

February 2023



PUBLISHED MONTHLY AND DISTRIBUTED FREE TO ALL CURRY RIVEL RESIDENTS; ALSO AVAILABLE IN VARIOUS OUTLETS AROUND CURRY RIVEL



Cycle Somerset donates £500 towards the cycle and walking route

Jonathan Sladden

Cycle Somerset, a club with over 100 members, voted at their AGM to make a donation of £500 towards the costs of implementing the proposed Curry Rivel to Langport walking and cycle route which is part of the local active travel plan.

The route is supported by local schools, councils, landowners and businesses. The busy A378 is not suitable for younger or less confident riders and the new route will provide a safer alternative especially for school students. Feasibility studies have identified several possibilities within Curry Rivel itself

and between Curry Rivel and Langport and Huish Episcopi including key destinations such as The Academy and Leisure centre. Permissions are now required to implement the preferred options.

The cheque was presented to Cllr Marcus Hembrow by Graham Farrington chair of Cycle Somerset. Bridge Cycle Club, based in Langport, also came to offer their support for the proposed walking and cycling route

A Christmas Rollercoaster aka The Curate's Egg

Jennie Browning

Happy New Year to you all and I hope that everyone had a good Christmas.

I have two sisters and the three of us rented some cottages in Oxfordshire for the Christmas period, so that we could get all the family together. I often used to host Christmas and Boxing Day for the family, which I loved to do but unfortunately I don't have the space anymore – the joys of downsizing! It is so rare to have the three of us, plus my four nephews and their girlfriends, in the same place at the same time, that this was a wonderful occasion. We all have such busy and diverse lives that it takes some organisation, I can tell you. One of my nephews and his girlfriend were singing in the choir for two services at Brompton Oratory in London on Christmas Day, so couldn't join us until Boxing Day but that was fine. My sisters and I are very close, and all the nephews get on really well, so a good time was had by all. My aching ribs from laughing and silliness have just about recovered.

The only person who was missing from the gathering was our Mum. She is 94 and is now in a care home with

dementia. We did consider bringing her along but the whole thing would have been unsafe and far too much for her. We decided that we would hold a Christmas for her at the care home; just the three of us and my husband. We arranged to have the use of one of the lounges at the home and brought in the food (which we cooked in their kitchen), crackers, Christmas crockery and table decorations.

When we first arrived, she was feeling very tired and weak and didn't want to do anything. We got her dressed, borrowed a wheelchair and took her round to the lounge. After a cup of tea, half a banana (standard go-to food to give her a bit of energy), plus much cajoling she really perked up. She became the fun and bright person that we had known, to the extent that she was attempting to do the cha-cha around the lounge! She ate her lunch and then she opened her presents. We all had the best time with her that we have had in a long time.

Dementia is such a very cruel condition, for both the sufferer and their family. Within the space of half an hour, our Mum went from being the person we

knew to someone completely different. She became accusatory, mean and selfish, with apparently no filters on what she should or shouldn't say. Many people have told us not to take any of it to heart as it is not really her, but that's definitely easier said than done. I have to admit that we have never had the perfect relationship with our mother, but it is unspeakably sad to see anyone in so much distress and having no understanding of where they are or why. At least we know that she is in a safe place, where she is cared for, and one of us visits every week.

We did have a terrific piece of news just before Christmas. Our daughter and her husband have been in the process of adopting a little boy, but with the ever-blameable Covid and various other delays holding things up, it has taken so much longer than anyone expected. A few days before Christmas we received the best Christmas present ever – the adoption has gone through, and he is now officially our Grandson!

As you may have noticed, the weather has been distinctly un-cheery lately, so I am really looking forward to this upcoming event, to lift my spirits:

Curry Capers Variety Show

Come and join us for 'February Frolics' on Friday 24th February 7.30 pm In St Andrew's Church

Light entertainment with a varied programme of 60s songs, comic sketches plus wine and nibbles.

There is also a chance to win a raffle prize: food hamper, a cuddly PADDINGTON BEAR clutching his jar of marmalade (of course!), or a beautiful bouquet of flowers

All donations go towards the restoration of our North Chapel windows.

Hope to see you there.



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curryrivel.org.uk



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The Royal British Legion – Poppy Appeal 2022

Suzie Potter, Poppy Appeal Organiser

This year we have been faced with a number of challenges: economically with the ever- increasing cost of living; medically with the continued presence of Covid and other global viruses; the war in Ukraine, the horrors of which continue to leave so many bereaved and homeless; ubiquitous strikes in the public sector; climate change and the urgent need to recycle and poverty, with so many struggling to keep their heads above water in these uncertain times. It would have been easy, therefore, to have been a little pessimistic at the start of Royal British Legion fortnight in October wondering whether we would make as much as we had made in 2021.

Although we were two collectors down, our wonderful band stepped out and I am delighted to report that, not only did they make as much as we had made last year, but the amount was surpassed with our final count being: £4,023.66. A huge thank you to all of those who have continued to contribute so generously year on year and again sincere thanks to all the team who tirelessly collected, both door-to-door despite the unpredictable weather, and from our static locations. Without you this total would not have been

possible. With thanks also to the lovely gentleman who had been saving his loose change throughout the year which he very generously donated.



The time has now come for me to hand over as Poppy Appeal Organiser after five years and my place will be taken by Sue Willis whom many of you will know as extremely efficient, capable and approachable. I know you will show her all the generous support you have shown me during my time as Poppy Appeal Organiser.

Our annual fundraising for the Royal British Legion continues to be vital as the money we collect goes towards supporting members of the Royal Navy, British Army and Royal Air Force veterans and their families with rehabilitation, finances, employment and housing amongst other services.

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Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris (PG)

Friday 17 February 2023



A comedy-drama based on Paul Gallico's novel and set in the 1950s, it tells of how widowed cleaning lady, Ada, falls in love with a Dior gown belonging to one of her clients. Ada decides she must have a gown of her own. Helped by an unexpected war widow's pension, she works hard to achieve her dream and sets off to Paris. At Dior she is not initially accepted as a suitable customer, but things then start to change.

Stars: Lesley Manville, Isabelle Huppert, Alba Baptista, Lucas Bravo and Anna Chancellor.

Doors open at 6.30pm, show starts at 7.00pm in the Curry Rivel Village Hall.

Tickets £7 are available at the door.



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The way forward with our French friends in Chevilly

Victoria Fransham – Curry Rivel and District Twinning Association

For over 24 years now, we have enjoyed a very warm relationship with French friends in our twinned town, Chevilly, in the centre of France. Members are, not only from Curry Rivel, but also from the surrounding villages including several members from Fivehead.

Over the years, we have had very enjoyable annual visits (one year to and the next year from Chevilly), by coach, with up to 40 participants, stopping at places of interest on the way. However, due to the pandemic and changing habits, we realise that we need to rethink these large, formal visits. All our members and friends, on both sides of the Channel, are extremely keen to maintain our very strong friendships. After considering many options, a decision has been reached. Albeit under different auspices, we intend to continue contact with our French friends.

The Twinning will not continue as a formal group for the time being and we will not collect any more membership fees. We ask all members who have not done so already, to stop their direct debits. Once or twice a year we will have a social

gathering for the English, bring and share or wine tasting, as we did in April this year. We will encourage small groups of French to come to Somerset, perhaps every 2 or 3 years, maximum 8 or 10 people, for example in 3 cars. We will have some funds still available to cover the entertainment while in Somerset.

As some of us are already in the habit of doing, we will encourage the English to do the same – visit our friends in Chevilly in small groups. In this way, we will continue our close links, without the onerous responsibility of fundraising and trying to fill coaches to go to Chevilly! We are very excited about this new informal arrangement. We hope that you are too. Whether you have been a member of The Twinning in the past, or not, please get in touch if you would be interested in participating in any visits, hosting one or two French friends or attending or hosting a bring-and-share meal.

Please contact Victoria Fransham for more details:
v.fransham@yahoo.co.uk

Sedgemoor Gardens Club

February Meeting

Talk by Alan Eason

Climbers & Wall Shrubs

All Saints Hall, Langport
Tuesday, 14th February 2023

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Looking Back to February 1978

Jane Hamlin

In last month's Curry Rivel News we looked back at the Big Freeze of January 1963. Chris Hull has sent us some photographs of the Blizzard of February 1978.

On that occasion, the snow began to fall on the Sunday at the end of the February half-term. There had been a little snow the previous day, Saturday 18th, but this was nothing compared with that which fell on the Sunday. It was described as one of the worst blizzards for over 100 years and brought the whole of the south-west of England to a standstill. It snowed so much that Barry Taylor, the Chief Education Officer, announced that in the interests of safety all schools in the county would remain closed for the whole of the following week. As you can imagine, all the teachers and children were greatly saddened to hear this!

Denis Howell, who was Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, made a statement in Parliament in which he said that there had been an average of 18 inches (45cm) of snow causing drifts of up to 30 feet (9 metres).



Church Road, Curry Rivel. February 1968



Church Road, Curry Rivel. February 1978

Curry Rivel News

What do you think?

Send your comments via email: curryrivelnews@gmail.com or

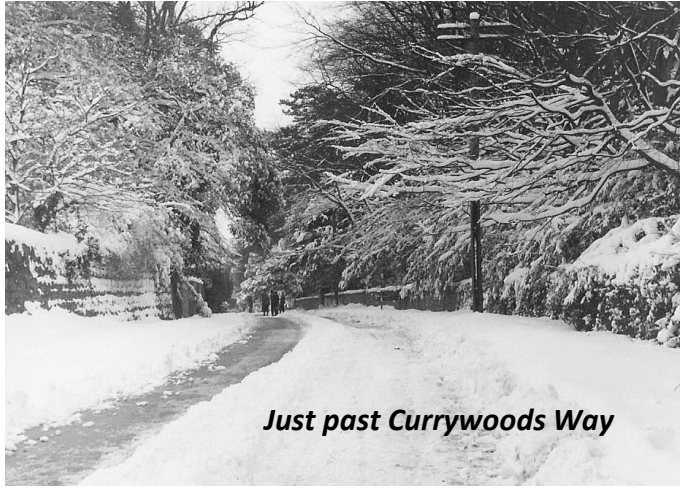
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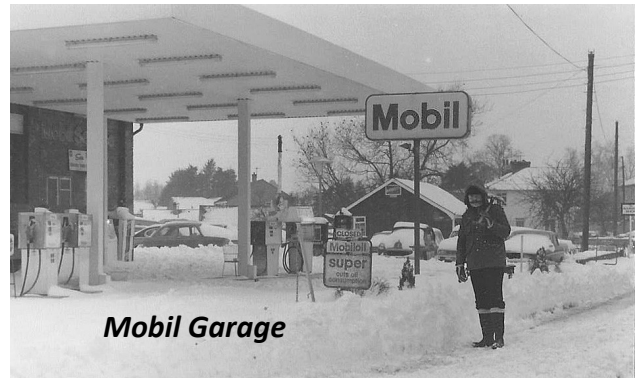
High Street



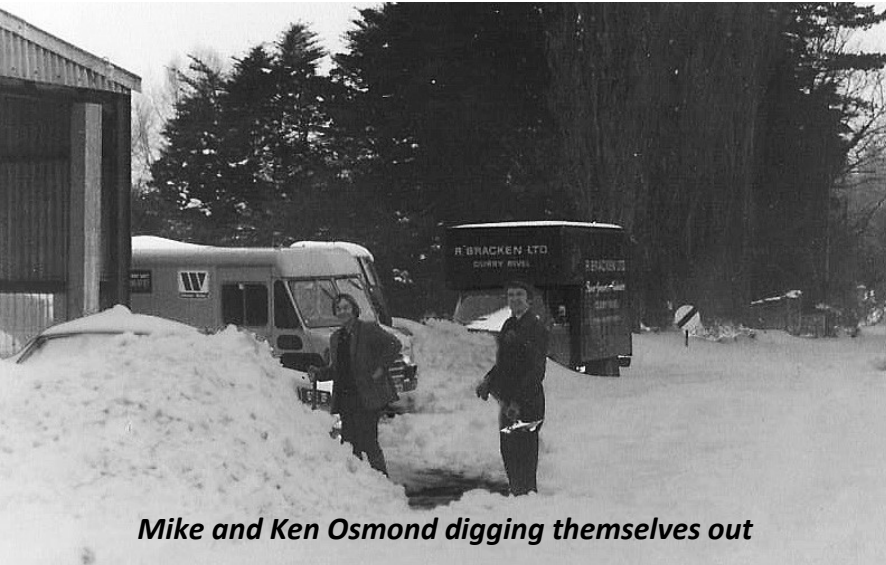
Just past Currywoods Way



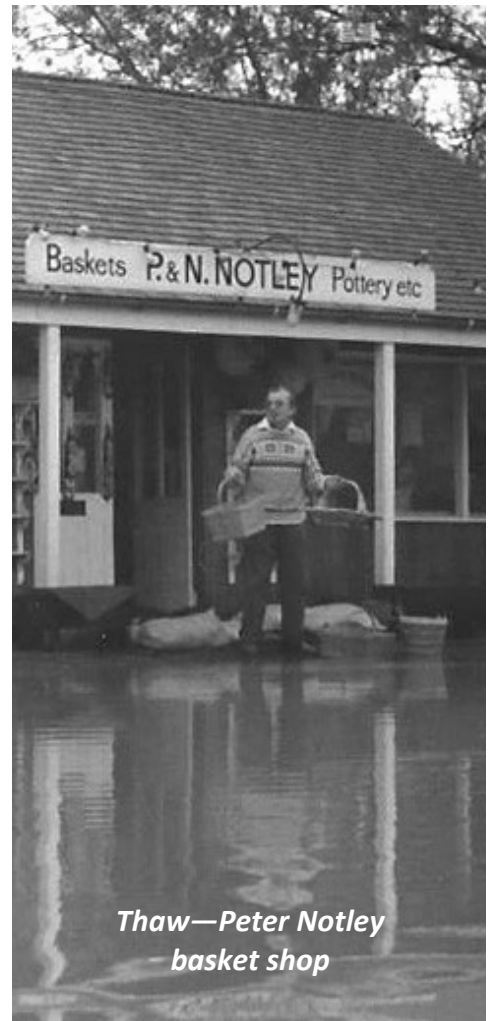
Shell Garage



Mobil Garage



Mike and Ken Osmond digging themselves out



Thaw—Peter Notley basket shop



Thaw—Stanchester Way



Somerset Sight needs volunteers

Jane Thorogood

We are looking for volunteers who would like to join our team to befriend visually impaired people in the area, and to help them to remain independent and overcome feelings of loneliness and isolation.

Our volunteers find this a most satisfying and rewarding role, and they meet personable and interesting people. Volunteers are trained, and carefully matched with the service user. The befriending involves regular home visits and trips out.

For more information, please contact:
Somerset Sight on: 01823 333818 or email: admin@somersetsight.org.uk

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We reserve the right to edit any contribution for the purpose of clarity, consistency and layout limitations. By supplying material for publication, you are giving consent for its publication on the village community website.

Charity Theatre Trips to Bristol Hippodrome

Chris Cox

Our coach picks up at 5pm in Curry Rivel, then Langport, Somerton and either Street/Glastonbury/Wells or Keinton Mandeville/Shepton Mallet.

Recent additions to the programme are Lion King, Peter Pan Pantomime and Life of Pi which features puppetry and magic and has been much praised by folk who have already seen it.

We have availability on all of the listing, although Fisherman’s Friends is nearly sold out; no surprise there. Payment is usually due two months before the performance, but the earlier you book the better your seats. All profits support British Red Cross. For more information go to www.charitytheatretrips.com or telephone 01458 273085.

- Thu 2 Mar 23 Bourne's Sleeping Beauty
- Tue 21 Mar 23 The Commitments
- Thu 30 Mar 23 The King and I
- Thu 4 May 23 Fisherman's Friends
- Thu 25 May 23 Lion King/ 17:00
- Tue 11 Jul 23 Strictly Ballroom
- Wed 27 Sep 23 Charlie & The Chocolate Factory
- Wed 6 Dec 23 Peter Pan Pantomime
- Wed 17 Jan 24 Life of Pi

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St. Andrew's Church

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We warmly welcome visitors and new members of the community to any of our services and other events.

February

Thursday 2nd

10.00 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Saturday 4th

3.30-5.30pm **CR OSR** - Messy Church

Sunday 5th

10.00 **FH** - All Age Family and Friends Service + refreshments
 11.15 **FH** - Said Communion CW
 6.00 pm **CR (OSR ?)** - Evening Prayer

Sunday 12th

9.30 **SW** - Holy Communion BCP
 11.00 **CR** - Parish Communion CW
 + Kids Church

Tuesday 14th

10.00 **CR OSR** - Craft & Coffee

Thursday 16th

10.00 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 19th

9.30 **FH** - Morning Worship
 11.00 **CR** - All Age Family & Friends Service + refreshments
 12.15 **CR** - said Communion CW

Wednesday 22nd - Ash Wednesday

7.30 pm **CR** - United Benefice Holy Communion & imposition of ashes

Sunday 26th - Lent 1

9.30 **FH** - Parish Communion CW
 11.00 **CR** - Morning Worship CW
 + Kids Church
 6.00 pm **SW** - Evensong BCP

CR = St. Andrew's Church, Curry Rivel
CR OSR = Old School Room, Curry Rivel, 'behind' St. Andrew's Church
FH = St. Martin's Church, Fivehead
SW = St. Catherine's Church, Swell

Scott's spot



What's around the corner...

2023 is shaping up to be a challenging year for the Church of England, both here in our corner of Somerset, and nationally.

The local challenges involve our Benefice expanding. For something like 40 years we have been a United Benefice of three parishes together – Curry Rivel, Fivehead and Swell - the pandemic has meant that this must now change. Why?

Well, as we all endured lockdown and social distancing, not only was worshipping together severely restricted, but so too was the capacity to host fundraising events. Our church families struggled here as did the vast majority of the 466 parish churches in the Bath and Wells Diocese. The result was, and continues to be, a hole in Diocesan finances that (amongst many other savings) means fewer vicars, each looking after more parishes.

As you read this in early February, consultations will have taken place across our Deanery, and new Benefice configurations will have been proposed, discussed and perhaps even decided upon. If you pray, could I ask that you do so for: all involved in this process (our Parish Church Councils – PCCs and deanery leadership); for the new parish partnerships being formed; and for vicars like me called upon to make this new normal work?

At the national level the C of E will soon be in the news. In mid-February its governing council – General Synod – will meet to debate and vote on the highly emotive subject of same sex marriage and/or blessings in church.

Scott's Spot ctd. . .

At this time there will likely be unhelpful, sensationalised headlines in the press, hurtful labels like 'homophobic' and 'bigoted' carelessly used, alongside the misrepresentation of words like 'love', 'traditionalist' and 'moderniser'. The subject is complex and nuanced with a liberal position calling for a change to doctrine (foundational Christian principals) as a matter of inclusivity and justice under a just God, and a conservative position that holds to the church's teaching of the last 2,000 years as Biblical and therefore faithful to a holy God. 'Conservatives' are asking: 'why are some in the church seeking to align themselves with our culture instead of the Bible's teaching', with 'liberals' asking: 'how can it be loving to deny marriage and God's blessing to same-sex couples?'

I do not know how this will work out because for both sides there is a great deal at stake. So again, if you pray, please do so for the Church of England at this time – it is a very significant moment in its history. Please pray: that as General Synod meets there is respect and understanding for opposing views; that hard things are spoken with gentleness, love and care; that the press coverage is impartial; that the delegates are blessed with wisdom beyond their own; and that at this time of increasing national need, the national church may find a way not to pull itself apart. Amen.

Rev'd Scott.

St. Andrew's Rotas February

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 22nd onwards - Lent

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 11th - Anne Geach
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'Curry Capers Variety Show'

Come and join us for 'February Frolics'
Friday 24th February 7.30 pm
in St. Andrew's Church

Light entertainment with a varied programme of 60-ies songs, comic sketches and wine & nibbles.

Also a chance to win a raffle prize: food hamper, a cuddly *PADDINGTON BEAR* clutching his jar of marmalade, or a beautiful bouquet of flowers.

Donations toward the restoration of our North Chapel windows.

**The World Day of Prayer
2023 service will be held on
Friday 3rd March at 10.30 am
in the Curry Rivel URC church.**

The service this year has been prepared by the women of Taiwan, and we will use the same service that is used throughout the world on that day. Everyone is welcome to this service, of any denomination or none, and we will be able to share a cup of tea or coffee in the church after the service.



Come along, and find out more about the everyday lives of people in Taiwan.

For more information contact
Glenys Allinson on 01458 - 251603 or
glenys@allinsonfamily.com

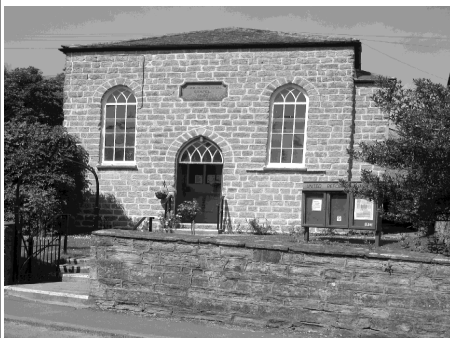
Shrove Tuesday - 21st February

Shrove Tuesday, or 'pancake day', is the last day before Lent, which for Christians is traditionally a time of abstinence. This was done to exercise self-discipline before God, and to help focus the mind on the last weeks of Christ's life as he faced the cross.

Lent can also be a time for doing 'extra' things - perhaps putting aside more time for prayer, meditation or Bible study.

Pancakes are eaten on Shrove Tuesday as they contain fat, butter and eggs, which as 'rich foods' were once considered 'forbidden' during Lent.

'Shrove' comes from the old word 'shrive', which means 'to confess', and so on this day, in the Middle Ages, people used to confess their sins, so that by faith they began Lent with a 'clean sheet' before God.

United Reformed Church

We are an inclusive, outward looking group of people and we welcome all, wherever they are on their spiritual/life journey, without regard to age, denominational background, sexual orientation, ability or race. Tea/coffee is served after every service providing the opportunity to meet and chat with each other and the preacher.

Dear Friends.....

Those of you who are regular readers of the CRN will know that last year was not the best for our family. Alison wrote honestly and creatively of her illness, we all had Covid and I lost my mother in November.

This is not a 'misery memoir', the world has more than enough of those. This is my attempt to make sense of last year in the light of being an ordained Christian minister who believes in the love of God.

It is an obvious and easy question to pose, how can God exist when there are so many folk with so many difficulties, when life can at times throw us into heart wrenching situations. How can a God of love allow it?

My answer does not come under the heading of Christian apologetics nor is it an attempt to make feeble excuses in order to hold on to beliefs. Rather it is an honest response seeking to explain why, if anything, my faith has been strengthened not weakened by the last twelve months.

God to me is not a person like ourselves only more so, not a figure I have to placate or win favour with. God is Being itself, what I once heard described as 'isness'. In some eyes this makes me more of a humanist than a Christian but I can live with that.

I think we have all learned things from difficult times in our lives, and collectively from the lockdowns, wars & their chaotic consequences of recent years. For example, the Church learnt going 'on line' was not only needed during lockdown but allows folk who may be housebound, geographically isolated, ill, to share with a worshipping community; a small example maybe but a valid one.

For me God is found when we learn to view things in a new way, reflecting back on stressful hard times, creating another way of understanding. What I will never accept is that God sends us those situations, individually or collectively, in order to either teach or punish us.

To talk of God in other than abstract terms is not easy, God is not male or female, rather God is depth and a rootedness, God is love (a cliché I won't let go of).

I live and love and move and breathe all within the presence of that which I am still happy to call God and this God has always been present during the most traumatic times of my life and I believe will always allow me to cope with what may lie ahead. This God 'holds' my hand (see what I mean about the difficulty of describing 'God'?), this God has carried me and set me down safe. This God, my God, IS.

Yours, Rev Tim Richards

February

Services at 10.30 (unless indicated otherwise) in our Chapel building and simultaneously via Zoom

Anyone unable to attend in person who would like to feel part of a worshipping community is invited to join with us - from any denomination or none; simply email Steve Beney on sbeney6@gmail.com expressing your interest and he will make contact with you to explain how you can join with us on Sundays @ 10:30 am.

Sunday 5th - United Group Service
West Street, Somerton

Sunday 12th - to be arranged

Sunday 19th - Mr Steve Beney

Sunday 26th - Rev Tim Richards
(incl. Holy Communion)

URC Minister:

Rev. Tim Richards 01458 252799



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WARNING

All the below events are subject to cancellation at short notice due to the Corona virus epidemic please contact each group for details.....Keep well, Keep safe

what's on *...In February*
Regular Events

MONDAY		
10.00	Art Club	Village Hall
10.00	Table Tennis (kevlou@outlook.com)	Village Hall
6.00	Pilates	Primary School
6.45	Explorer Scouts	Scout Hall, Langport
TUESDAY		
10.00	Craft & Coffee (2nd only)	Old School Room
10.00	Keep Fit (nicky.barker1@btinternet.com)	Village Hall
2.30	Forget-Me-Not-Café	Village Hall
4.30	Rainbows/Brownies	Drayton Village Hall
5.45	Pilates	Primary School
6.00	Cub Pack	Scout Hall, Langport
6.30	Rangers	URC Hall
6.30	Langport Youth Club	Ridge way Hall
7.00	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
7.30	Sedgemoor Garden Club (2nd only)	All Saints Hall L'port
WEDNESDAY		
10.30	Sparklers Toddler Group	Old School Room
5.30	Beavers	Scout Hall, Langport
6.30	Cycling Club	Bridge Cafe
6.45	Scouts	Scout Hall, Langport
7.30	Bell Ringing	St. Andrews
THURSDAY		
10.00	WI (2nd only)	Village Hall
2.00	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
6.30	Yoga	Village Hall
7.30	Parish Council (1st only)	
FRIDAY		
9.30	Pilates	Village Hall
9.30-2	Friday Club	Village Hall
7.30	Movie Night (3rd only)	Village Hall
SATURDAY		
9.00	Cycling Club	Bridge Cafe
3.30-5.30 (2nd only)	Messy Church	Old School Room

Some Useful Telephone Numbers

Youth Organisations	
Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorer Scouts (gslthelevelsscouts@gmail.com)	
Rainbows	01823 698940
Brownies	251953
Rangers	252901
Langport Youth Club	0793 899 338
Sports Clubs	
Short Mat Bowls Club	251616
Cricket Club	01823 698849 & 01458 252791
Yoga	07789 862548
Pilates	07769 351984
Social	
Flower Show	250311
Out & About	0788 737 7942
Royal British Legion	01460 281115
Twinning Association	01460 281905
Women's Institute	253078
Rotary Club of Langport & Somerton	252813
Sedgemoor Garden Club	250091
Heale Lane Allotment Association	741880
Curry Rivel in Bloom	762296
Friday Club	252791
Health Walks	250725
Mother and Baby	07732 197030
Forget-Me-Not-Café	252710 & 396123
Arts	
Entertainers	250311
Music Club	250863
Art Club	253126
Community Facilities	
Food Bank (help@curryrivel.org.uk)	0771 6792760
Village Hall (crvhbookings@gmail.com)	07789 661288
Old School Room Bookings (crosrbookings@gmail.com)	250655/253856
United Reformed Church Hall - Bookings etc.	259391
Community Services	
Doctors	250464
Police	101
Yarlington Housing	01935 404500
Footpath & Litter Warden	johncasebourne@sky.com
Education	
Little Pips	252822
Primary School	251404
Huish Episcopi Academy	250501
Huish Episcopi Leisure Centre	251055
Local Authorities	
Parish Council (Clerk) curryrivelparish@outlook.com	07714 510828
District Council	0 1935 462462
County Council	0300 123 2224
Religious	
Church of England Rector	251375
Churchwarden	259003
Secretary PCC	251355
Organist & Bell Ringing	253856
Flower Guild	252710
Roman Catholic Church, Somerton	07483 120 603
URC Minister	252799
Messy Church	01458 762523

 Deadlines for March 2023 Edition	
Advertising:	5pm Thursday 9th February
Send to:	crn.nigel@outlook.com
Comments & Articles:	5pm Monday 13th February
Send to:	curryrivelnews@gmail.com
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<p>Pick up your Prescription from the Post Office</p> <p>Do you pick up repeat prescriptions from Langport surgery? If so you can request your medicine to be delivered to Curry Rivel Post Office in the BP petrol station. When you reorder, simply ask for delivery to Curry Rivel PO (including reorders on the surgery website). The surgery delivers to the Post Office every Tuesday and Friday. And while you're in the Post Office you can pick up a cappuccino too!</p>
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UK'S WONDERFUL WILDLIFE

Our mammals are really Marvellous

Nigel Grinstead

Some fascinating facts about our closest relatives

It's amazing, we have 90 mammal species living in the UK with us (including our coastal seas). I didn't know that.

CARNIVORES (most of the time)

Nine land based species, including the Fox, Otter, Weasel and Pine Marten, feed mainly on smaller mammals, insects and larvae. But they all dine on worms too and when necessary most will go veggie. They are all found, often locally, across most of the UK including Somerset.

The Pine Marten is spreading across the UK where it used to be widespread. Its recent increase in population has reduced the number of Grey Squirrels, one of its prey. One theory is that Red Squirrels are far more aware of the danger of Pine Martens - it may even be in their genes - but Grey Squirrels, as an introduced species, are less aware and are more easily caught.

RATS

Probably the most common mammal is the Brown Rat which is found now in most rural and urban locations. They say you're never more than six feet from a rat (like Gordon Gekko?) in a city.

The Black Rat is rarer. It used to be found on the Isle of Lundy where it had arrived from docking ships a long time back. It thrived by feeding on the eggs and young of the bird species that nested there including Puffin, Manx Shearwater, Wheatear and Peregrine. So four wildlife charities, including the RSPB, removed the Black Rat population by trapping and since then bird numbers have soared. When human interference causes an issue, deliberately or accidentally, then it seems fair to correct it if possible

especially if other species are suffering.

RAREST MAMMAL

The Scottish Wildcat is the UK's rarest mammal with an estimated population of 100, confined now to the Scottish Highlands.

It was found across most of the UK up to the turn of the 20th century but it declined critically due to habitat loss. There are thoughts of introducing it to other parts of the UK including the South West. There is a strong risk of extinction as interbreeding with domestic and feral cats is occurring.

DOLPHINS AND WHALES

Seven Dolphin/Porpoise species and as many as 17 Whale species visit our waters at various times, including occasionally the magnificent Blue Whale. Because Dolphins need to come to the surface intermittently to breathe, they shut down only half their brain when sleeping and keep one eye open.

SWEET SMELLING POOH!

In order to leave messages, Otters frequently do "scat dances" when they stomp their feet and lift their tail. They then leave a long-winded pooh deposit called a spraint. Researchers say it smells like violets! The BBC did a prog called "The delicious smell of Otter pooh"!

BATTY BATS

There are 19 species of bat living in the UK. They all eat insects. The Pipistrelle Bat can eat up to 3500 midges in one evening. Daubenton's Bat has huge feet which means it can snatch insects off the top of water. Sadly the last known mammal to go extinct in the UK was the Greater Mouse Eared Bat which went extinct in the UK in 1990.

UK's MARVELLOUS MAMMALS



Pretty Pine Marten - squirrels beware



Scottish Wildcat - extinction threat



Flying Dolphin



Otter- "What's that lovely smell?"



Daubenton's Bat fishing for flies