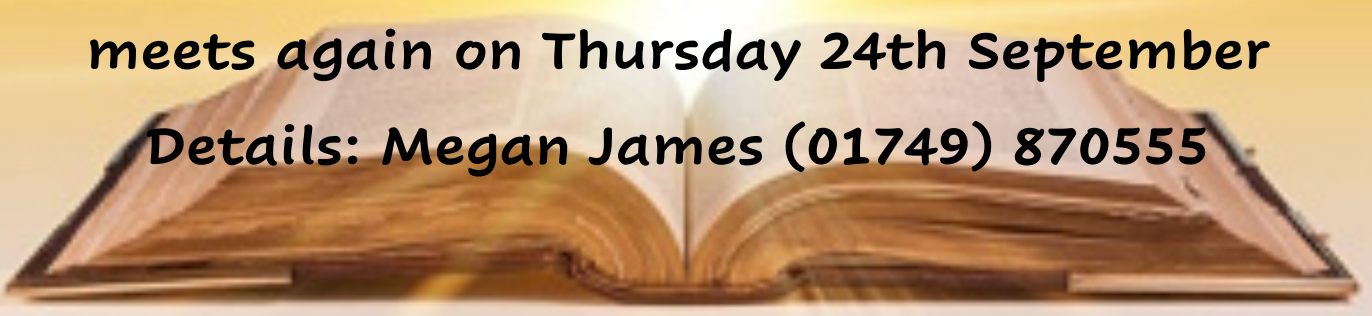
 (Stuart – Rector-to-be of the new benefice)

**The Rodney Stoke
(St. Leonard’s Church)**

MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY GROUP

meets again on Thursday 24th September

Details: Megan James (01749) 870555



Treasure Trail (20th June)



Centred around St. Leonard's Church and Stoke Street, various families and other local people were given a booklet which led them up and down Stoke Street, the churchyard and St. Leonard's to find the answers to 19 clues that had been written.

Also included in the booklet were fact files about certain clues, such as the Strawberry Line and also pictures to be found to help with writing down an answer. The final step was to find the treasure in the pirate chest and take a piece of it (chocolate gold coins).

When all 19 answers had been found the final step was to crack the code, the answer being George Brydges Rodney, who is the most successful Rodney, who rose to the rank of Admiral of the White. He is best known for his great naval victory over the French fleet at the Battle of the Saintes in 1782 during the American War of Independence.

All correct answers were put in the small pirate chest and 'well done' to Molly whose name came out and won the very generous hamper provided by the PCC members.

As always, great raffle prizes were won and lovely refreshments available. Thank you to those who came out on what was a day of rather changeable weather. A successful afternoon and £320 was raised for church funds.

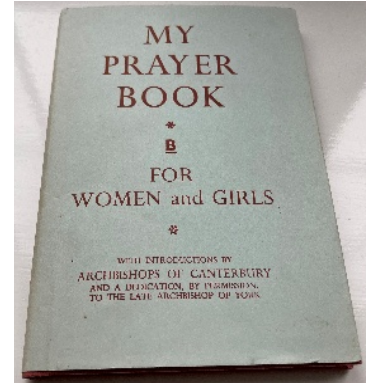
Joanne Turner



Memories of Cheddar

Having been born in Cheddar on the 1st of May 1948, I was christened on the 4th of July 1948 in St Andrew's by the Reverend Lionel Walsh. Thirteen years later, on the 2nd of October 1961, after having confirmation lessons with Rev Ron Denman I was confirmed by Mark, Bishop of Taunton.

On that occasion the girls were presented with a Prayer Book for Women & Girls. Confirmation lessons and marriage preparation lessons were held in what is now Dawn's lounge in the Old Vicarage.



In the 1950s, Sunday School was held in the afternoon in Church House (now called the Village Hall) and each attendance was rewarded with a stamp of a biblical scene, some of which I still have in my bible.

I believe we also had an annual Sunday School outing to the seaside, leaving by train from Cheddar railway station. We did likewise from Cheddar Primary School.

As a family we attended Evensong where we were to be on our best behaviour, sitting still and no talking or giggling! The Vicar in those days always gave his sermon from the pulpit, no doubt in order to keep an eye on us. Any fidgeting was frowned upon by my mother and the rest of the congregation. My grandfather, who lived at Hythe Bow Farm was one of the bell ringers and would walk the river bank to St Andrew's every Sunday for Evensong.

I was in the church choir for several years in my teens and still remember one incident very clearly. The choir wore blue robes with the girls also wearing a blue "mortar board" hat.

On this one occasion, sitting in the choir stalls, I felt something tickling on my head. I removed the hat to find a rather large spider crawling about inside. I had a real spider phobia in those days and was absolutely terrified but managed to shake it onto the floor without causing too much mayhem.

From then on I shook my robe and hat out every Sunday. Choir practice was usually on a Thursday evening and we entered the vestry area by way of the very small door on the north side of the church.



Back: ?, ?, Jean Filer, Ray Gould, Mr. Wood, Bob Hill, Jaqueline White, ?, ?, ?

Middle: ?, ?, Ronnie Thatcher, Fiona Beedle, William Baker, Felix Hembury, ? (churchwarden), Rev. George, Mr. Drew, Mrs. Packer (organist), Peter Scourse, Ken Brice, Rosemary Newman, Christine Brice

Front: Robert Newman, Leuben Poulton, ?, Bobby Brice, ?, ?, Maurice Day, Chris Jennings, Jimmy Deacon

Mrs Vera Packer was the organist at that time. On the odd occasion when we may have sung at a wedding or funeral we received a nominal sum for our contribution of 2/6d I believe. (In today's money that would be 12p, just goes to show how long ago we are talking).

On the 20th of September 1969 I was married in St Andrew's by the Reverend Ron Denman. The Reverend Saunders from St Peter's also officiated as my husband David lived in Draycott. David became a bell-ringer at St Andrews in the years to follow.

I was involved for several years with the church Stewardship Scheme, a bit like the present Friends of St Andrew's, where we encouraged friends and neighbours in our area to come to church and hopefully contribute to the fabric fund of St Andrew's. We would each host a table once a year at a meal for those people who joined up.

I also did my share of church cleaning in the 1970s and 1980s with Margaret Thomas so my connection with St Andrew's is long-standing. We were both also in the Festival Choir directed by Tony Knott along with several of our present-day congregation and as the name suggests we sang at various services during the year.

I enjoy my continuing association with St Andrew's very much and look forward to a few more years of worshipping in what has to be one of the most beautiful churches in Somerset.

There must still be quite a few members of St Andrew's who have a similar history and stories to tell so it would be a good time to share them before our memories let us down!

Jo Card

(Members of St. Peter's, Draycott and St. Leonard's, Rodney Stoke are, of course, also encouraged to share their memories and/or photographs – Ed.)

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to feedback from both church members and the wider community, the St. Andrew's Reordering Group has decided to rename itself as:-

St. Andrew's For Everyone Project

'Preserving The Past, Building The Future'

The group now has an email address:-

safep2026@gmail.com

so please use this for any correspondence regarding the project.

Many thanks.

Paul Antony performs

The Greatest Hits of David Bowie

POP UP BOWIE

+Band

as seen on
the BBC



Saturday 26th
September
Draycott Memorial Hall
BS27 3UE

Doors open 7pm, starts at 7:45pm

Tickets available either using the QR code
or at Draycott Community Shop

All Proceeds to St Leonard's Church Rodney Stoke

Sponsored By Chubb Bulleid Cole Major Rodney Stoke Garage
Seager's Fruit & Veg Stall Arien Signs The Cider Barn



The LLH Trio's Lunchtime Concert



On a hot summer's day in July, St. Leonard's held their first lunchtime concert. The LLH Trio consist of Lou and Louise on flutes and Helen playing the cello. The Trio rehearse in Street. It was wonderful to see a packed church who very much enjoyed the varied programme that the trio had organised.

The acoustics sounded beautiful in the church, starting with *Trio 1* from *The London Trios* by Haydn. They followed this with a piece called *Rosemary*, which is beautiful and tranquil. It was originally written for the piano in 1906 by the British composer Frank Bridge. Then they played the *Allegro* from Jerome Duval's *Trio Op.2, No.2*. Duval was a classical composer who published chamber and instrumental music in Hamburg and Brussels.

The first of three Grant Horsely pieces was then performed: *Night In El Beso*. Joanne joined them for these pieces and a few others on the piano. Grant is a contemporary composer who is in contact with the trio and rearranges pieces for them.

This was followed by a jazzy cello piece by Antony Le Fleming and then a piece for 2 flutes and piano called *Dance of the Woods* by Beeftink which is fast and furious but also has a slow beautiful section. The last few pieces were again by Grant Horsley, a *Sonatina* by Devienne and ended with the stunning piece, *Oblivion* which is a 1982 composition by the Argentine tango composer and bandoneon player Astor Piazzolla.

A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon with refreshments offered at the end. We raised £446, of which £200 was given to the trio. Thank you to everyone who came and supported the event and thanks to the PCC for the lovely refreshments.

Joanne Turner



Ayr ain t'ayns Niau
Casherick dy row Dty ennym
Dy jig Dty Reeriaght
Dty Aigney dy row jeant er y
Thalloo myr te ayns Niau
Cur dooin nyn arran jiu as gagh laa
As leih dooin nyn loghtyn
Myr ta shin leih dauesyn ta jannoo
Loghtyn nyn 'oi
As ny leeid shin ayns miolagh
Agh livrey shin veih olk
Son Lhiats y Reeriaght
As y Phooar, as y Ghloyr
Son dy bragh as dy bragh.

No prizes for working out this is The Lord's Prayer, But in which language or dialect? (It's not Welsh). Answer elsewhere in this magazine.

(Thanks to Pam Bell)



St. Leonard's, Rodney Stoke DIARY DATES

HARVEST SERVICE

SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER @ 6.00 PM

With Bring-And-Share Supper afterwards in Church Hall. Everyone welcome.

Produce collected will go to the Connect Centre, Wells, helping to feed those in need.

PET SERVICE

Sunday 11th October @ 11.15 AM

Bring your pets!

All welcome (even woodlice!)



Saturday 17th October

10.30 AM – 12 noon

Raffle and lovely refreshments

COFFEE MORNING

In aid of church funds





Cheddar Mothers' Union Afternoon Tea and 'Mary Sumner 150' Celebration



The annual Cheddar MU afternoon tea this year in Cheddar Village Hall on Saturday 8th August also celebrated the one-and-a-half centuries since Mary Sumner began it all. Thus, the tea was preceded by a service incorporating a summation of Mary's life and achievements, interspersed with appropriate hymn extracts. This was prepared and recited by Rosemary.

Everyone was asked to bring at least one item of foodstuff, with the aim of achieving 150 donations, to match the anniversary. In the event, over 200 were given: all going to the Cheddar Food Bank, to help people in need. The picture above shows Anne Langford (MU) with Elaine Reynolds of the Cheddar Food Bank.

The sumptuous tea followed, kindly provided by Cheddar MU members.

Cheddar MU welcomes everybody of either sex and is open to all, irrespective of whether they are domiciled in Cheddar or not.





Mary Sumner

and the 150th Anniversary

of the Mothers' Union

(This is a much abridged version of Rosemary's speech)

"Today (8th August), we are celebrating 150 years of Mothers' Union by praising God for all that has been achieved over the past one-and-a-half centuries.

Mary Sumner's vision was that 'mothers had one of the greatest and most important professions in the world'. Wife of Rector George Sumner, in Alresford, Hampshire and mother of three with her eldest also having given birth, in 1876 Mary was reminded of how difficult she found the motherhood burden. She devised an inspired and radical plan to unite women of all social classes to support each other and recognise motherhood as a profession as important as those of men, if not more so.

Despite a nervous beginning, the first MU branch thus came into being at Old Alresford Rectory. Whilst in the audience at the 1885 Portsmouth Church Congress, despite being asked to address the women churchgoers, he invited Mary to speak in his place, as he felt he had little to say to them. Although nervous, Mary gave a passionate address about 'training a child in the way he/she should go' (Proverbs 22:6) and the importance of women's vocation to change the nation for the better.

The word spread and 57 other branches were formed within the next three years. Embedded in their communities, they forged strong links with local people and the Anglican Church. They also supported each other, giving a voice to disadvantaged women whilst addressing wider societal issues.

A membership of 169,000 by the turning of the century saw the MU spreading overseas and by 1909 it had become Britain's biggest voluntary organisation for women. Sumner and the MU advocated on many key issues: preventing children from collecting alcohol from public houses; raising marriageable age for girls from 2 to 16 and many more.

4,000 women attended her 1921 funeral and the MU now has 4 million members in 84 countries, still putting their faith into action with projects, programmes and campaigns undertaken by the women (and now also men) in the Mothers' Union".

Rosemary Tullett

Deborah becomes a Licensed Lay Minister

(old title: Diocesan Reader)

After two years of very hard work through Sarum College (theological and ministry education), Deborah (Hale) is to be licensed by the Bishop in Wells Cathedral in the afternoon of 3rd October (time: *tba*). CONGRATULATIONS, dear DH!

On **Sunday 4th October** at **10 AM**, we'll hold a Benefice Service for all three of our churches in St Andrew's to mark and celebrate Deborah commencing this ministry. **Please** be there, if possible.



MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

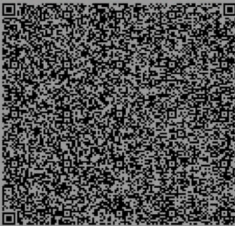
Registered with
FR FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR

**I'm taking on a
Mighty Hike
for Macmillan
Cancer Support**

**30 miles, from Blenheim Palace
12th September 2026**

Help me raise £250 to support people living
with cancer

Scan the QR code to donate
directly to my page



**Contact Ifye:
07900924511**

For All The Saints....

John Coleridge Patteson (1827-1871) 20th September)

Bishop and Missionary

John Coleridge Patteson was the elder son of Sir John Patteson by his 2nd. wife Frances Duke Coleridge, niece of poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge and brought up at Feniton Court, Devon. Educated at Eton, where his uncle Rev. Edward Coleridge was headmaster, he then studied at Balliol College, Oxford, gaining a second-class degree and becoming a first-class cricketer for the Oxford University Cricket Club.

After three years abroad studying languages, including Hebrew and Arabic, he returned to become a Fellow at Merton College. On leaving Oxford he was became a deacon & curate of St Michael & All Angels, Alphington, Devon; now a suburb of Exeter, where he was ordained a priest in the Cathedral. During this time, he was and recruited as a missionary to the South Seas.

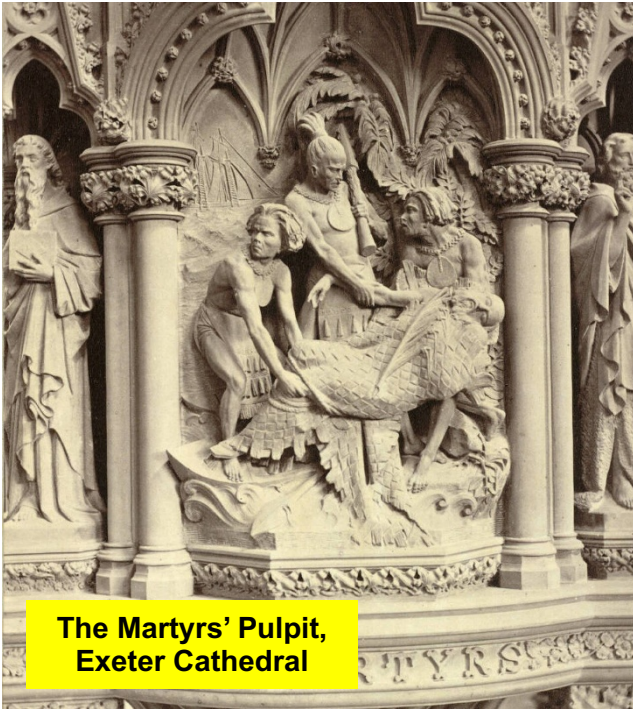
Touring the islands for five years teaching the islanders about Christianity, Patteson ran the Melanesian Mission Summer School at Kohimarama, Auckland as a training centre, his goal was to recruit boys from all the islands so that, after being trained in the Christian faith they could return to their homes and teach it in their own languages, of which there were more than one thousand .In 1867 the Mission moved to the warmer climate of Norfolk Island so the school could remain open all year, being re-named St. Barnabas College.

Patteson was described as tall and athletic, with a grave, gentle face: in the islands he went barefoot wearing only a shirt and rolled up trousers and he would swim ashore wearing a top hat which he filled with gifts for the islanders. He learned 23 of their languages which enabled him to communicate the words of the gospels. Life was not easy, as the islands were scattered over more than 1,800 miles of ocean and Patterson and his assistants were not always given a friendly welcome. Two of his assistants were killed by poison arrows as they left Santa Cruz.

In the 19th century, slavers known as 'blackbirders' preyed on the islanders, deceiving the natives that they would be indentured labourers, when in reality they were being enslaved and shipped out to plantations in other countries where illegal slavery still existed. The slave trade in Australia, for example, was illegal, but laws were very seldom enforced.

In September 1871 Patteson was killed on the island of Nukapu in the Solomon Islands where he had landed alone. Nobody knows why he was killed but it is thought it may have been in revenge after the abduction of five men by 'blackbirders' a few days before when they also killed a man and they may have thought they were returning. When they realised their mistake they treated his body with great respect, placing it in a canoe, wrapped in palm fibre matting and with a palm branch in his hand, setting it out to sea as was their custom.

His death became a *cause celebre* in England, bringing to attention the abuses of the 'blackbirders' and the British government brought in strict measures to abolish slavery in all its Pacific territories. It also brought the mission of the South Seas to people's attention gaining it much needed support.



The Martyrs' Pulpit,
Exeter Cathedral

Merton College Chapel has a bas-relief of Patteson showing him surrounded with palm leaves and lying in a canoe; St. Barnabas Church on Norfolk Island was erected in memory of him with windows designed by Edward Burne-Jones, executed by William Morris. The Martyrs' Pulpit in Exeter Cathedral, designed by George Gilbert Scott was also built in his memory and in 1873 a further memorial to Patteson was erected by Sir John Coleridge at Fairmile Cross near Feniton. He is also the central figure in the stained glass window of the Seaman's Chapel in Lincoln Cathedral.

Pat Groves



Dear God,

Help us to remember that Jesus is all-powerful.

Help us to remember He is the Truth.

Help us to seek to spend time in His presence

praying and meditating.

Help us to remember that He is the Prince of Peace.

In Jesus' name

Amen.



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The road to God is marked with many
tempting passing spaces.

WORLD CUP, WORSHIPFUL CHRISTIANS

Amidst the disgraceful assault tactics of Argentina and the blatant corruption of football's governing body, FIFA, at the 2026 World Cup, there were memories to be cherished. Not only the football and skills on show but the fact that so many players, from so many nations, united after matches to offer thanks to the Lord.

France, England, Ecuador, Ghana, Curacao, Cape Verde and USA were just some of the many teams whose Christians came together for a communal prayer at the end of each game. As England's Marc Guehi said, *"during the game, we are on opposite sides, but before, during and afterwards we are always fellow Christians"*.

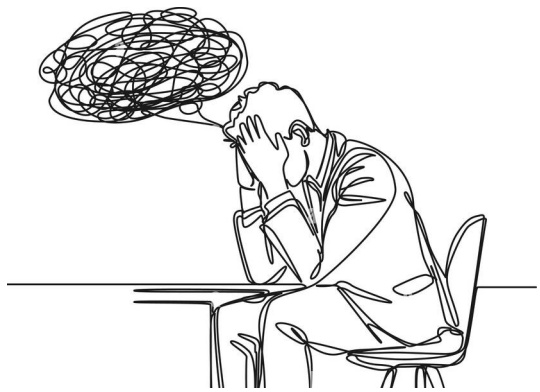
Many players also knelt down, win or lose, with hands clasped in prayerful supplication and/or performed the gesture of taking an imagined version of God's crown and lowering it to the turf, as an overt indication that the glory was all God's. The secular media predictably chose to ignore all such actions but God saw.

English and French players pray together, post-match.



The Gestation And Birth Of A Magazine

(Several readers have asked for an explanatory piece, so here 'tis...)



Piecing together a magazine isn't as straightforward as might be thought: not just merely compiling submissions into an A5 document and passing it all on to Samm, to 'roll the presses'. Regular contributors are sent an emailed **Nudge** on the first day of the preceding month and subsequent emails duly hurtle back-and-forth.

The **Deadline Day**, although frequently ignored (hello, **Clergy Cohort!**), is vital. The date enables me to work out **Pagination** (see **The Rule of Four**), **Placement of Articles** and how much **Space** to assign, or is indeed available, for each submission. Very often, the bare details of an advertisement for a forthcoming event are provided and a poster needs to be devised, with logos, pictures and all attendant information.

Submissions are often bafflingly sent to my wife's email address or my non-editorial address, despite the correct email being listed in each magazine, so these addresses need checking, to ensure any errant piece doesn't become permanently **Missing In Action**.

The selection of **Colour(s)** is another consideration. Care needs to be taken to ensure everything is clear, especially when setting text against background pictures. Then there's the aforementioned **Rule of Four**. To be printed successfully, without any blank sides, the magazine has to be devised in multiples of four. A late but vital addition can cause havoc, as it often means up to another three additional pages to fill, to ensure that *Together* avoids the **Blank Page Syndrome**.

Certain features and information are fixed: in immutable positions, such as the cover, inside cover, rear inside cover, and back cover. The advertisements always precede the info at the back and the joke page is found before those (although other jokes may sometimes be found, scattered like chaff – or grit - throughout the pages).

The Big Church Rota has to be carefully situated in order that the two pages required for our three churches are opposite each other and thus no awkward turning over is needed to see the complete picture. **Balance** needs to be struck, with each church receiving as-near equal measure as the others, although this very much depends on how much material is received from each.

Photos often come without accompanying text, so **Blurb** has to be written. The **Graphic Composition** of everything also has to be decided upon, together with **Resizing** and **Aligning** of material. The insertion of **Various Features** written by your Editor hopefully provides **Adhesive** to glue things together.

Researching Articles, Seeking Appropriate Pictures, along with finding appropriate **Cartoons** are further aspects of the job, sometimes requiring frantic **Re-Jigging of Contents**, to accommodate other material. A selected image or photo - sometimes with appropriate text devised and attached - is chosen for the **Front Cover**, often months in advance.

Everything thus accomplished, it's sent to **The Inestimable Samm, Without Whom...** ('Samm' for short) who inserts the advertisements, readings and register before printing me off a single **Proof Copy**, so I can check for **Errors, Grammatical Mistakes, Syntactical Corrections** and other **Egregious Sins**.

Assuming no corrections or tweaks are needed, and after all the **Editor's Muttered Imprecations***, Samm then puts **Doris, The Den Photocopier** (all photocopiers are female, as are ships) through her paces and lets the magazines pour forth, in a Niagara paperfall of what will hopefully prove to be a worthwhile issue. Excluding our wonderful Benefice Administrator's time, it will have been another 45-50 hours (on average) very well-spent.

Ade

* Sometimes **Bellowed Aloud!**

-oOo-



After much rain, a mother and her two young children were out walking. The myriad potholes were brimming with water. Suddenly, her 5 year old daughter grabbed her 3 year old brother and pushed him, face down, into one of the potholes. "What are you doing?" cried her aghast Mum. "We're playing 'churches', Mummy and I'm baptising him 'in the name of the Father, the Son and in-the-hole-he-goes'".

An exciting project is being planned.

This is an advance notice of a significant event that will be happening in the Benefice in the Autumn and New Year. We will holding an **Alpha Course** in Cheddar Village Hall.

An Alpha Course, which you may have already heard of, is an opportunity to explore the basics of our Christian faith. It is a tried and tested course having been held in many places in this country and around the world.

This is a chance for our church members to bring friends who would like to know more about our faith and indeed anyone who is interested.

We will be meeting on **Sunday evenings**, with 6 sessions starting on **1st November 2026** and then 5 further sessions from **10th January 2027**. The sessions in January will include a Saturday away day at Bagley Baptist church.

Lord, we pray for more opportunities and a growing desire among children and young people to learn about You through Your Word.

Please bless the work of Sunday Schools, Christian Unions, youth groups, Taize and all other such gatherings.

For the sake of Christ. Amen.

SO NOW YOU KNOW...

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.

She was only a whisky maker but he loved her still.

A rubber band was confiscated from an algebra class, as it was a weapon of math disruption.

No matter how hard you 'push the envelope', it'll still be stationery.

Two silkworms had a race: they ended up in a tie.

A backward poet writes inverse.

If cannibals ate a missionary, they'd get a taste of religion.

A dog gave birth to puppies by the side of the road and was charged with littering.

The butcher backed into his meat grinder and got a little behind in his work.



The Lydia Biddlecombe Hadrian's Wall Walk

Full report in *October Together*



Church Curiosities

St. Mary the Virgin church is the largest church in **Shrewsbury** and a Grade I listed building. This fine structure in the county of Shropshire has sadly now become redundant but was the first church placed under the care of the Churches Conservation Trust in 2015.



As can be seen, it contains many fine details, including many ornate wood carvings, textiles (*left*) and stained glass windows. It also possesses one of the tallest spires in England and is the only complete mediaeval church in Shrewsbury. It is now open to the public from Monday to

Saturday each week and run by volunteers. It is also hired out as a concert venue.



A small detail from one of the windows makes this church unique, as it depicts a woodlouse or 'land crab' (*left*). From the available pictures, the inscription is a little difficult to discern and no explanation for this curious inclusion has been cited.

Truro Cathedral's Chancellor used these crustacea as the basis for his sermon on the Trinity, invoking their taxonomic position and ability to provide nutrient gases through their digestion, as an analogy.

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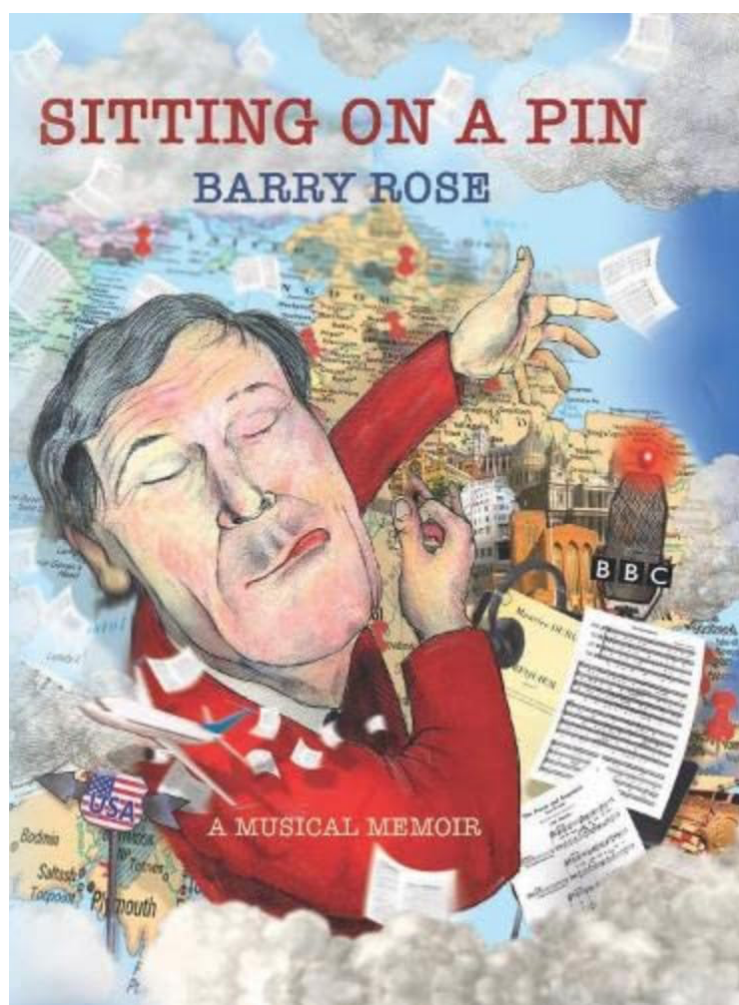
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Tom's Team



Team Captain **Helen Dunsmore** writes:-

Six months into our marriage last year, Tom was diagnosed with a brain tumour. Definitely not what we had planned!

Weston Hospicecare made his final weeks peaceful and less scary. We celebrated our first wedding anniversary at the hospice where the staff made the day as special as raised

The hospice is a wonderful place that needs all the support it can get.

Please see me or look at the **Tom's Team** Facebook page, should you wish to donate. Many thanks.

-oOo-

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ARTICLES/NEWS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE

Supporters of St Peter's – Summer Update

Our first event will be a **Wildlife Talk** in September. Full details will be available shortly, so keep an eye out for posters and the weekly pew notes.

There will be plenty more to come over the autumn, so do look out for further information in the October parish magazine, where we'll hopefully have all the details of what's planned.

In the meantime, thank you to everyone who continues to support SOSP through attending our events, enjoying the coffee and cake, making donations and generally helping to keep our wonderful village church at the heart of our community.

We look forward to seeing you again in the autumn.

Draycott and Rodney Stoke C of E First School

What a busy and memorable end to the school year we have had. The sunshine certainly made its presence felt last term, and the children enjoyed finding lots of fun ways to keep cool while making the most of the lovely weather.

We cooled our feet in trays of cold water, enjoyed delicious ice lollies and made good use of our indoor spaces during the hottest parts of the day. Plenty of drinks helped us to stay hydrated, and some particularly warm days ended with wonderfully enthusiastic water fights at After School Club.

It was lovely to see the children enjoying themselves, making memories together and learning the importance of looking after ourselves in the sunshine.

The final day of term was a particularly special one as we celebrated our Year 4 Leavers' Service. There were certainly a few emotional moments as we said goodbye to our wonderful Year 4 children. We are immensely proud of each one of them and all that they have achieved during their time with us. We wish them every happiness, success and adventure as they begin the next stage of their journey.

We are especially grateful to St Peter's Church, Draycott, and St Leonard's Church, Rodney Stoke, for their kindness in presenting each of our Year 4 leavers with a Bible. This generous gift is a lovely way of marking this important milestone and is a reminder of the continuing friendship and support between our churches and school.

As a Church of England school, we are grateful for the part our local churches play in the life of our school community, and for the many ways in which they support and encourage our children.

A huge thank you also goes to all our wonderful families for their encouragement and support throughout the year. We hope everyone has enjoyed a safe, happy and relaxing summer holiday, with plenty of opportunities to spend time together and make special memories.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year of learning, growing and flourishing together.

Mrs Sarah Netto, Headteacher

The Holy Rollers – End of Season Thank You

As the summer skittles season draws to a close, the Holy Rollers would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported us over the past few months.

The season began back in May and brought together a cheerful team of players: Thea, Richard, Karen, Chris (F), Tricia, Jeff, Tony, Bev and Chris (G), all contributing enthusiasm, determination and good humour, whether achieving impressive strikes or enjoying the occasional wayward roll.

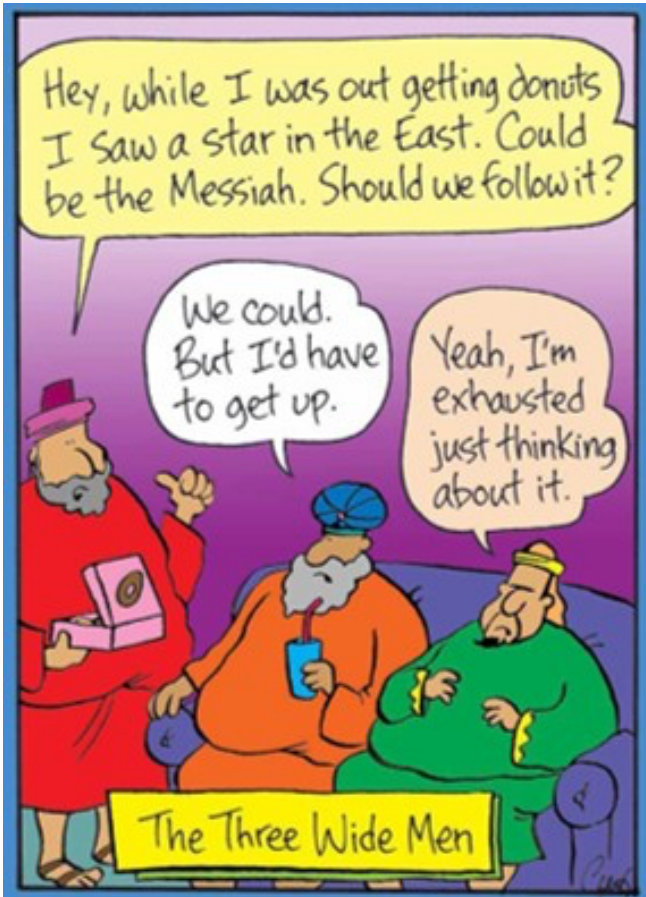
We are also deeply grateful to our wonderful supporters and reserve players – Ali, Ceri, Natalie, Jenny and Sally – whose encouragement, laughter and companionship helped make every match such an enjoyable occasion.

It has been a successful season, with a number of match wins and several second-place finishes giving us much to celebrate. More importantly, skittles has once again been about friendship, community spirit and enjoying time together.

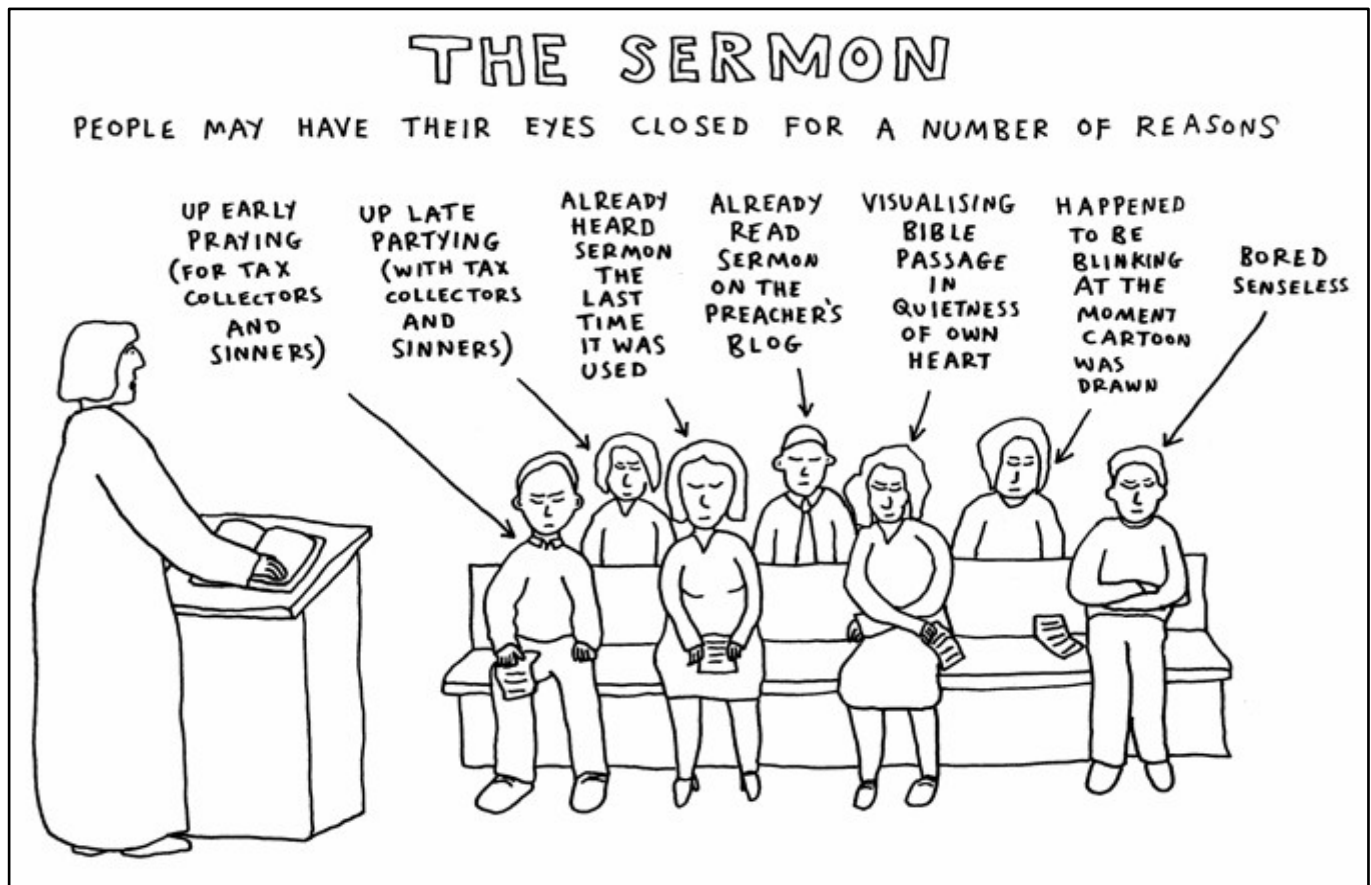
Our thanks go especially to Mick and Lori at The Strawberry Special for their generosity, hospitality and continued support of both the skittles league and the wider local community.

Thank you, too, to everyone who joined us for the End of Season Party, Barbecue, Live Music and Prizegiving. It was a wonderful way to celebrate another happy summer season.

Whether our exploits on the skittle alley could be described as glorious triumphs or memorable disasters, there was certainly no shortage of laughter along the way.



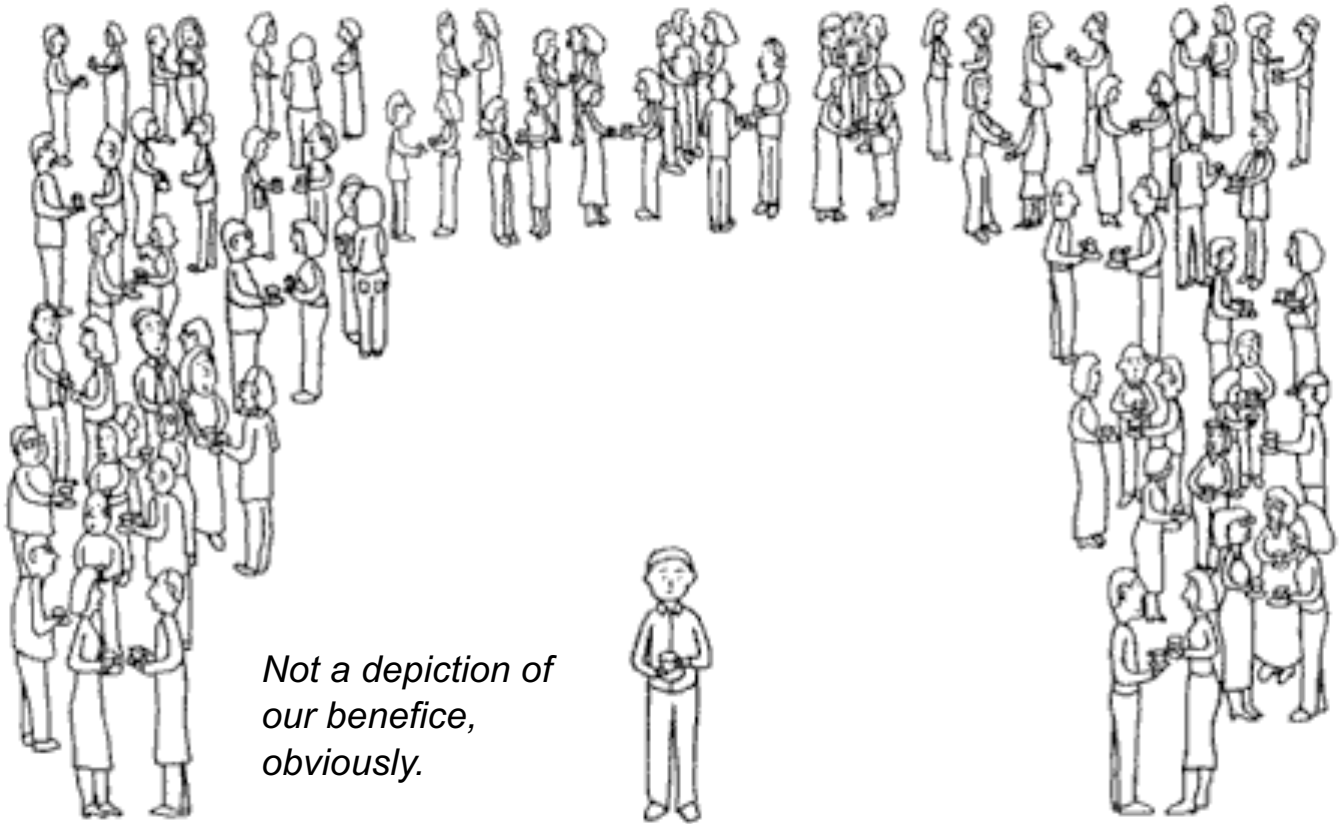
Baptising a synchronised swimmer was a first for Derek!



ANSWER: The Lord's Prayer is in Manx Gaelic.

AFTER-SERVICE COFFEE

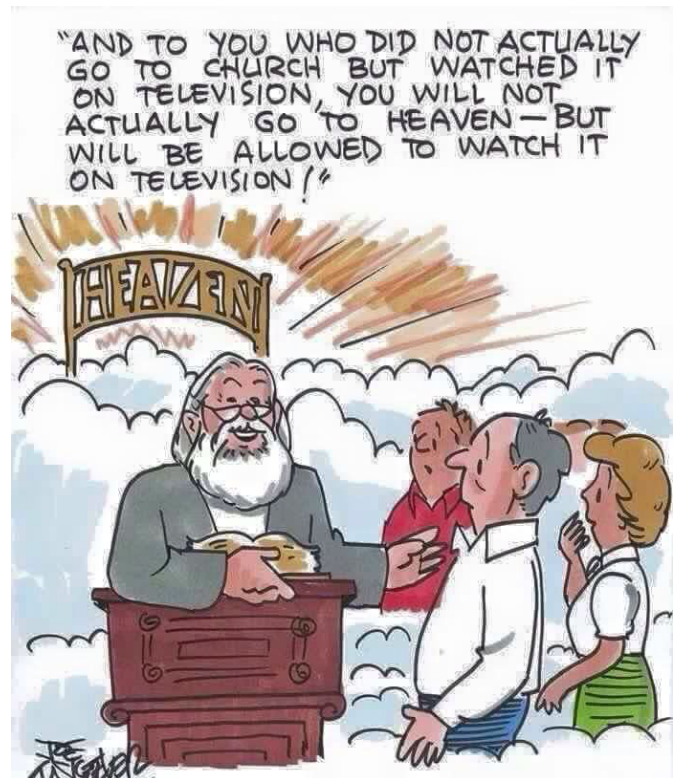
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*Not a depiction of
our benefice,
obviously.*



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ON TELEVISION, YOU WILL NOT
ACTUALLY GO TO HEAVEN - BUT
WILL BE ALLOWED TO WATCH IT
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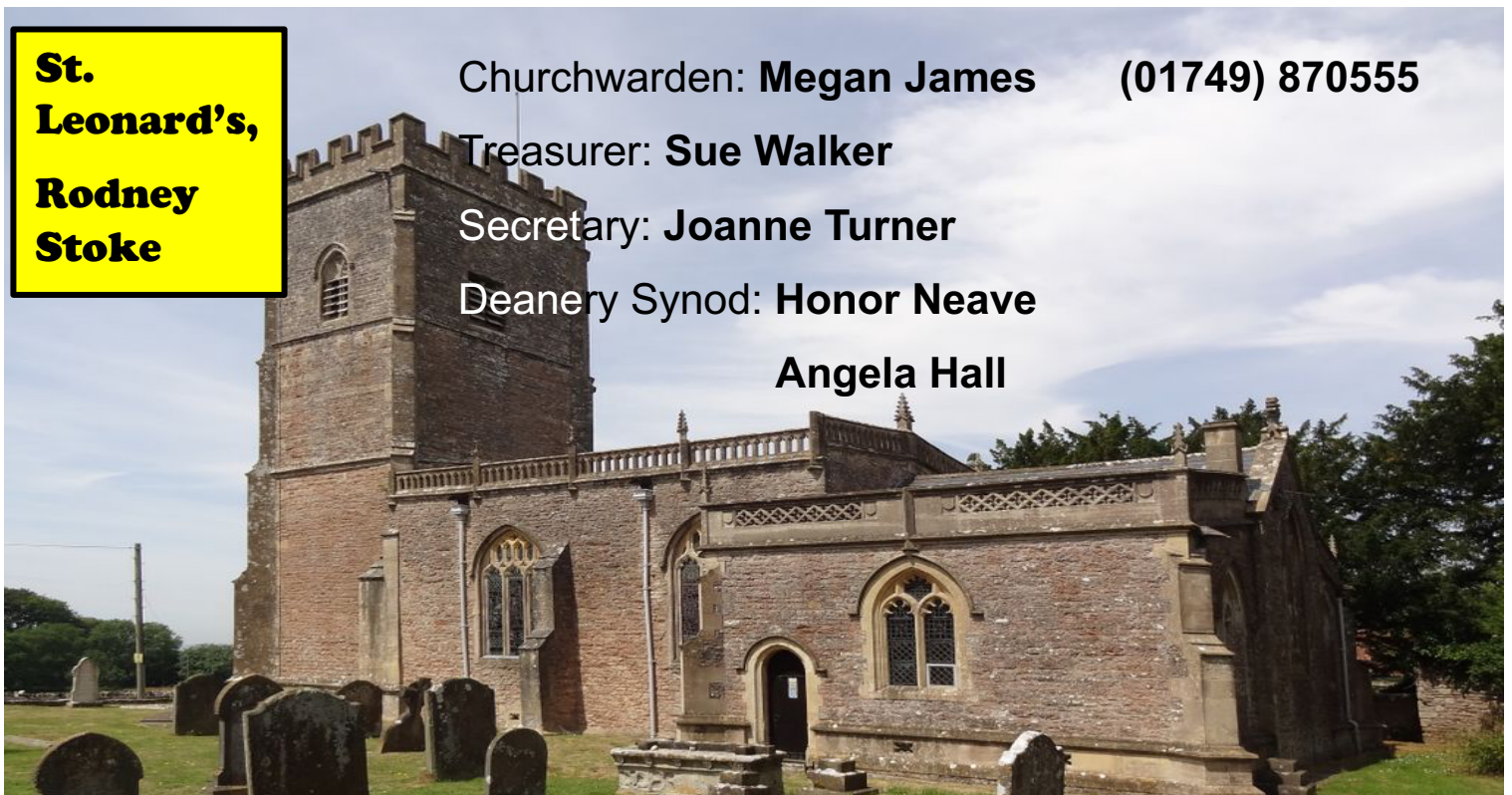
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Magazine Editor: **Ade Macrow** **07856006493**

editorcdrsmag@gmail.com

Deadline for submissions: 11th of preceding month

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*See PEW magazine for our other three
soon-to-be benefice churches at Priddy,
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