

PARRISH Magazine

Newton
Popleford
Harpford &
Colaton Raleigh

September 2020
80p please



Our lovely River Otter

looking over the flower baskets on Tipton St John bridge
photo: thanks to Jeff Chapman

Church Services and Contacts



	St Luke Newton Poppleford	St Gregory the Great Harpford (BCP)	St John the Baptist Colaton Raleigh
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"Normal" Sunday services are unlikely to be happening for some while yet.

A Sunday service on 'Zoom' is held at 10.00am each Sunday mainly for the congregations of Mark's 'patch' – the parishes of Newton Poppleford, Harpford, Colaton Raleigh and Tipton St John with Venn Ottery – though anyone with internet access is welcome to join in.

Email Mark Ward (as below) to receive the link to join in. Ring a friend if you don't know how to use Zoom – more than half the population have learnt how to use it in the last few months.

Mark is planning to follow this each Sunday with a **simple said service in St Luke's Church, Newton Poppleford at 11.00am**. Of course, this will have to follow the safety rules – hand sanitising on entry and exit, social distancing and wearing of face covering. No singing is permitted, so it won't be 'returning to normal' At present, chairs are set out at 2 metre distancing, so there is only space for some 20 people (depending on how many come as couples or family groups). You'll be welcomed if you do come, but please obey any instructions from the steward, and don't be disappointed if there is not enough room to fit you in safely.

Colaton Raleigh Church is open for **private prayer** a couple of mornings a week – see the notice board on the church gate for updated days and times, and please respect the safety and distancing rules.

Team Rector – The Reverend Steve Weston retired in July as Rector for the Otter Vale Mission Community and has moved to south Devon – we wish him well. The process for selecting and appointing a successor has started, with a small team from the churches producing a Parish Profile – a sort of job description – in conjunction with the Archdeacon of Exeter. Realistically, by the time adverts are placed, interviews are held, a candidate selected and time is given for notice and moving, a replacement is unlikely before Easter 2021.

Meanwhile, support Mark and the retired clergy in your prayers.

The Vicar is the Reverend Mark Ward on 01395 568390, revmarkward@btinternet.com also at www.facebook.com/revmarkward. Please respect the Vicar's day off which is Tuesday.

Rector for Otter Vale Mission Community is currently vacant, – contact parish office 01404 812062

Church Contacts	St Luke Newton Poppleford	St Gregory the Great Harpford	St John the Baptist Colaton Raleigh
Churchwardens	Haylor Lass 568786	Brian Bartlett 568718	Nick Higgins 568074
	Jaclynn Baker 576895	John Russell 579986	Alan Hulse 567064
Funerals Admin	Sandra Duffin 567665		
Hon. Secretary	<i>vacancy</i>	Jane Bartlett 568718	Susan Tyrrell 568166
Hon Treasurer	John Slade 567152	Hendrik Vollers	Brian Turnbull 567339
Capt. of Ringers		Bob Pearce 568628	David Pester 446043
Safeguarding	Jaclynn Baker 576895	Mark Ward 568390	Mark Ward 568390
Prayer Coordinator	Audrey Callis 568742		
	Musical Director Ruth Lass 568786	Flower team organiser Lorraine Frost 567521	Flower co-ordinator Gill Townshend 567460

Holy Baptism, Holy Matrimony, Funerals, Sick Communion at all three Churches
Please get in touch with one of the churchwardens who will liaise with the Team clergy.

From the Vicarage

I was in the car the other day and was reminded of a little rhyme I learned from a driving instructor: “Far, Near, Interior, Rear.” It is a reminder of where we should be looking and where our focus ought to be. A driver needs to be looking in the far distance, anticipating what is going to happen. But a driver must also be attentive and responsive to what is going on nearby. Interior is about checking the instrument panel, and rear is the age-old mantra of driving instructors everywhere, “Don’t forget to use your mirror.” If any of these is neglected or ignored, the driver may miss something important.

As I was remembering this, it struck me that these four words are a good guide for the Christian life.

For the Christian the Far view is very far indeed. The Far view is our hope and expectation of resurrection when we and the world will be completely renewed. The Far view appropriately enough is found at the far end of the Bible. The last few pages of the Bible give us a vision of what is to come in the far distance. It is a vision of earth and heaven united, of a world free from evil, free from injustice, free from suffering, and free from the fear of death. Other parts of the Bible describe even the animals living in harmony with one another. We need that far perspective, especially when life is tough right now. When you are stuck in the roadworks, it gives you hope if you can see a clear road even if it is still Far off.

Near is, of course, whatever is going on immediately around us. Both in driving and living, the Near things are the ones that demand our attention. It is easy to get so fixated on the Near that we lose sight of the Far, Interior and Rear. Nevertheless, we do need to be aware of the situations and people requiring us to respond in some way. Christians live with a great hope and expectation of wonderful things in the long-term future, but in the meantime we are called to live as followers of Jesus in the here and now. As with driving, we cannot control what other people do or what may come at us. But we are in control of how we react and what we do. And what we do—and say—will in turn affect other people.

It is not always easy to know what to do. And even when we think we know, it may not be easy to do it. What we are aiming towards is becoming a little more like Jesus in daily life.

The Interior view is not checking your hair in the vanity mirror on the sun-visor. For the Christian the Interior look is about attention to the inner life. It is very possible to go through the motions of Christianity. We may try to live a good life, we may go to church and even be involved in Christian ministry, and yet neglect our own Interior. Jesus taught some deep spiritual truths that are hard to grasp. He talked about the Holy Spirit living in us. And by the Spirit Jesus himself living in us. Elsewhere, the Apostle Paul tells us that we are temples of the Holy Spirit. We all need a daily practice of stopping and focusing on our Interior.

Finally the Rear. The rear-view mirror is for looking back. A constant looking back either with longing or with regret is probably not a good idea. But reflecting on the recent past is good. There may be things from the last day that I need to confess to God; there may be things that I need to put right with another person. None of us is called to dwell in the past, but the rearward view allows us to deal with the past in order to move forward.

So there you are, a little four-word rhyme equally applicable to being a learner driver or a learner Christian: Far, Near, Interior, Rear.

From a fellow learner,

Mark



Community

The School goes back in September, but not as we knew it last March. The Headteacher and staff have spent much time and effort making all sorts of arrangements to provide a safe and hygienic environment – and will need the support of pupils and parents to make it all work.



The Tennis courts are now open subject to social distancing and not sharing equipment.

Young People's football training is back on the Playing Field on Saturday mornings.

The Wednesday Wanderers are back – see report later in this issue.

The Otter valley Association (**OVA**) has restarted countryside walks in a limited way – only six people suitably distanced on any walk. See their website www.oval.org.uk for the latest details. The programme of talks for winter evenings is in abeyance.

The Village Halls at Harpford, Newton Poppleford and Colaton Raleigh and the NP Playing Fields Pavilion remain closed. These halls are maintained by volunteers and the required deep cleaning between users less than 72 hours apart make it impracticable to restore the wide range of village clubs and societies at present.

Probus Club is looking to have monthly meetings for October, November and December this year, but in a different venue which will allow the social distancing and have all the hygiene measures in place.

Most **music and theatre** performances, have already abandoned plans for the rest of this year and will review in January. Whether the village pantomimes will take place next February will await events, second waves, rule changes, etc over the next few months.

News of a few events on the next page.

The Parish Council has information on its website: www.newtonpopplefordpc.co.uk

St Luke's Church has a new website: www.newtonpopplefordchurch.org.uk



Welcome



WE are pleased to welcome all new residents to the villages. We wish you every happiness in your new homes. Useful general information can be found at www.eastdevon.gov/welcome

We hope the magazine will be of interest and the listing of events useful to you.

If anyone should require a copy of the magazine, please feel free to get in touch with Haylor Lass, Sunnyhill, Littledown Lane, Newton Poppleford tel.568786

September



Harvest in the fields and gardens well under way ...



... and still plenty of time to get out and about to enjoy our wonderful Devon countryside hedge-rows full of berries.



Harvest Festivals will not be happening in most churches this year, but that doesn't stop you being truly thankful for all the great blessings of this season.



No news yet from most of the many clubs and societies starting up again after an extended break.

If in doubt or to find out more, get in touch with the contact person – listed on page 6

DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER

Due to the on-going Covid situation, there are not many village events to list but here are the few I have been told about. If you run a local club or business or are having a charity event in the area, please let me know by the deadline below if you have reports for the next issue– Editor; haylor@lasses.me.uk or tel 01395 568786

Tuesday 1 st September		Hospiscare 'Tour de Devon' – see page 8
Wednesday 2 nd	9.45 am	Wednesday Wanderers morning walk Church Green Newton Poppleford
Wednesday 2 nd	10.00am	OVA 5 mile walk: book with feredayh@gmail.com Newton Poppleford car park
Thursday 3 rd		On-line Wildflowers with Devon Wildlife Trust – see page 19
Monday 7 th	<i>scheduled</i>	Newton Poppleford School term starts
Tuesday 8 th		monthly Mobile Library, choose & collect as below and see timetable on page 31
Wednesday 9 th	until 18 th	Road closure Higher Metcombe to Metcombe Rise, Tipton St John
Wednesday 9 th	10.30am	OVA 8 mile commons walk + lunch: book with feredayh@gmail.com
Saturday 12 th	10.00am	Ride & Stride for Devon Historic Churches from Newton Poppleford church
Tuesday 15 th	10.00am	OVA 6 mile river & coast walk: book with feredayh@gmail.com
Thursday 17 th		On-line Beavers on the Otter Trial with Devon Wildlife Trust – see page 19
Saturday 19 th		Home Delivery Cream Tea or Cake – see page 8 and posters around Newton Pop.
Sunday 20 th		* LAST DAY for October MAGAZINE ITEMS PLEASE *
Monday 21 st	10.30am	OVA 7.5 mile 'wonderful views' walk: book with feredayh@gmail.com
Tuesday 29 th	10.00am	OVA 5.5 mile Woodbury walk: book with feredayh@gmail.com
Thursday 1 st October		Hospiscare 'Marathon in a Month' – see page 8
Thursday 8 th October	9.30	Probus meeting, contact Malcolm Tumbling Weir, Ottery St Mary



OVA Walks

We are going to start offering local small-group walks comprising a walk leader plus 5 walkers maximum. The next walks will be posted on the website and interested walkers will need to email me: feredayh@gmail.com requesting a place on the walk offered. Please include a contact telephone number. I will let people know by email if they have a place on the next walk. When we have reached the maximum number of 5 walkers, the walk will show 'fully booked'. We will be adhering to the current Covid-19 guidelines which are valid on the day of the walk without exception. No-one will be allowed to just turn up without an invitation.

Heather Fereday

Exmouth Library 01395 272677

Local Timetable on page ??

Points of Contact

Here are some Useful Telephone Numbers if you want to know more about Local Organisations (prefix 01395, unless otherwise listed). 📞

Art Group, Tuesdays	Geraldine Swan	567450
Bridge Club.....	Gill Potter	01404 371174
Brownies	Nicola Rose	or 07928 209 980 ... 222549
Care for a Cuppa	June Smith	562994
Cats Protection Area Rep	Shelagh Morse	568716
Cemetery (Newton Poppleford)	Paul Hayward (Clerk)	07711 929227
Colaton Raleigh Focus group	Rowan	567339
Colaton Raleigh Lunch Club	Gillian Forward	568818
Colaton Raleigh Parish Council	Clerk, Susan Tyrrell	568166
Colaton Raleigh Players	Claire Blackwell	07775 921063
Cricket Club	Matthew Raistrick	567962
Dance Exercise/Keep Fit classes	Sally Sinclair	07837 570011
Dance, Otter Squares	Ron Peppin	578306
Footpaths, Newton Poppleford	Ted Swan	567450
Footpaths, Colaton Raleigh	Ed Suttie	567046
FORCE Cancer Charity	Fiona Gunn	567077
Funerals at St Luke's Church	Sandra Duffin	567665
Garden Club	Colin Campbell	568343
Hospiscare	Exeter Office	01392 688020
Hospiscare, Colaton Raleigh rep	Sheila Pink	567719
Junior Sports Club, Sid & Otter Vales	Ian Hosker	*****
Later Life Forum, Ottery & district ...	Elli Pang	*****
Little Popples, <i>pre-school</i>	Mel Burns	568300
Living With Cancer (self help group) ..	Sue Walters	*****
Mothers' Union	Ruth Lass	568786
National Trust Sidmouth Centre	david@kingwoodpeckers.plus.com	01404 811295
Newton Poppleford Art Society.....	Janice Faulkner	597521
Newton Poppleford Football Club	Ken Woodsford	*****
Newton Poppleford History Group ...	Terry Gregory	568848
Newton Poppleford Primary School...	Office / Reception	568300
OSM Hospital, League of Friends	Dr G Ward	*****
Otter Valley Association.....	Newton Poppleford rep Haylor Lass.....	568786
Outlook4Friday	Audrey Callis	568742
Parish Council: Newton P & Harpford	Paul Hayward (Clerk)	07711 929227
Parish Magazine, Managing Editor....	Haylor Lass.....	568786
	Distribution – <i>vacancy</i> , via <i>Haylor</i> : Advertisement Manager – Wendy Lee	567715
Pavilion - Bookings.....	Geraldine Swan	567450
Playing Field Foundation.....	Paul Hayward (Parish Clerk)	07711 929227
Prayer Matters	Audrey Callis	568742
Probus Club	Haylor Lass	568786
Riverside Players	Tricia Barclay	568897
Royal British Legion	Area Organiser, Peter Eagles	516060
Scouts, Tipton St John	Graham Leah	*****
Short Mat Bowls, Newton Poppleford	John Tanner.....	568680
Table Tennis Club	Steve Filer	567756
Tap Happy, adult tap dancing	Barry Easter	567897
Tea & Toast	Lisa or Fiona	567381 or 567077
Tennis Club	Steve Filer	567756
Village Hall Bookings, Colaton Raleigh	Rowan Turnbull	567339
Village Hall Bookings, Harpford	Nick Howe	568679
Village Hall Bookings, Newton Pop...	J Drake	568571
Wednesday Wanderers	Elizabeth Austing	568903
Whist Drives, Newton Poppleford.....	Judith Raymont	568865
Young Church	Maria Pinney/Angela Slade	568627/567152
Zumba, dance exercise	Wendy Anderton	*****

(Revised March 2020)

Devon and Cornwall Police **National Number 101**

GDPR the *** mark those who haven't confirmed agreement to publish - please help make this list complete!**



MU's 'Thank You Key Workers' Appeal

The Mothers' Union wants to help families of key workers by offering them a range of free day trips/experiences and short breaks. It is appealing to MU supporters to help make this possible.

As a spokeswoman for MU explains: "There has been an outpouring of compassion and care during the crisis from our hospital workers to our delivery drivers, carers to cleaners and our refuse

collectors to bus drivers. But because of their personal sacrifices, quality family time has not always been possible.

"Therefore, we are extending our existing Away from it all Programme (AFIA) to say a special 'thank you' to key workers in these unprecedented times.

"Any donation will help provide a range of day trips/experiences and short breaks for families of key workers, especially for those who have been kept apart or who are on low incomes - families who would generally be unable to have experiences like this."

If you would like to send a donation, go to:

[Say thank you to a keyworkers family today - Donate now](#)



"But did they plough the fields and scatter at a safe distance?"

Ride + Stride

THE AIM, as always, is to visit as many churches on the day as is possible on foot, by bicycle or on horseback. Sponsors are asked to support you by number of churches visited, or per mile, and the proceeds are divided equally between our local churches and Devon Historic Churches Trust – who give grants to churches in need, including St Luke’s Church here.

A team from St Luke’s has been doing the ride for over 25 years. This year a Ruth & Haylor are starting a bike ride **from Colaton Raleigh Church at 9.45am on Saturday 12th September** with the aim of visiting all the churches in the Otter Vale Mission Community, finishing at Newton Poppleford by tea-time. This is your golden opportunity to join us to find out where all the churches are in our Mission Community and to see what they look like. We plan to lunch in Payhembury – bring a picnic or patronise the village shop or pub.

If you wish to thrust sponsorship money into our hands, we'll be outside St Luke's Church at about 10.00am. Otherwise visit justgiving.com/devonhistoricchurches

If you'd like to know more, join us in the ride, or take a sponsorship form, **ring Ruth Lass on 01395 568786.**

If you don't want to ride, do stroll up or down the Otter Valley and visit a church or two (there's a nice circuit taking in Harpford, Tipton, Venn Ottery, Colaton Raleigh and back to Newton Poppleford) on 12th September.



Tour De Devon

31 August – 21 September 2020

A brand new cycle challenge in aid of Hospiscare, the local hospice charity for Exeter, Mid and East Devon.

The Tour de Devon cycle challenge is all about doing it your way. Choose your challenge distance of 50, 100 or 250 miles and plan your own route at your own pace, around your favourite part of Devon. Once you've planned your route, just complete your challenge between **31st August and 21st September**. Whether you're a seasoned cyclist, an occasional commuter, a fair-weather rider or getting back on your bike for the first time in yonks, Tour de Devon is the perfect challenge for you!

Adult - £10 Child - £5

Sign up today at

<https://www.hospiscare.co.uk/events/cycle/>

Marathon in a Month

1 October – 31 October 2020

Marathon in a Month is Hospiscare's brand new virtual marathon event, raising vital funds to help support over 2000 patients and their families living with a terminal illness across Exeter, Mid and East Devon.

Whether you're a champion marathon runner or more comfortable on the couch, this challenge is for everyone, including the dog! Your mission is to run, jog or walk a marathon in a month (October, to be precise!) – in your own way and at your own pace.

You may choose to jog a mile every day, walk two half marathons, or go for broke with the full monty in one go. Hospiscare's Marathon in a Month takes place throughout October, so there's plenty of time to plan your approach, get your running playlist ready and start raising funds for Hospiscare.

All participants will each receive a Hospiscare medal as a 'thank you' for their efforts and to celebrate their heroic achievement.

Adult - £10 Dog (and owner) - £15 Child - £5

Sign up today at

<https://www.hospiscare.co.uk/events/marathon/>

Ali McGeown

Fundraising Administrator. 01392 688054



MACMILLAN CANCER CARE
 Home Delivery Cream Tea or Cake, £2.50/ea.
Sat 19 Sept. ring Rosemary 567430

Probus Report

Like so many clubs and groups in the village, our activities have recently come to a halt. In fact, our last formal meeting was in March, just before the Covid 19 lockdown. This explains why our usual reports have been absent from the Parish Magazine of late. Having said that, I think Haylor and his editorial team must be congratulated on the splendid work they have done in producing the magazine on line. It is always a good read and keeps us all in touch. I understand the September issue will once again be printed, a welcome sign of normality.

Our AGM was scheduled for April 2020, but with a temporary tweaking of the constitution, this will now be in April 2021, and will cover two years. The chairman, vice chairman and other committee members have all agreed to extend their term of office until next year's AGM. One piece of good news: as the club's expenditure has been very modest we've agreed to waive the annual members' subscription for this year.

On the social front, the next event to look forward to is our Christmas lunch, planned for Tuesday 8th December, at the Tumbling Weir Hotel. Let's hope that government guidelines will be eased sufficiently for this dinner to go ahead.

For those chaps in the area who are fed up with being housebound because of recent restrictions, and are tempted to give Probus a try, we are always keen to recruit new members. Why not come along to our next meeting? M Burge (Chairman)

Probus – We'll Meet Again

As a temporary measure during the Covid restrictions it has been decided to have a change of venue for our monthly meetings.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 8th October at the Tumbling Weir Hotel O.S.M. We will gather from 9.30 for coffee and start formal proceedings at 10.00, in the usual way.

The Hotel has a good segregated seating arrangement and sanitising regime and members are requested to wear masks.

All being well subsequent meetings will follow on the second Thursday of each month, until such time as we can return to Harpford Hall.

There will be a small charge for coffee.

Our speaker will be Alan Martin who will tell about "England's Leonardo", Robert Hooke - the 17th century scientist and polymath.

Members: please let Malcolm know if you are able to attend.– 01395 568711



I told my suitcases that due to the pandemic, there will be no holiday this year. Now I'm dealing with emotional baggage.



Sid Vale Association

August Newsletter



Handel Bennett

Handel Bennett died in July; his funeral was on July 16th. Handel was past Chair and President of the SVA and during his time almost single-handedly kept the SVA in existence. The SVA are seeking ways to commemorate his involvement. The Trustees discussed this at their last meeting and so far, two suggestions have been put forward; a framed photograph and details of his contribution to be placed in the main meeting room at Fore Street, and a quiet fenced area in our newly acquired Knapp nature reserve. Please suggest any other proposals that you might have and what you think – emails to chair@sidvaleassociation.org.uk

SVA Activities

The Trustees are concerned about the role of the SVA during this Covid 19 situation, which may extend for some while. All our activities, except fieldwork, have ceased and there is a very real danger that we will suffer a slow decline in membership and interest. We are very open to suggestions as to what areas of interest the SVA might be active in given the current restrictions and again I would welcome any suggestions.

SVA Policies

Trustees Di Fuller and Liz Warren have been heavily involved in updating SVA Policies that we are now required to have. These cover Financial, Safeguarding, Equality & Diversity, Ethics & Conduct, Complaints, Volunteering, Conflict of Interest, Environment, Expenses and the Museum's New Collections and Development Policy. We still have Health & Safety, Incidents & Accidents and Privacy policies to review and well as our Risk Policy.

The policies can be seen on the SVA website – www.sidvaleassociation.org.uk/about-us/svapolicies

As part of the Museum's Accreditation Certificate, all museums must now aim to be a 'visitor touch-free' environment and Ann Tanner, the Curator, is applying for a grant to digitise hands-on items.

Environment

I attended Sidmouth Town Council's Environmental Committee as an invited participant. Points of discussion included litter problems and street cleansing. A Biodiversity Group has been formed.

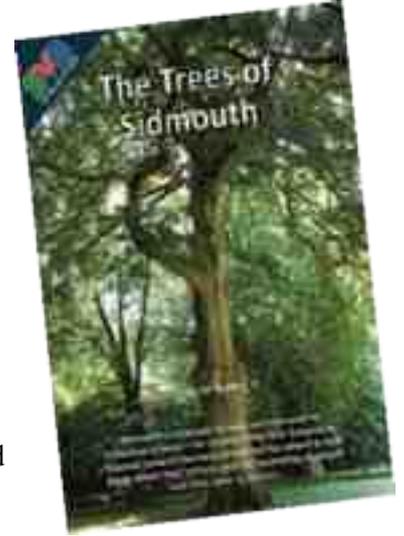
The Biodiversity group is very worthwhile and has a high level of expertise. It was agreed that we should support such groups and future projects.

Publicity

SVA Autumn Magazine will be out in September.

Publications – The Trees of Sidmouth

Ed Dolphin, secretary of Sidmouth Civic Arboretum, asked the SVA earlier this year if we would produce a book of Sidmouth's worthy trees with the proceeds going to the SVA. The Trustees considered the cost in the light of our current decision to suspend all nonvital expenditure, and decided to go ahead with the publication. Ed authored this with production by John Dowell and it is now on sale



You can order by phone 01395 519278 or by email info@sidmouthmuseum.co.uk or from local bookshops and the Tourist Information Centre.

Land

Gilchrist pond area is fenced off, which has proved to be very successful. It is now an undisturbed area and consequently two broods of moorhens have been raised on the pond. As noted in the last Newsletter, we have started work in the Knapp in earnest, (all subject to COVID restrictions!). EDDC owned the 8 acres for over 25 years, trying to enhance its status as a nature reserve, but over the last 7 years, a lack of funds has meant that the area has suffered very much. The pond has now been cleared, scrub cut back along paths ready for relaying paths in late August, the orchard has been tidied (bracken cut back and fruit trees managed). We have refurbished the seating area, and cut down long grass in Peaslands Knapp, (the adjacent area) ready for the introduction of sheep at the end of August. Trustee Ed Harrison is organising all this.

Keith Owen Fund

Finally, as you know, the Keith Owen Fund, which we administer, cannot be used for general SVA operating costs, so we are dependent on subscriptions, book sales and other income to keep our heads above water. As we are to all intents shutdown, we have no income to set against the costs which we are still incurring, in maintaining and operating our assets.

Consequently, we would be very grateful if you would consider making a donation, however small, to help us. To pay in at the HSBC in Sidmouth or by Bank Transfer please use SVA Account number 70739685 Sort code 40-42-02

We hope that you found this Newsletter interesting. We wish you well and do remember the SVA is still here and striving for improvement of the Sid Valley; we need your support and assistance!

Richard Thurlow Chairman SVA
chairman@sidvaleassociation.org.uk

Has lockdown damaged your eyesight?

Are you suffering from ‘coronavisoin’? It is perfectly possible.

Lockdown led to many of us staring at our television or computer screens for long periods of time. And that could have strained our eyes, warns the College of Optometrists.

By this summer one in five adults in Britain had reported a deterioration in their eyesight. Symptoms include blurred vision, difficulty in focussing, and red or painful eyes.

As one optometrist explained: “Working from home, video calls with friends and family, watching more TV, time spent looking at your phone – all that screen time adds up.

The good news is that this is unlikely to cause any permanent harm to your vision.”

Nevertheless, the College urges people to get their eyes checked if they feel on-going discomfort. They also advise that when you are looking at a screen, you rest your eyes every 20 minutes, blink regularly, use eye drops, position your screen below eye level and increase the size of the text.



Churches and young people in lockdown

Recent research by the Allchurches Trust has found that lockdown had one good result: it was “a major driver for churches to embrace digital opportunities and engage with families online.”

The research found that in recent months, more than half of churches (55 per cent) have been able to engage children and young people through regular online worship; 46 per cent have run family focused online activities for children and parents; and 31 per cent have run online activities and challenges for young people. Similar numbers have reached out by phone and e-mail.

A spokesman for the Trust said: “What’s heartening are the many examples of churches that have quickly adapted to launch online activities ... when physical youth work was not an option.” The churches have been “creative in meeting the needs of the families and young people they work with” and “reaching others they may not previously have been able to engage.”

Around £1.4 million pounds has now been given to more than 140 projects across the UK and Ireland since Allchurches Trust’s *Growing Lives* programme launched in May 2019. It is aimed at enabling churches and Christian charities to help young people reach their potential. More at:

<https://www.allchurches.co.uk>



Psalm 23 - a psalm for the pandemic

There are few psalms as personal and real as Psalm 23. It records David’s experience of God as his Shepherd going through dark times. In the midst of the effects of a global pandemic, this psalm speaks to the fears that can overwhelm us.

He Knows Me: ‘The Lord is my shepherd...’ Just as a good shepherd knows every sheep in his flock, so God know each one of us intimately.

He Provides for Me: ‘He makes me lie down in green pastures...’ Just as the shepherd knows the needs of his sheep, so God will provide what we need in our lives and circumstances.

He Guides Me: ‘He guides me along the right paths...’ Just as the shepherd leads the sheep to the best pastures, so God provides the best for us, as we listen and follow Him.

He Protects Me: ‘Even though I walk through the darkest valley...’ Just as the sheep have no need to fear danger when following the shepherd, so we live knowing God’s presence and protection.

He Comforts Me: ‘your rod and your staff, they comfort me.’ As the shepherd’s rod defends the sheep, and the staff enables him to control the sheep, so God comforts us through His Word and discipline.

The final verses of the psalm (v5-6) offer the security of knowing that our lives are in His hands, even through death, as He leads us to the home we’ve been looking for all our lives.

Some years ago, a great actor was asked to recite Psalm 23, but asked one of the other guests to do the same. His remarkable rendition was followed by the other man, an older Christian speaking from the heart. Afterwards the actor said: *‘The difference between us is that I know the psalm, but he knows the shepherd.’*



Some observations on the coronavirus crisis...

When you wear a tight mask around your face, a hat, a face shield, a gown, two pairs of gloves, and something to protect your shoes, it is a totally different (nursing) thing; and, as nurses, you have to stay in that side room or unit for 12-and-a-half hours. It is really draining physically. You...can’t even go to the loo because your patients are terribly sick. They are on maximum (life support), so you can’t take your eyes off that monitor. – *ITU nurse on the reality of nursing in PPE*



History books will inevitably tell the story of a virus that swept the world in 2020. But it is up to us what that story will look like. Either... the story of a virus that ... showed up the weakness, selfishness and frailty of people ... or how people responded with their best, how the virus was a medical but not a social tragedy. – *Canon Will Hughes, Vicar of Petersfield, Portsmouth Diocese.*

Traidcraft



HARVEST is a time to get together with friends and loved ones and be thankful for the produce that feeds us and makes the world go round.

To celebrate, will you share a socially distanced brew (of Fairtrade Tea) and a slice or two of cake (made with Fairtrade ingredients) with a few friends to raise money for Traidcraft Exchange, and help vulnerable communities begin to recover from this pandemic?

This year, it's more important than ever. During lockdown, many communities were unable to harvest their crops, and those that were harvested often went unsold due to closed markets. The coming harvest is critical for communities to get back on their feet.

Celebrate Harvest as part of **Traidcraft Week**, which is between **13th and 20th September**.

Buy Fairtrade tea and coffee and sugar. Bake cakes with Fairtrade dried fruit and nuts and sugar. Share with friends where possible and if you can, please donate online at www.traidcraftexchange.org

Wednesday Wanderers - Now Back In Business!

5th August 2020 – Newton Poppleford - Southerton. The first Wednesday in the month so a short walk on familiar ground. Unfortunately, none of the usual 'first Wednesday' walkers took part due to other commitments but we hope we can see them in September (and any newcomers would be welcome).

Today the walk started from a footpath in Back Lane, through the orchards, avoiding any fox/badger holes and stopping to take in the lovely distant views of Harpford village, then out on to the Venn Ottery Road and along to Southerton. Took another footpath ahead which climbed up to the edge of the common where we headed back to Newton Poppleford

All enjoyed the walk and companionship especially after such a long break. – 3 miles

12th August –

No walk today because of the heatwave!

How did they know the shark victim had dandruff?
They found his head and shoulders on the beach.

Harvest Quiz

1. Churches traditionally marked the start of harvest at Lammas. But what did the 'Lam' of 'Lammas' originally refer to?
2. Which endangered animal has been given recycled tennis ball homes, using the balls from Wimbledon?
3. 'For whatever a man sows, this he will also reap' - which book of the bible is this from?
4. Which famous BBC radio drama has an agricultural story editor?
5. What Celtic feast day inspired modern Halloween?
6. How much food is wasted each year by consumers in wealthy countries (in tonnes)?
7. The Homowo festival in Ghana celebrates the harvest of which crop?
8. Around the world, how many people go to bed hungry each night?
9. Who painted the famous picture 'The Gleaners' featuring women collecting stray stalks of wheat in rural poverty in France?
10. Staymans Winesap, King David & Roxbury, are all types of which fruit?
11. In the Bible, why were the Israelites told not to gather the gleanings of the harvest?
12. Flo Headlam, Bob Flowerdew, Sarah Raven and Clay Jones have all featured on which Radio programme?
13. 'Harvest Moon' was a popular hit for which famous singer?
14. To celebrate the harvest in Mexico, what is decorated next to the Church?
15. Is a Yam a fruit or a vegetable?
16. The hymn 'We plough the fields and scatter' originates from which European country?
17. What percentage of all the rice in the world is harvested in Asia?
18. What is the more common name for the creature *Micromys minutus*?
19. The word 'Cereal' is derived from which Roman Goddess of the harvest?
20. Which is the only bread product which is boiled before it is baked?

Answers on page 20

Are politicians the oldest profession?

A surgeon, an architect and a politician were arguing as to whose profession was the oldest. Said the surgeon: "Eve was made from Adam's rib, and that surely was a surgical operation."

"Maybe," admitted the architect, "but prior to that, order was created out of chaos, and that was an architectural job."

"But," the politician pointed out in triumph, "somebody had to have created the chaos in the first place!"

29th September: Enter all the angels, led by Michael

What is an angel? Easy, people think: a shining figure with glorious wings, who appears from time to time to do some mighty work for God or bring a very special message from him.

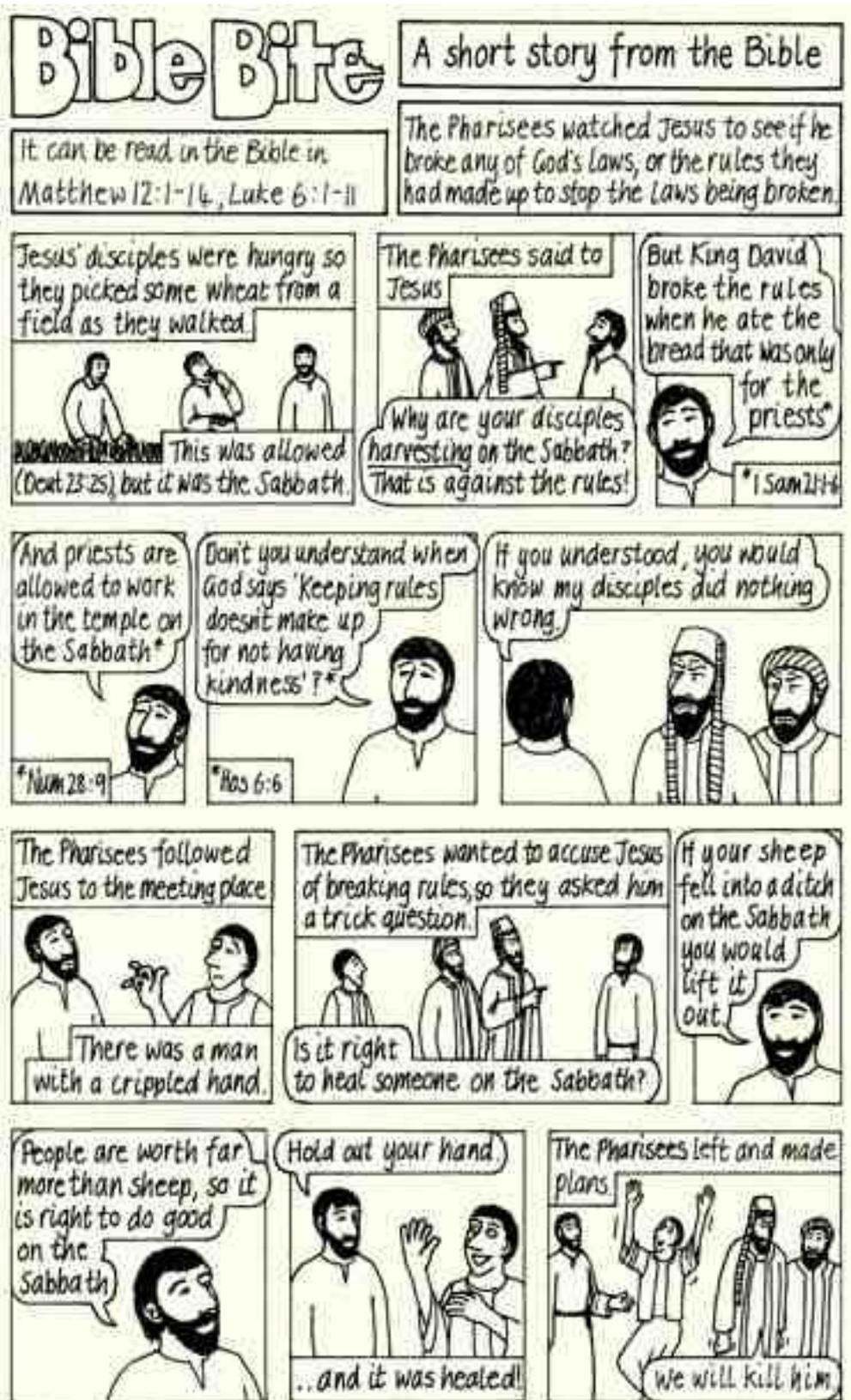
Well, that's right in one sense (apart from the wings, which owe more to stained glass windows than the Bible). But the fact that not all 'angels' in the Bible are 'glorious' or 'shining' should make us hesitate to categorise them in this spectacular way. After all, the three apparently ordinary men who visited Abraham and Sarah to tell them that she would have a son even though she was long past child-bearing age had none of those outward embellishments. Nevertheless, Abraham recognised them as divine messengers.

The Bible is full of angels, from the early chapters of Genesis to the last chapter of Revelation, and often they had a key role in crucial events. It seems, from just two instances, that Michael was their leader, an 'archangel'. In many stained glass windows he's seen with a sword, because in a vision in Revelation he led the angelic host who fought and defeated Satan and his army.

In the Gospels, an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah in the Temple, to tell him that his elderly wife was to have a son, the forerunner of the Messiah, John the Baptist. An angel, Gabriel, appeared to Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of the Messiah, the Son of God. An angel appeared 'in a dream' to Joseph, the village carpenter in Nazareth, to tell him to go ahead and marry his fiancée, Mary, and later - also in a dream - warned him not to go back to Bethlehem.

A 'young man', whom we take to have been an angel, was sitting in the empty tomb on Easter morning, waiting to tell the startled women that Jesus wasn't there - He had risen (*Mark 16:5*).

Without going into every biblical reference to angels, those should be sufficient to show that the word covers an enormous diversity of experience. So the Letter to the Hebrews speaks of those who practice hospitality as sometimes 'entertaining angels unawares'. Sometimes people recognised angels for who they were, and



sometimes they didn't. Angels, quite simply, are God's agents or emissaries, messengers and ministers of His will. Sometimes they are human; sometimes they seem to be spiritual beings.

Perhaps we could even say that *anyone*, in any situation, who is at that moment God's 'messenger' to us, or serves us graciously, is an 'angel'. So, when we say, 'Oh, be an angel and pop up to the chemist for my prescription', we may be nearer the heart of the matter than we think!

By Canon David Winter

Ward Councillor's Report

Important message from Wales and West

Wales & West Utilities look after the pipes that keep the gas flowing to homes and businesses across Wales and south west England. They are the gas emergency service, connect homes and businesses, and upgrade old metal pipes to new plastic ones – delivering energy safe and reliably to 7.5m people – including those in our ward.

This month they have launched a safety campaign that reminds people how they can Stay Gas Safe this summer – with three top tips as many will be taking ‘staycations’ rather than going abroad this year.

- **Pack an audible carbon monoxide (CO) alarm:** Whether you’re planning on staying at home or go camping, boating or caravanning, you still need to be aware of the dangers of CO poisoning. Remember to test the alarm and put it in the right place as per the alarm instructions.
- **Never, ever use a BBQ indoors:** Whether that’s a home, tent, caravan or motorhome. Always keep an eye on your BBQ when you’re cooking, and even when it’s gone out, leave it outside as it can still release poisonous fumes.
- **Be prepared:** If you smell gas, call us on 0800 111 999 at any time of day or night. And if you’ve had a BBQ and you feel dizzy, breathless or sick, it might not just be a bad burger, it could be carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning and you should seek medical attention immediately.

Government White Paper August 2020 on Planning – consultation

The document is called Planning for the Future – publication date is August 2020. This is the most radical approach to changes to the planning regulations for many years and supports the ‘Build, Build, Build’ agenda. You can search for this online. There is text and then some written questions for you to respond to.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907647/MHCL-G-Planning-Consultation.pdf

This is the information on how you can respond:

To: This consultation is open to everyone. They are keen to hear from a wide range of interested parties from across the public and private sectors, as well as from the general public.

Body/bodies responsible for the consultation: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Duration: This consultation will last for 12 weeks from 6 August 2020. Enquiries: For any enquiries about the consultation please contact

planningforthefuture@communities.gov.uk.

How to respond: You may respond by going to our website

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future>

Alternatively you can email your response to the questions in this consultation to

planningforthefuture@communities.gov.uk.

If you are responding in writing, please make it clear which questions you are responding to.

Written responses should be sent to:

Planning for the Future Consultation,
Planning Directorate, 3rd Floor,
Fry Building, 2 Marsham Street,
London SW1P 4DF.

When you reply it would be very useful if you confirm whether you are replying as an individual or submitting an official response on behalf of an organisation and include: • your name, • your position (if applicable), and • the name of organisation (if applicable).

Here are some extracts taken from the White Paper:

First, we will streamline the planning process with more democracy taking place more effectively at the plan-making stage, and will replace the entire corpus of plan-making law in England to achieve this: • Simplifying the role of Local Plans, to focus on identifying land under three categories –

***Growth areas** suitable for substantial development, and where outline approval for development would be automatically secured for forms and types of development specified in the Plan;*

***Renewal areas** suitable for some development, such as gentle densification; and*

***Protected areas** where – as the name suggests – development is restricted. In areas where development is restricted (Protected areas) any development proposals would come forward as now through planning applications being made to the local authority (except where they are subject to permitted development rights or development orders), and judged against policies set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.*

This could halve the time it takes to secure planning permission on larger sites identified in plans. We also want to allow local planning authorities to identify sub-areas in their Growth areas for self- and custom-build homes, so that more people can build their own homes.

***Local Plans** should set clear rules rather than general policies for development. We will set out general development management policies nationally, with a more focused role for Local Plans in identifying site- and area-specific requirements, alongside locally produced design codes. This would scale back the detail and duplication contained in Local Plans, while encouraging a much greater focus on design quality at the local level. Plans will be significantly shorter in length (we expect a reduction in size of at least two thirds), as they will no longer contain a long list of “policies” of varying specificity – just a core set of standards and requirements for development.*

Neighbourhood Plans

– continued next page

Ward Councillor's Report – continued

Neighbourhood Plans - Since statutory Neighbourhood Plans became part of the system in 2011, over 2,600 communities have started the process of neighbourhood planning to take advantage of the opportunity to prepare a plan for their own areas – and over 1,000 plans have been successfully passed at referendum. They have become an important tool in helping to ‘bring the democracy forward’ in planning, by allowing communities to think proactively about how they would like their areas to develop. Therefore, we think Neighbourhood Plans should be retained in the reformed planning system, but we will want to consider whether their content should become more focused to reflect our proposals for Local Plans, as well as the opportunities which digital tools and data offer to support their development and improve accessibility for users. By making it easier to develop Neighbourhood Plans we wish to encourage their continued use and indeed to help spread their use further, particularly in towns and cities. We are also interested in whether there is scope to extend and adapt the concept so that very small areas – such as individual streets – can set their own rules for the form of development which they are happy to see.

Affordable Housing - We will be more ambitious for affordable housing provided through planning gain, and we will ensure that the new Infrastructure Levy allows local planning authorities to secure more on-site housing provision

Enforcement - We will review and strengthen the existing planning enforcement powers and sanctions available to local planning authorities to ensure they support the new planning system. We will introduce more powers to address intentional unauthorised development, consider higher fines, and look to ways of supporting more enforcement activity.

The full consultation document is 84 pages long. I have attended some Webinar virtual conferences on the implications of this planning document and there are some mixed views on how to interpret its content as well as concerns about what is omitted from the document as well as what is included.

It may interest you to know the Conservative Government has already received over £11 million in donations from developers since they came to power in December 2019.

- The government wants 300,000 new homes to be built annually. They were not happy with the number of new homes delivered last year (over 241,000) even though this was the highest number to be built in one year for over 30 years. And as the Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission found in its interim report last year, too often what is built is low quality and considered ugly by local residents.
- Local plans should be in place within 30 months, not take the years they have previously (the average time is 7 years). It appears there is very little

opportunity for consultation except at the very start, although this is not what it says in the White Paper where it is stated that the government want more engagement from stake-holders.

- Residents should not have to rely on planning notices attached to lamp posts, printed in newspapers or posted in libraries – phew. However, the highly digitalised system suggested in this document could be a barrier to some residents.
- Developer contributions such as CIL and S106 will be reformed along with ‘viability’ assessments, this will allegedly see more infrastructure provided. We have seen too much of developers wriggling out of providing affordable housing and promised infrastructure in the past on the grounds of ‘viability’. The Neighbourhood (Plan) Share would be retained. The contribution would be paid on the end value of the development.
- Change of use for example from commercial to residential will be streamlined in growth areas in particular.
- I am unclear how the carbon neutral agenda will be achieved whilst the government ‘build, build, build.
- There will be a new National Planning Policy Framework document which will continue to overarch both Local Plans and subsequently Neighbourhood Plans.
- CV-19 has had a massive impact on working practices, not least with more companies deciding that their employees can work just as well at home as in an expensive office building. I suspect the drop in demand for commercial office space could result in more of them being converted to residential use.

EDDC Full Council Meeting on 20th August 2020

As mentioned in the last magazine, in July over the course of a 4 hour meeting, the EDDC Strategic Planning Committee concluded they would recommend to Full Council that EDDC should withdraw from GESP (Greater Exeter Strategic Plan) - against the advice of the Senior Planning Officer. This will very likely come to a vote at Full Council on 20th August where all 60 ward councillors can attend and vote on any matters raised. Those councillors responsible for getting us into GESP over past administrations will not be very happy about the recommendation to withdraw. Following on from this, in early August Mid Devon cabinet voted in the same way, with a recommendation to their Full council (who will meet on 26th August 2020) to withdraw from GESP also against the recommendation of their Head of Planning. The reasons cited were ‘an unacceptable risk of large-scale developments that are not warranted by any formal measure of local housing need’. They too agreed it was more important to work on the Local Plan Review and also to work sincerely and cooperatively with its former neighbours in GESP without entering into the formal partnership.

continued > > > >

Ward Councillor's Report – continued

It is very timely that the 'duty to cooperate' with neighbouring councils has been dropped and the acceleration of Local Plan production is recommended in the August White Paper.

EDDC revenue

There were concerns about the increased costs to the council as a result of CV-19 added to the reduced budget from car parking. However, car parking revenue has bounced back really quickly and against all predictions owing to the fine weather and the number of people who are either on furlough or working flexibly and able to take their families to the beach and enjoy the sunshine. The car parks in seaside resorts have been absolutely jam packed.

There are still complaints about the number of public toilets which remain closed, owing to the amount of cleaning that is needed throughout the opening hours, the design of them which means it is impossible to ensure social distancing at the entrances, the fact that there are staffing shortages owing to the summer holidays or illness impacting on cleaning rotas. More will open as soon as is practically possible.

Parish Matters

Red bridge

As I write this 2,673 people have signed the online petition which is an amazing response. DCC have drawn up the plans for the repair and it now all rests on the necessary permissions from the landowner. Time is very tight to secure this bridge for the winter. The picture below was taken in 1997, before mass erosion on both the east and west sides. The river at that time was very straight upstream of the bridge, there was a ford just this side of the bridge in the photo and there was no 'island' of gravel, sand and trees upstream and no sign of the island that has now formed downstream of the bridge.



Local Cub/Scouts seeking funds

Many families will know the riverside cub/scout site on the road between Harpford and Tipton St John. Although they are called the Tipton St John cubs/Scouts children from Newton Poppleford and the surrounding villages are also members. The riverside field a really lovely site but

at the moment it can only be used in the summer months as there is no electric lighting nor running fresh water. CV-19 has brought additional challenges with the requirement for frequent hand washing and hygiene and at the moment all that water has to be carried onto the site. The plan is to put in a bore hole and pump, and run electricity to the site from across the river. During the winter months the group has to meet in the village hall which adds to their costs and reduces the outdoor scouting experience. Furthermore, having both electricity and running water would allow the site to have more events that could also raise further funds. Scout Leader Brian Foulkes, who lives in Newton Poppleford, is a force to be reckoned with and is working hard to raise funds. The entire project could come in at over £20,000. If you feel able to offer some financial support to this excellent club that does so much for young people or you can help with the fund raising, please contact Brian on 01395 567600.

Dog Poo in Webbers Meadow

It really beggars belief that despite dog bins being provided, I walked through Webbers Meadow the other morning and within the first 20 yards there were several piles of dog poo right on the mown path, (not that it's OK to leave it in the long grass either). I urge anyone who sees someone not pick up to catch their attention (excuse me, would you like a poo bag?) and offer them a bag. I think people are generally afraid that the situation will turn confrontational if you say anything to a person who does not pick up, but in my experience of always challenging anyone who doesn't pick up, they never refuse to do so. As for the extraordinary individual who takes the time to bag it up, and then flings it in the bushes, it is hard to work out the thought process. The start of the river walk near to the play park is a hot spot for this. The danger to wildlife and the plastic pollution is a real scourge on the countryside and antisocial on so many levels.

Venn Ottery and problems with ongoing works by Western Power

Just to keep you up to date, we've once again been having electricity supply problems in Venn Ottery for the last 2-3 weeks. Western Power personnel are working on this but have so far failed to identify the actual source of the breakdowns and we are once again reliant on generators (3 of them).

The electric power issue is of course in addition to the disruption caused by the gas pipeline work ongoing, and I tend to wonder if their projected completion date of 4/9/20 is over-optimistic. The gas supply does not reach past Bowhayes Farm so residents in the centre of the village do not have the alternative of a gas supply unless they have bottled gas (which we have, but only for the cooker hob).

I have received comments from residents about their wish to be connected to the gas supply, but at present the pipeline cuts across the fields, avoiding central Venn Ottery.

Chairman of VOSRA

Ward Councillor's Report – continued

On line talk - Air Source Heat Pumps – everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask

Some of you have walked past Peeks house in Harpford in recent weeks and spotted the planning application for an air source heat pump. A number of people have asked for more information about them, so the applicant Adrian Pope has decided to give an online talk about what he has learnt. You can register for this using the details below. It is being hosted by the Devon Cambridge Society on 7th September 18.05, and guests are very welcome. There will be an extremely short AGM for the society beforehand at 18.00 which you are also welcome to attend.

This is what Adrian said:

The government is pushing Air Source Heat Pumps as part of its energy efficiency programme. They produce more heat energy than the electrical energy that they consume. How do they appear to break the Laws of Thermodynamics? I will talk about some of the theory and about some of the practical matters. Click here to register -

<https://webcollect.org.uk/devoncambridgesociety/event/air-source-heat-pumps-zoom-talk-by-adrian-pope>

Harpford Village Hall

The committee met this week and decided that we would not open yet but that hoped to hold a picnic socially distanced event in the near future. More details to follow. Work has continued inside with woodworm treatment, loft insulation and the committee were successful in a funding bid of £1,000 toward loss of income and ongoing running costs during lockdown. The Committee did not take up the £10,000 business rate relief offer as it seemed immoral to claim this when there are people in real hardship during this time.

Vacancy for a Harpford Ward Councillor on the Parish Council.

A resident has called for an election for this place to be filled. Unfortunately the government has said there can be no elections until May 2021 due to CV-19. The Harpford ward extends beyond the village of Harpford; it runs along the village north of the A3052, for example through the Bovis Estate and westward along to Burrow. You can watch parish council meetings online if you want to get a flavour of the meetings where decisions are made, although of course the actual work of the parish council takes place outside of the meetings themselves. Do consider whether you could get involved in the work of the parish council - with meetings now convened online it is easier for those with ties at home to be able to be engaged. Meetings are once a month, with occasional finance meetings in between for those on the finance committee.

Thank you again for your ongoing support and for raising matters that are important to you and that affect our parish.

Stay safe and well.

Cllr Val Ranger

tel: 07475 201 340 email: vranger@btinternet.com

Sidholme - no rescue

We have tried our hardest over the past 11 weeks, but sadly, although raising over £¼m we have not achieved our financial target of £2m. However, we are pleased to say that we can return all monies to those who donated both through GoFundMe (less a transaction fee) and by cheque and will do so during August.

Christian Guild has placed Sidholme on the Open Market. It would be wonderful if the eventual new owner/s continue to allow use of the Music Room for musical and other events.

We sincerely thank all those who have donated, all remaining staff at Sidholme, the Sidmouth Herald who have supported our campaign, and our Facebook team.

To remind you, our aim was to generate a rescue package for Sidholme Hotel together with the Music Room.

We conducted due diligence and developed financial models for the following possibilities, which included phased refurbishment of the hotel some of which already have planning permission:

- A Luxury Spa Hotel, a Boutique Hotel, Serviced Apartments, or Apartments for retired musicians who could enjoy full use of the Music Room.
- A Destination Restaurant – talked with a London-based Michelin Star Chef!
- Splitting the grounds - the former Lindemann Laboratories and Annexe could be redeveloped, the first consideration being conversion to flats for young people.
- The effects of COVID-19 on financial income from the hotel to the end of 2021.

We also carried out the following:

- Approached over seventy Charities, Trusts, Entrepreneurs and others to seek investment funding.
- Prepared the paperwork for a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation), and also considered forming a CBS (Community Benefit Society).
- Consultations with a Valuer and Independent local experts highlighting key points to take into consideration.
- Submitted a considered offer to Christian Guild on 29th May 2020, subject to our Appeal, survey and contract.

If you have any questions please email:

savehiddengem@outlook.com

John McGregor

Devon Wildlife Trust



Beavers on the Otter



AFTER YEARS OF UNCERTAINTY, the government has announced that England's first wild breeding population of beavers for 400 years has been given the permanent right to remain in their East Devon river home.

The decision announced by Defra is a pioneering one, as it signals the first legally sanctioned reintroduction of an extinct native mammal to England. It means that the beaver population, which lives on the River Otter and is estimated to consist of up to 15 family groups, now has a secure future.

The announcement comes after the successful completion of the [River Otter Beaver Trial](#) that we have been conducting alongside key partners, including the University of Exeter and Clinton Devon Estates.

Today is a huge step forward for the status of the beaver in England, and we are keen that this momentum is gathered and culminates in an England Beaver Strategy.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners and supporters. Your support in our beaver campaigns has meant that we have been able to achieve this result. We are proud to work with our community of supporters and members and, if you would like to further help the cause of our pioneering conversation work and are not already a member please do think of joining us as a member for as little as £3 a month. Your support ensures that we can work towards a wilder future for Devon. [Click here to find out more.](#)

Your social media highlights

You loved our post about this marbled white butterfly waiting patiently for the sun to start shining again in North Devon on one of the wildflower rich Culm grassland sites unique to this area. [Click here to watch this moment of peace.](#)



You also loved this little beaver kit video, taken on the River Otter, showing one of this year's litter! [Click here to watch.](#)



Working hard for nature!



We're working hard for nature! Green hay from species rich North Devon sites is spread on nearby species-poor grasslands to help enhance habitats. This work, along with changes in site management, will enhance habitats for wildlife, improve soil health, and help to decrease flood risk.



We are delighted to say that our amazing Seaton Jurassic visitor centre has reopened! Want to travel back in time and explore the Jurassic Coast's unique and exciting past? [Book today, here.](#)



Go wild at home!

Wildlife Window...

Look to the skies this week to see what's circling and swooping nearby, with [this bird of prey spotter sheet!](#)



Are YOU ready for this jelly!?! Not yet? Ok ... Groups of jellyfish (known as 'smacks') have been spotted around the coast. Now you can ID them with [this handy guide](#), so NOW you're ready for this jelly!



Good people!

We LOVE this sign in Exeter: 'What you call overgrown, they call home'. Sums it up perfectly, and such a brilliant [action for insects!](#)



Love wildflower meadows? Love beavers? Want to know more about them? You're in luck! Join us on **Thursday 3rd September** to learn all about meadows from conservation experts. [Click here to book your free ticket!](#) And join us on **Thursday 17th September** to hear all about the success of our River Otter Beaver Trial - [click here to book!](#) All tickets are FREE- book early to avoid disappointment!



🍷 How to make a ladybird hotel to prepare for winter!

- ✅ Tie sections of bamboo cane into a bundle
- ✅ Stuff some straw around them to provide insulation and then pop the bundle into a non-porous pot
- ✅ Position 2 feet off the ground in a sheltered, sunny spot!

During these difficult times it is not always easy to stay connected to nature so please share with us what you are doing at home to help wildlife or what you have seen that made you smile. Email us at

contactus@devonwildlifetrust.org or post to our [Facebook](#), or [Instagram](#) pages. If you think that your friends or family would enjoy hearing from us, encourage them to [sign up to these e-mails through this link!](#)



Mother to young daughter after first day at school:
"Well, dear, what did they teach you today?"

Daughter: "Not much. I've got to go back again tomorrow."



CLINTON DEVON ESTATES

Beavers living on River Otter have helped shape national policy and the future of an iconic species which can now be part of the British countryside again.

Many of you will have heard this significant announcement and seen the River Otter make the national and international news last month. After five-years of study and additional months of uncertainty, England's first wild breeding population of beavers were finally granted the permanent right to remain in their river home, after a gap of 400 years.

The decision announced on 6 August by Defra is a landmark one, as it signals the first legally sanctioned reintroduction of an extinct native mammal to England. It means that the beaver population, which lives on the River Otter and is estimated to consist of up to 15 family groups, now has a secure future.

The announcement came after the successful completion of a five-year trial overseeing the animals and their impacts led by the Devon Wildlife Trust working in partnership with The University of Exeter, the Derek Gow Consultancy, and Clinton Devon Estates. Expert independent advice is also provided by the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, Dr Roisin Campbell-Palmer, Professor John Gurnell, Professor Alastair Driver and Gerhard Schwab.

In February the project published a '[Science and Evidence Report](#)' overseen by independent researchers from the University of Exeter. This concluded that the beavers' presence had brought benefits to people and wildlife living along the River Otter.

Key findings highlighted how other wildlife had greatly benefitted from the beavers' presence because of the ways in which beavers enhance wetland habitats. The report showed how beavers' dam building activities had also helped reduce the risk of flooding to some flood-threatened human settlements and the positive role that beavers could have in improving water-quality, with their dams acting as filters which trap soil and other run-off from surrounding farmland.

The report also drew attention to some localised problems for landowners where beavers were present and explained how these had been managed. More broadly, a number of specialist interest groups and organisations remain concerned about the extent of felling of riverside trees and how beaver dams may obstruct migration of fish in certain situations.

Clinton Devon Estates has been proud to have played a key role in the delivery of the River Otter Beaver Trial (ROBT). Through our involvement with the Trial we have seen at first hand the benefits beavers can bring to society. We have also seen the conflicts that can arise and believe that there is a need to manage this species.

The ROBT partnership has recommended an approach to management to help avoid the negative impacts of these creatures whilst allowing the benefits to be maximised. Alongside all members of the Trial we are calling for the government to support this. The strategy includes ensuring that landowners are supported financially to make more space for water, so that land-based businesses can co-exist alongside beavers and their wetlands.



Harvest Quiz Answers *(from p 11)*

1. Loaf
2. Field Mice
3. Galatians (6:7)
4. The Archers
5. Samhain
6. 22 million tonnes
7. Yams
8. 1 in 7
9. Jean Francois Millet
10. Apples
11. To provide for the poor
12. Gardeners Question Time
13. Neil Young
14. Trees
15. Vegetable
16. Germany
17. 90%
18. Harvest Mouse
19. Ceres
20. The bagel



Round and About *the editor's ramblings*



THIS MAGAZINE – 1. Welcome back to the full colour printed edition. It should now also be available (with lower resolution) on the church website newtonpopplefordchurch.org.uk. Since it last appeared on the street in late March, there have been four electronic versions of Popplemag for May, June, July and August, which I have emailed out to as many as I have an email address for and they have also been included on the Parish Council website. I had hoped that by passing the message on to friends and neighbours, everybody with an internet service could have had sight of one. The few I know who have no internet and particularly requested it have had home-printed copies of Popplemag, but there have obviously been a few who missed out, so apologies to them – it was the best we could do when hand delivery of printed issues was banned by the government regulations. We are hoping that the full printed edition will now continue for the rest of the year – but subject to another lockdown if there is a surge in infections.

THIS MAGAZINE – 2. During the next couple of months the Magazine editorial team will be discussing the way forward for next year. One thing is obvious – the cost of the full colour printed magazine will rise, printing services are increasing costs and prices could also be affected by large tariffs if Trade agreements are not in place by January, which is looking increasingly likely. Impossible at this stage to say by how much, but I would guess a increase of between 50% and 100% over the current cover price.

We will be considering three options, but would welcome as many ideas and comments as possible from the readers before the decision is made:

1. Continue with the full colour printed edition delivered to the door of subscribers who pay the annual sub. An electronic version would be added to the church website.
2. Move to electronic publishing only. This would have some advantage of greater immediacy, without waiting the 8/9 working days for the printing process.
3. A Hybrid of 1 & 2, whereby the main availability would be on the church website, but some printed and delivered editions would be available for those who particularly wanted it and paid the full price upfront for the year.

Please let me know your opinions during September, at haylor@lasses.me.uk or telephone 01395 568786 or drop a note through the post box on the church front gatepost.

ON TO more relaxed matters. Not much happening in the village yet to report on and our musical activities look to have ceased until next spring, due to the difficulties of fitting spaced-out orchestras into village hall and churches, not to mention the ban on singers or blowers of wind instruments.

WE HAVE continued getting fresh air and exercise, without getting close to others, with days out visiting Iron-Age hillforts in East Devon and West Dorset. Our tally is now nearly 30 hill-tops over the last three months and, apart from a few disappointments due to lack of access or thick undergrowth, it has been wonderfully uplifting – the walks have done us both good and the views have been spectacular. Thoroughly recommended, and all for only the cost of a good map and the ability to read it (plus of course a good pair of boots and a picnic).



OUR daughter and grandson wanted to meet up for a day out, so we combined a hillfort visit with a lovely family occasion, since Google Maps suggested that Brent Knoll was almost exactly half-way between their home in Gloucestershire and Newton Poppleford. A suitably-distanced lunch in the pub garden, followed by a good climb up and walk around the top, descending for an ice-cream and then a picnic tea on the sea front at nearby Burnham-on-Sea. And the sun shone all day.

OTHER daughter, hubby and twin granddaughters took a holiday let in Sidmouth for a week, so, dodging the heavy showers, some great times together on the beach, in the garden or cycling along the Exe Estuary Trail. At least as good for us as going away for a holiday



FINALLY, a plea to let me know if your club or activity is starting up again, for a fuller listing.

AS WE ARE COMING towards the end of our summer work programme here at the RSPB, we have been glad to be able to welcome some of our volunteers back in a limited capacity to help with our rather long list of priority tasks – they are invaluable for delivering our conservation work across the Commons. Also, although a little later than planned, we are delighted to announce our new warden, Dylan, officially joined us at the end of July.

There has been quite the flurry of activity the past few weeks, getting the last of the seasonal spraying work done to improve the quality of our meadows, and waging war on some triffidous bracken. Our livestock have been moved into their summer grazing loops, we have eight Aberdeen Angus out on Venn Ottery Common, and twenty-seven hill breed cattle grazing across Aylesbeare and Harpford. Most of our herd of ponies from Aylesbeare have been seconded to sites in Stockland, but four have been turned out on Withycombe Raleigh Common, which is currently teeming with blackberries – our volunteers might have left some for you ...

The hot dry weather we've been enjoying recently has the fruit ripening quickly, but it also means the area is still under a significant risk of fire. Several bonfires have been reported to us recently, they had already been put out by the time we got there, but mounds of ash can stay hot for 24 hours after the flames have been extinguished and it only takes a gust of wind for an errant spark to cause a major wildfire. Please always follow the fire service's guidance and don't have BBQs or bonfires on the heaths.

Another piece of news we're excited to announce is our involvement in one of the first UK trials of a virtual fencing system for our livestock on Fire Beacon Hill, in partnership with Natural Branscombe. Linked to GPS collars worn by the cattle, an online software allows us to draw virtual boundaries in place of erecting extensive physical electric fencing – when an animal gets too close to our boundaries the collar gives it an audible warning followed by a mild electric shock if it ignores the warning. This new system will hopefully allow us more control over grazing patterns and open up new areas we haven't been able to graze before. There is also the added benefit of no risks of accidental electric shocks to deer, dogs, or children once the physical fences have been removed – although dogs must be kept under control to prevent them spooking the cattle, particularly while we are training them to respect the collars.

Ellie Woolway

Devon Reserves Administrator



Gardening for wildlife



Small Copper butterfly feeding on knapweed © Trevor Dines/Plantlife

IT'S ESTIMATED that there are 16 million gardens in the UK. That's a lot of land with which we can be gardening for wildlife. Wildlife is not only beautiful in its own right, but is useful for the gardener, from pest control to pollination. Bees help pollinate flowers and food. Frogs eat slugs. Birds and ladybirds help keep aphids at bay.

1. Wild plants for wildlife

Wild plants are great for wildlife. This is because our native plants and animals have been around longer than species that have been introduced to this country. They've evolved together and are more likely to support and sustain each other.

- Wild flowers and blossom provide food in the form of nectar and pollen for bees and other insects.
- Berries are important for feeding birds when food supplies are short.
- Small trees and shrubs that are good for blossom and berries include rowan, crab apple, elder, blackthorn and hawthorn.

2. Wildflower meadows

Why not attract wildlife into your garden by creating a wildflower meadow? Our how to guide is available [here](#).

If you don't have room, simply leaving patches of lawn to grow longer will allow flowers to bloom for bees and butterflies and provide shelter for small mammals such as wood mice, voles and shrews. Take up our pledge to 'Say no to the mow' and leave the lawn mower in the shed until August.

3. Build a pond

The single best way to bring wildlife into the garden is to build a pond. It doesn't have to be big – a container will do. But it needs to have at least one sloping side so that creatures can easily get in and out. Want to know what plants to grow there? Visit our [Wildflowers to Grow in the Garden](#) page and choose "pond" as your location. Or why not build a [bog garden](#)?

<https://plantlife.love-wildflowers.org.uk/>

Night Skies * * *

WE ARE NOW PASSING from summer through to autumn. As I look south at the moment I can see the moon, Jupiter and Saturn sitting nicely in a line in the sky. Through September Jupiter will continue shining in the southern skies setting after 22:30, Saturn sets after 1.00am, so both will be visible for those with small telescopes or binoculars. They will continue to be visible in the evening skies during October and November. Venus rises around 2.30am and looks quite resplendent in the dark skies prior to the sun rise. Mercury is too close to the sun for us to see.

Nights are becoming longer as we head towards changing our clocks again in October, and some of the well-known constellations are now being seen after midnights telling us that winter will soon be here.

In October we have the Orionid meteor shower which is at maximum on the 21st/22nd October. This shower is caused when the earth passes points on its orbit where there is debris left by Halley's Comet. They should be visible from late evening and overnight and the best time to view them will be after midnight once the moon has set.

In October the Andromeda constellation is in a good position and the Andromeda galaxy should be visible. This is considered to be the most distant object which can be viewed with the naked eye. Despite this it can be a tricky object to spot. Because of the way our eyes work it is better to look just slightly to the left or right so the image falls on the outer region of your retina. This is called averted vision and is the only way to find both the Andromeda Galaxy and on a really clear night the Triangulum Galaxy. Don't expect to see something like the images you get from the Hubble telescope. What you are looking for is a fuzzy blob. Neither of these are visible if you have light pollution though, so find a very dark spot and then look for the W of Cassiopeia it will probably be quite high in the sky. Just to the left you should see a > shape which if you follow it down you will find the square of Pegasus. Go back to the > shape and half way along the upper arm is where the galaxy is. I hope some of you do manage to see it.

By November the summer constellations are moving out of view and the winter constellations of Taurus and Orion are moving into the southern skies. I'm sure most of you can recognise Orion and from there many other objects are easy to find, including the Orion nebula and other things we'll take about in the December issue.

At Present the NLO is closed because of COVID-19, but hopefully we will be open again prior to the new year. No matter what "keep looking up." *Kate Allan*



The Tale of the Blackberries

I HAVE to confess to being a bit of a scavenger, nothing gives me greater pleasure than to pick fruits and berries etc when I'm out walking, possibly it's because it costs me nothing! But I like to make them into a variety of preserves which I can then give to friends



The Revd Canon Cate Edmonds and family. I think it is my way of sharing the abundance of God's creation. This time of the year of course it's the time for blackberries. I like to pick them when I'm walking my dogs and often pick, with the help of my husband, large amounts which I make into bramble jelly and blackberry and apple crumbles and pies.

This year however it is different; there seem to be far less good berries to pick so far. Most of our usual bushes have fruit, but they are small and dried up, I suppose this is the result of the heat wave just as they were forming. The lack of water and extreme heat has made them shrivel up. They have failed to grown into their true juicy stage. In fact to blossom into what they were intended to be has not taken place because something was missing, the water of life, and when a change occurred and something unusual happened, extreme heat, they were not able to cope.

This has made me reflect on our own spiritual development. In order for each of us to grow into the people God intended us to be we need to be constantly nourished, regularly watered with the Holy Spirit. Remember what Jesus said to the woman at the well? Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." (John 4:13-14)

Being denied our usual forms of worship has felt for many of us like a drought, we may have felt spiritually dried up at times. Now that there is a slight release from the constraints of lockdown this may be of some relief and we may well feel that we are starting to be watered once more. We are however still able to drink of Christ's water by our personal prayer life and regular reading of the scriptures. If we drink deeply of the water of life which we receive from Christ we are able to cope when adverse weather comes, we are able to cope when the extremes of life hit us.

When I look at the shrivelled blackberries it makes me realise that I must work hard not to become shrivelled and dried up in my faith and seek to be regularly watered so that I can continue to cope when adversity, be it minor or major, hits. The humble blackberry has taught me a lesson, it's amazing what nature can teach us if we stop and appreciate it.



Charles Townshend

Charles was born to Noel and Hilary Townshend on 12th June 1941, in Great Malvern. Charles and his mother lived with his grandparents in Colwall for most of the war, later moving to join Noel, stationed in Orkney.

Sister Susan arrived in 1945 and Penny in 1946, after which Charles was at home referred to as “Boy”. Sue says, “Boy was certainly a term of endearment used by my Pa. I always thought it came from a character in ‘Eagle’. Harris Tweed, a private detective, had an assistant who always saved the day. He was Boy, dressed in short trousers and wearing spectacles”. Sue remembers Charles’s kindness as a brother: “He came to collect me immediately from my grandmother’s when I rang up distressed after I had spent nearly a year looking after her. My hero.” Charles was also the big brother who, on returning from university with his first record player, filled the house with full volume classical music.

While Penny is no longer with us, we remember her here too, and her great affection and respect for Charles. Penny’s yearly gift of the latest Terry Pratchett book was something he treasured.

At age 12, Charles went to live with his uncle Tim, Lorna and the family, during his first year at Ipswich School. Charles later described the time living with Uncle Tim, a Clergyman, as influential to his own vocation.

Living with cousins Jane, Ned and Tim perhaps also cemented the importance of extended family. Charles apparently took the role of eldest cousin very seriously. Family history was important to him, as was his connection with his own and successive generations of Townshends. Charles recalled fondly the early family gatherings at Cranfield and the Malverns, with the tradition carrying on at Skyborry. Both family and friends have commented on the warm welcome extended by Charles and Gill to those visiting their home over the years – Charles always on cue for “opening the bar”.

After school, Charles travelled by sea to Australia, spending a year living with his Aunt Molly in Adelaide. On returning to the UK he read Theology at St Peter’s Hall, Oxford, establishing close friendships through rowing for the college. The annual ‘Fours Club’ dinners with these friends continued until last year.

Charles attended Westcott House, Cambridge, for vocational training to become a Clergyman. He was ordained at Southwark Cathedral in 1967, becoming Curate and later Priest in Charge at Warlingham. Charles has been described by those who studied and trained with him as a “good and constant friend”, “a lovely man: gentle and principled”, “a faithful parish priest”.

At Warlingham, Charles also embarked on life as a family man, here meeting Gillian, with whom he went on to share almost 48 years of marriage. Gill has spoken about how much Charles introduced her to from his own learning – particularly in terms of music, literature and gardening – things that they went on to share and delight in together. Alongside of this, Charles always encouraged and held appreciation for Gill’s own talents

and interests. They met at Southwick Croquet Club and instead of attending the August tournament in 1972, Gill and Charles were married at Warlingham.

Edward was born in 1974. The following year the family moved to Somerset, Charles taking up the role of Rector of Old Cleeve. Jane arrived in 1976 and Ruth in 1977.

At Old Cleeve, Charles’s love of gardening had space to flourish. It was a pleasure to Charles that his children inherited this interest; and he always helped with gusto on projects like clearing brambles and ivy, or feats of garden engineering. Bonfires, digging the spuds, a good solid compost heap, the smell of a summer greenhouse - these will always be associated with Dad.

In 1985, the family moved to the Rectory at Bishops Lydeard; and in 1995 Charles became Vicar of North Curry. On his retirement in 2006 Charles moved with Gill to Colaton Raleigh. He continued his ministry here as a retired priest until October 2018.

Mark Ward added a personal tribute, "It has been lovely for me personally and for the parish to have Charles resident in Colaton Raleigh. Charles has always been the perfect retired vicar: always willing to help but never interfering. He has taken many Sunday services and several village funerals over the years. But more than that, Charles has quietly been a pastoral carer to many people in the village."

Charles has been remembered affectionately as very much involved in village life. He enjoyed entering produce in village shows – being particularly proud of his prizewinning roses. In North Curry, he joined the village choir, and continued that here as a 2nd bass in Ottery Choral Society. His taste for performance was not confined to choir, but extended to treading the boards at village pantomimes. Charles’s authoritative bearing and voice, along with his great sense of fun, allowed him to turn his hand to a variety of roles.

Croquet was of course enormously important to Charles, who enjoyed both the competitive aspect, and the companionship and community that came with the game. The move to Colaton Raleigh was very much influenced by its proximity to Budleigh Croquet club, which he had joined in 1985. Charles served as a committee member, and is also remembered for his time running the Bar – usually himself with a glass of Otter Ale in hand.

Retirement allowed time for Charles to enjoy the expanding family, too – Vanessa’s marriage to Edward in 2006 being followed by the birth of grandchildren, Molly and Toby. Charles was delighted in the continuation of the family line. He was also a proud Godfather to Rebecca and Richard.

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Gill and all the family wish to pass on thanks to so many local people. In this year we had so much help and loving concern over the difficulties that we were encountering. Since Charles’ death in July we have been overwhelmed by love and support, and kindly appreciation of Charles in all aspects of his life here in Devon. Thank you one and all.



# Tales of Lockdown

## Bad Hair Days .. and days .. and days

The hairdressers are in lockdown, deemed non-essential by our Boris. I wonder if this would be the case if there were a Teresa or a Margaret in Number Ten – things may have been different and the scissors would be snipping, perm lotion being mixed and the hairdryer blowing.

Anyway, my hair can't understand lockdown and definitely needs some of the above. Anything will do; ladies need their hair to be attended to – it's in their genes, and if not cut it will soon be in my jeans.

Mrs Jones next door, with hair as red as wine, was hanging out the washing with a bandana on her head: now it's battleship grey as I spy a trace of her hair falling out from its covering. She looked up and waved to me and said, "You nose old so-and-so". I'm only guessing that because she is wearing a mask and visor that conceals her face; she is also wearing gauntlets, the type they use in a shipyard, that makes it awkward to peg her washing on her line. Mr Jones came to help her: his hair and he is using it to advantage by pulling it forward to cover up his bald patch: with that patch covered, his parting is on the back of his head.

I turn away from the window and catch myself in the mirror: I really need a haircut to get myself back on track, but I can't do that as we are in lockdown, so that's the end of that. I try to cut my hair by looking in the mirror – that's impossible because you want to go left but your hand goes right.

I worry about post-lockdown when the hairdressers open again: there will be a mountain of cut hair, what to do with that, but for now I have to live with my unkempt mane and keep social distancing.

I did see in a newspaper. a manicurist doing someone's nails through her letter-box, but it was April the first. This got me thinking, and I thought that if I could get my head through the cat flap, the hairdresser could trim the top of my hair – this is how the mullet could be reinstated (please don't try this at home!). Also, being diabetic, could the nurse cut my toe-nails via the cat flap. We are already having wine delivered through the cat flap – oh! we wish for a larger cat flap. What could you pass through that as well as the cat, that brought a friend with her last time so Tiger isn't social distancing and keeping the purrfect distance apart.

Oh! when will be able to go to the hairdressers and get our hair in order and catch up on the village natter? Neighbours sitting in their gardens the correct distance apart with a cup of tea and talking to each other. A typical conversation may be like this:

"Nice weather."

"Pardon, what did you say? How's Heather?"

"She's alright."

"What do you mean, she gave you a fright?"

"What's on the telly tonight; usual old repeats."

"I know, I blame the onions."

The country is in crisis with this virus: oh! when will we be able to shake a person's hand or even give a cuddle or a peck on the cheek? When will the Whist Drive and the Short Mat Bowls start? Please tell us it will be soon.

But back to my hair – it's long and not a curl in sight – but I don't care anymore, as long as everyone is alright.

## Who is where?

A man was very sick. Doctors feared the worst. As he lay at home, he suddenly looked up and said weakly: "Is my wife here?"

His wife replied, "Yes, dear, I'm here, next to you."

The man whispered: "Are my children here?"

"Yes, Daddy, we are all here," said the children.

"Are my brother and sister also here?"

And they say, "Yes, we are all here..."

The man sat up and cried, "Then why in the world is the light on in the kitchen?"

## All in the month of September

400 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1620, 102 English Puritans (now known as the Pilgrims) set sail aboard the Mayflower from Plymouth, for a new life in America. After a perilous journey they landed in what is now Provincetown Harbour, Cape Cod, Massachusetts on 11<sup>th</sup> November. They had intended landing in Virginia, but were unable to reach it because of heavy seas.

150 years ago, on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1870 Rome was captured. Italian forces defeated the Papal States and captured the city of Rome at the end of the wars of Italian Unification. The Papal States were dissolved. Rome was annexed, and it became the capital of Italy in 1871.

125 years ago, on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1895 Louis Pasteur died. This French biologist, microbiologist and chemist was one of the main founders of the field of medical microbiology. Best known for originating the pasteurization of foodstuffs to eliminate micro-organisms that cause disease. Pasteur saved the French beer, wine and silk industries and developed vaccines against anthrax and rabies.

65 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1955 Britain's first independent television channel, ITV, was launched. It ended the BBC's monopoly. Regional franchises were rolled out across the whole country by 1965.

50 years ago, on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1970 the first Glastonbury Festival was held, at Worthy Farm near Pilton, Somerset. About 1,500 people attended (compared to 135,000 today).

40 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1980 the Solidarity movement was created in Poland, with Lech Walesa as its leader. It was the first independent trade union in the Soviet bloc.

25 years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1995 the auction site eBay was founded (as AuctionWeb).

# Tech Corner

## The Cookie Monster

I'm often asked about cookies; we're prompted to accept cookies on almost every website now, so it's something that cannot be avoided and can worry users if you don't fully understand them. I hope this month's article will help you make sense of what cookies are.

The term cookie comes from the Hansel and Gretel story where the children used cookie crumbs to find their way home. A computer cookie is a small piece of text that a website stores on your computer to know you've visited before. Cookies do not normally store personal information about you so they are mostly safe to accept, and clearing your cookies regularly can give you a poor experience online.

On the BBC website you can change the size of the fonts, the site will store a cookie to say that you prefer a smaller or larger font, and it will remember this for your next visit. This 'functionality' cookie is quite safe and even desirable.

If you sign into a website like Amazon the website writes a cookie on your computer to say you have passed the login test. When you then visit another page in the same site, this cookie is viewed to know that you're a logged-in user. Without these functionality cookies you couldn't login.

The more nosy cookies are known as 'tracking' cookies. If you were to visit a shopping site such as Argos and look at a vacuum cleaner, they might write a tracking cookie onto your computer. If you then visit the Amazon site they might read this cookie and display an advert for vacuum cleaners. This is pretty useful if you're looking for a vacuum cleaner, but can be a little embarrassing if you were to look for ladies underwear, and every website you visit henceforth displays an advert for lingerie.

There are some cookies that have more sinister intentions and act as part of a network of sites. They use as many websites as possible to build a picture of your buying habits and then advertise products straight to you, in some cases using phone or email to follow-up on buying enquiries. This is known as 'remarketing' cookies.

In 2018 it became European law that all websites using anything but the most basic functionality cookies must notify the user and gain their consent. This has meant that any websites with users in the EU have to hit their visitors with an ugly cookie message, changing the aesthetics of a site but it also causes some users unnecessary worry about using a website. A very undesirable side effect of this is law is that some American and non-EU websites have simply blocked access to EU visitors as they don't wish to conform to the law and give away their cookie policies. One news blog suggests this is as high as 25% of US websites.

Our advice is to not worry about cookies and certainly don't manually clean them from your computer unless you're about to commit a crime, in which case try to use someone else's computer!

I hope you find this information useful. If you would like to see particular subjects covered then please feel free to ask at [www.alfindlay.com](http://www.alfindlay.com).

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Of course, Vicar, you are most welcome to some harvest milk. Would you like 4% fat, 3.5% fat, 1% fat, pre-treated, post-treated, homogenised, whole, skimmed, semi-skimmed or flavoured...?

## Pandemic amid millions of locusts

The six African countries where Send a Cow works face devastation, not only by the pandemic, but also the huge swarms of locusts which have destroyed thousands of acres of crops.

In response, Send a Cow staff have supported struggling communities by teaching them how to prevent the spread of the virus, as well as good hygiene.

Send a Cow is also providing radio broadcasts with information, and emergency food supplies and seeds, so that the farmers do not miss the next critical planting window.

Now Send a Cow is asking supporters in the UK if they could commit to a personal challenge like a run, cycle or climb, to raise funds, or maybe even simply donating on behalf of their business or family. One couple ran and cycled for 260 miles, raising £2000. "Whatever we can each do is greatly appreciated," says Send a Cow. If you can help, go to: <https://sendacow.org>

## 23<sup>rd</sup> September: When the sun goes edgewise

23<sup>rd</sup> September is the autumnal equinox (if you live in the northern hemisphere) or the vernal (Spring) equinox (if you live in the southern hemisphere) The equinoxes occur in March and September, when the Sun is 'edgewise' to the Earth's axis of rotation, so that everywhere on earth has twelve hours of daylight and twelve hours of darkness.

# Driving or Driven

## What to eat when you drive

Here is a way of staying awake at the wheel on those long motorway drives: avoid heavy foods such as hamburgers, chips and cakes. They only encourage drowsiness, which accounts for 23 per cent of fatal car crashes, according to France's motorway companies.

Instead, choose a meal high in water content, with some bitterness and acidity to round it off. For example, how about: some radishes, a lentil dish, and then kiwi fruit and dark chocolate, washed down with water? This sort of meal has a low glycaemic index, which means there is no sugar rush followed by a drop in your alertness.

The idea is based on research done by the French insurers' federation Assurance Prevention.



A man comes home from work and is greeted by his wife. She tells him she has some good news and some bad news about their car. The man said, "OK, give me the good news." She replies, "The good news is that the air bags work."

A man is taking his son to school. "Oh no! I've just done something wrong." "It's OK," said his son, "The police car behind us has done the same thing."

A person is driving the wrong way up a one-way street. A policeman pulls them over and says, "Where are you going?" "I don't know," the driver says, "but I must be late as everyone is coming back."

# Politics

## Political career

American teacher to students: "Be diligent and steadfast, and you will succeed. Take the case of George Washington, our first ever president. Do you remember my telling you of the great difficulty that George Washington had to face? The big problem that could have been the end of his political career?"

"Sure," said a student. "He couldn't tell a lie."

## Decide

Politician to aide: "About their charge that I'm indecisive – do you think I should answer it, or let it go, or answer it in part, or what?"

## Old

Old politicians never die. They just run once too often.

## Straightforward

Admirer to political candidate: Great speech sir! I really like the straightforward way you dodged the issues.

## Public office

If you want to find out what's wrong with a man, elect him to public office.

## Crime

We pay a tremendous crime bill each year, but we do get a lot of crime for our money.

## Shakes

Politician: a fellow who shakes your hand before the election and shakes you after the election.

## Career

Politics: the career of plundering and blundering. - *Disraeli*

## Needed

What this country needs is fewer people who know what this country needs.

## Late

Being the office supervisor, I had to have a word with a new employee who never arrived at work on time. I explained that her tardiness was unacceptable and that other employees had noticed that she was walking in late every day. After listening to my complaints, she agreed that this was a problem and even offered a solution. "Is there another door I could use?"

## Bring back hedgerows

**W**E NEED our hedgerows back – urgently. They are part of ‘nature’s toolbox’ to help us reduce our carbon emissions.

That was the recent message from the CPRE countryside charity which points out that there were twice as many hedges in England before the Second World War. Since then thousands of kilometres of hedges have been ripped up to make way for new housing and motorways, and to merge and enlarge fields.

The 2007 UK Countryside Survey found that there were 600,000 kilometres of managed and unmanaged hedgerows in the UK, with the vast majority of them in England.

This was a significant decline on the same survey from 1984, when there were about 680,000 kilometres of hedges across Great Britain. That is a reduction of 80,000 kilometres, or 50,000 miles. To put that another way, we have ripped out about 57,000 times the entire length of Britain (874 miles).

No wonder, then, that the CPRE’s report, *Greener, better, faster: countryside solutions to the climate emergency and for a green recovery*, calls for millions of pounds to be spent on new hedges. It says: “By planting more trees and hedgerow, restoring peatlands and moving toward a more sustainable way of farming, we can use nature’s toolbox to capture greenhouse gases from the air, while revitalising our natural environment.”



## Gorse – cheerful and perfumed, but prickly!

The old saying 'Kissing is out of season when the gorse is not in bloom' is based on the fact that it is a rare time of year when a flower or two cannot be found. The bush itself, growing on heaths and moors is well-known for its vicious spikes. This is its answer to the problem of producing leaves that will withstand wind, rain and hungry animals.

The golden yellow flowers are at their absolute best in spring when the bushes, growing often to a height of seven to ten feet, seem to glow in the countryside.

They attract bees and other pollen-seeking insects and many of us enjoy the rich coconut-like perfume as well as the joyful colour. The sharp foliage gives protection to several species of bird as they nest deep in these bulging bushes, and larger animals such as sheep and cows, if grazing nearby, will take advantage of gorse as a very effective windbreak.

In the past, gorse, also known as 'furze' or 'whin', was used as fuel as it burns very readily when dry. This has caused many serious moorland fires in recent years, but gorse is fortunately a resilient species and quickly sends up new shoots from the burnt stumps that remain. It is also apparently somewhat susceptible to frost, but will recover quickly with new growth.

A member of the pea family, its seeds are set in brown, somewhat unattractive pods, which on a hot summer's day can be heard popping, or they may be provoked into doing so when held in a hot hand. However, what might surprise us even more is that in the past, in country districts, it was used for drying washing, as the thorns would allow nothing to escape, even in the strongest of winds!



## Now even more plastic

**T**HERE IS GROWING CONCERN in the Government, among campaigners, and among scientists over how coronavirus has sparked an increase in single-use plastics.

Not only are millions of disposable masks and gloves now ‘out there’, but there has been also a huge increase in disposable cutlery, sachets and containers.

One study by UCL estimates that in the UK alone, if every person used a single-use face mask every day for a year, it would create an additional 66,000 tonnes of contaminated waste, and 57,000 tonnes of plastic packaging.

Two environment ministers, Lord Goldsmith and Rebecca Pow, have said: “We are actively thinking across the Government and NHS whether we can safely reuse PPE and we are aware of other countries who have begun looking at decontamination and reuse.”

Scientists warn that it could take up to 500 years for polypropylene face masks to degrade. Meanwhile, according to some estimates, 129 billion masks and 65 billion plastic gloves are being used each month worldwide.

## 'Big Conversation' launched on clergy care and wellbeing

CHURCHES and clergy across the country are to join in a nationwide discussion, the 'Big Conversation', aimed at improving the care and wellbeing of ministers.

It follows the recent welcome of the *Covenant for Clergy Care and Wellbeing at General Synod*. Now General Synod has asked that the whole church reflect on the questions it poses over the next two years. Hence, the 'Big Conversation'.

The Covenant commits all parts of the Church, as well as individual clergy, to sharing responsibility for the welfare of ministers and their households.

Recommendations include promoting awareness of stress and the dangers of burnout as part of training for ordained ministry. Also, there will be new resources for licensing and induction services that highlight the care and wellbeing of clergy. The Group also recommended more pastoral supervision for clergy through coaching or mentoring.

The Revd Canon Simon Butler, who headed the Working Group, said: "The care and wellbeing of the clergy is crucial to the health of the Church at worship, in mission, and in pastoral care."



### 'I do like to be beside the seaside!'

For centuries, many doctors have sent patients to the seaside to recuperate, believing that a bit of seaside air was good for them. Now the government agrees: a day by the coast does indeed have a therapeutic effect on you.

A recent study by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has found that people who spend time by the sea reported increased happiness and better general health. They were also more physically active during their visit, compared with visits to other types of environment.

## 14<sup>th</sup> September: Holy Cross Day

On Holy Cross Day the Church celebrates the Cross as a symbol of triumph, as the sign of Christ's victory over death. Holy Cross Day goes right back to 14 September 335, and we have the mother of a Roman Emperor to thank for it.

Helena was a devout Christian, and after her son, (Roman Emperor) Constantine, was converted, they agreed that she should travel from Rome to Israel, to seek out the places of special significance to Christians.

Of course, much of Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Romans around 135 AD. But even so, Helena finally located what she believed to be the sites of the Crucifixion and of the Burial (and modern archaeologists think she may well be correct). The sites were so close together that she built one large church over them - the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

That church, built in honour of the Cross, was dedicated on 14 September 335.

The sign of the Cross has been used by Christians since early times. Tertullian, writing his *De Corona* (3:2) around AD 211, noted that Christians seldom did anything significant without making the sign of the Cross.

A preacher once put it this way: if you were explaining to someone how to make a cross, you would say: "Draw an I." That is you, standing before the Lord, saying, 'here I am'. Then cancel that vertical stroke with a horizontal stroke – as if to say: "Lord, I abandon my self-will and make you the centre of my life instead. I abandon myself to your love and service."

On Holy Cross Day, we recall Jesus' wonderful promise: "And when I am lifted up, I will draw all men unto me."



## 21<sup>st</sup> September: St Matthew

Matthew was one of 12 apostles. But he began as a publican i.e. a tax-collector of Jewish race who worked for the Romans, before he left all at the call of Christ. From earliest times, he was regarded as the author of the first of the four Gospels. The Gospel of Matthew is in correct, concise style, very suitable for public reading.

His usual emblem as an evangelist is a man, because his genealogy emphasised the family ties of Christ. In art, he has been represented as either an evangelist or as an apostle. As an evangelist, he has been depicted sitting at a desk, writing his gospel with an angel holding the inkwell. In the Middle Ages he was even given a pair of spectacles. Matthew was martyred by a sword or a spear, some think in Ethiopia.



The Covid-19 pandemic is traumatic not only because it threatens our existence... but it also threatens the cultural norms, frameworks and habits that we take for granted ...leaving us socially isolated and ... disorientated. It is no longer easy for us to say '...but life goes on'.  
- Canon Joanna Collicutt, Ripon College Cuddesdon.

## A cup of joy!

A tea shop is a wondrous place  
Where I for one just love to be!  
A place to rest from life's harsh pace  
And sit and drink a cup of tea!  
Indeed, it's time to take a rest!  
From all life's pressures, take a break!  
And just today it might be best  
To have a slice of home-made cake!



Why is it that saying: "Have a nice day" sounds friendly, but saying "Enjoy your next 24 hours" sounds threatening?



## Back to School

### Borrowed

Teacher: We borrowed our numerals from the Arabs, our calendar from the Romans, and our banking from the Italians. Can anyone think of other examples?

Student: Well, we borrowed our lawnmower from the Smiths, our ladder from the Browns, and our hose from the Jones....



### Writing home

A boy was sent by his parents to a school a long distance from home. He had been strictly enjoined to write home regularly and tell them all about himself and his new life. At the end of the first week, his first text arrived: "There are 370 boys here. I wish there were 369."



### Off to uni...

Smith: So your son is in college? How is he making it?

Jones: He isn't. I'm making it and he is spending it.



### Shakespeare

Student essay: Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway, but he mostly lived at Windsor with his merry wives.

This is quite usual with actors.

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Tuesday 8 September

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Eden Way 10.30 to 11.00 am

#### Newton Poppleford

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## Miscellany

Young son to father: "Dad, what is the middle class?"

Dad: "The middle class consists of people who are not poor enough to accept charity and not rich enough to donate anything."



A second year student explaining to a first year student how to write essays: "When you take stuff from one writer, it's plagiarism, but when you take it from many writers, it's called research."



A sure way to forget all your troubles is to wear tight shoes.



**Fact of life** – It takes 84 days for the average schoolboy to outgrow a pair of shoes.



Somebody complimented me on my driving today. They left a note on the windscreen, it said 'Parking Fine'.



If all the college students who slept in class were placed end to end, they would be much more comfortable.

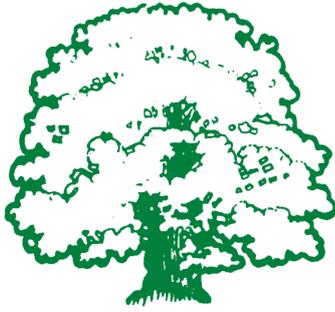


Two quick ways to disaster are to take nobody's advice and to take everybody's advice. - Anon

## The Magazine Editorial Group

Jaclynn Baker  
Haylor Lass  
Wendy Lee  
Telsa Mace  
Revd Mark Ward

The Magazine aims to be of service in carrying news and articles of the wide variety of local life and in providing a calendar and notice of forthcoming events. We welcome contributions from all, providing they are legal, decent & honest and don't conflict with our charitable status. Copy may be placed in the letterbox on the Church gatepost in the week before the closing date, or to the Editor, Haylor Lass, at Sunnyhill, Littledown Lane, Newton Poppleford, EX10 0BG –telephone 01395 568786, e-mail [haylor@lasses.me.uk](mailto:haylor@lasses.me.uk)  
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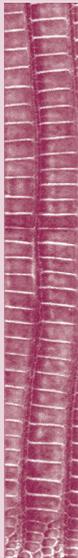
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