



# Entertainers strike gold with Dick Whittington

Jane Hamlin

One of the highlights of our village year is the annual pantomime by The Curry Rivel Entertainers. Towards the end of Half-Term week in February we were all truly captivated as the Entertainers lived up to their name and presented a delightful Liz Hembrow production of Dick Whittington. Jenny Ludgate, who had also produced the programme, set the scene for us, describing how the crowds were there for the Lord Mayor's Show as a weary Dick, played by Kim Huntley, arrived in London from Somerset hoping to make his fortune. He soon encountered the irrepressible Idle Jack (Julian Morris) who expended more energy avoiding work than he would have done completing the tasks set him. Dick was soon joined by Puss (Lily Drake) who helped him gain favour with Alderman Fitzwarren (played with flair by Danny Drake) by clearing his huge warehouse of the rats that were eating their way through the Alderman's store of grain. Fortunately, we were spared the sight of this grisly – though undoubtedly welcome – rodent massacre. Dick fell in love with Fitzwarren's daughter, the beautiful Alice (Kerry Baillie), but their romance was cut short by a dastardly trick from the villainous Queen Rat, played with relish by Christine Champion, aided by the lovelorn Jack who had also fallen for the charms of Alice. Queen Rat's two rat side-kicks, Basil (Steve Allinson) and Roland (Richard Beaven), stoked up the enthusiastic audience participation with many well-judged ad libs that enhanced the clever and witty script. Fortunately for the audience this trio did not attract the murderous attention of Puss. Graham Walker, in his usual role as the pantomime dame (Sarah the Cook) also provided plenty to amuse the audience – though none of it edible.

Before adopting Puss, Dick had interviewed each of the glamorous Spice Cats at Battersea Belle's Cats' Home: Ginger (Ella Abbott), Sporty (Charlotte Jones), Posh (Lilia Patten), Baby (Matilda Souter-Davies) and Scary (Alexis Champion)

## Planned Events

Before you go please check that planned events mentioned in this month's Curry Rivel News are going ahead; at the time of writing some events have already been cancelled but in the current fast moving situation they may change at short notice.

Curry Rivel News Editorial Team

but they had all been horrified at the prospect and made it clear in song what they *Wannabe*; and it wasn't rat-catchers. Battersea Belle herself (Glenys Allinson) seemed much more interested in catching Alderman Fitzwarren, which she succeeded in doing by the end of the show. Her assistant Korky (Nathan Patten) provided valuable support.

All the main characters found themselves on board ship heading for the south seas, and to amuse themselves burst into a rendering of 'If I were not aboard this ship' – complete with well-choreographed actions that turned out to be an unplanned 'hair-raising' experience for Sarah on the first night. They reached an island and met the lovely Queen Floribunda (Donna Stuckey) and her exotic Flower Girl (Charlotte Jones). Derek Yeomans brought an appropriate degree of gravitas to his roles as the Town Crier and the ship's Captain, and Maria Baillie, as the Cider Fairy, was able to work her magic to untangle the dire situation in which Dick Whittington found himself. Wholehearted support came from those who played Revellers, Stallholders, Dancers and Cats (Lewis Deane, Mark Pearson, Vicki Pearson, Freya Pearson, Freya Lawrence, Iona Souter-Davies, Ella Abbott) particularly those who doubled up and played more than one of these parts.

As always, none of this would have been possible without the hard work of the production team. Chris Bottomley was the Stage Manager, assisted by Steve Petrou. The very efficient lighting and sound team (Mike Pettitt, Courtney Jones, Michael Pancheri and Dave Mills – assisted by members of the cast) ensured that all went smoothly. Liz Hembrow and Marion Pancheri were responsible for the wonderful costumes, Mike & Angela Pettitt sourced the props and Chris Champion, Kim Huntley and Serena Patten looked after the make-up. Patrick 'Nimble Fingers' Rendell was the Musical Director and provided the high-quality piano accompaniment throughout the show. Front of House duties were performed most successfully by Jane Rowland and Pam Morris.

The Curry Rivel Entertainers dedicated this Pantomime to their good friend and fellow performer, David Osborne, who died recently. He is sadly missed, and their thoughts and support go to his family.

**Colour photos inside... pages 8 and 9**



*Gina Beauchamp*

## CURRY RIVEL RESIDENTS CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

**\*REUSE \* REPAIR \* RETURN \* RECYCLE \* REPURPOSE \***

**D**uring the Corona virus 'shut down' how can we recycle?

We can presume that for the time being our doorstep recycling will still be collected but things could change. Web sites will keep us informed.

Look at the village website [www.curryrivel.org](http://www.curryrivel.org) for local information.

Keep separating plastics that our bin men can't take that can be taken to the Tesco mixed plastic bin or to the recycling centre at Somerton. No, we can't go out to dispose of them, so store them until the crisis is over. The best place to store all this would be in a shed or even in the boot of your car! After all we won't be going out in it for a while.

- In our recycling boxes tin lids and metal bottle tops can be placed inside a squeezed food tin and the top squeezed shut, no loose sharp lids please.
- Plastic bottle tops can be taken to Lush in Taunton, save them for later.
- Foil can be recycled, save smaller pieces from chocolate for example and wrap them all together in a larger piece of foil. Foil yoghurt pot lids can be rinsed and recycled in this way.
- Plastic bags, bread wrapping, any plastic wrapping but not cling film can be taken to Tesco for recycling, just lately the bin has been missing from the front of the shop in Langport but if you take it to the service counter they will take it from you. So many people were using it that the sides of the container actually split!

### Use the time at home to de-clutter!

I have written a long list of jobs that I can now do at home; a huge pile of ironing, painting the study and putting up the shelves that have been waiting since before Christmas, finishing off the pond that we dug last spring and lots more including spending more time sorting out my own garden.

Why not use the time at home to catch up on all those jobs and de-clutter in the process. Save everything you decide to get rid of until you can take it to a charity shop or put it on Freecycle.

### Plastic Flower pots

Curry Rivel in Bloom always have so many flower pots and most of them end up in my garden after a planting project. If you need any plastic pots of any shape or size, please get in touch and I can drop them off into your front garden. We also have a few spare hanging baskets and two nice green wire half baskets that will go onto a wall. These were going into our plant sale that has now been cancelled. If you would like any let me know you can always make a small donation to CRiB later on. Plastic pots in black trays are really good for growing seeds, the seedlings get more root space and you don't need to prick out the seedling so soon.

I have come up with a novel way to use up some of these many pots, I have made a set of shelves from left over wood and used stacked flower pots as legs and separators for the shelves, this is at the side of my potting shed and the shelves will be used for ..... you guessed it, storing the flowerpots!!

Stay safe and keep recycling!

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# Curry Rivel Music

Malcolm Cotterill

What better instrument to celebrate the spirit and determination of the impressively large audience at Curry Rivel Music's concert on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March? All those who shrugged off any anxieties about coronavirus were rewarded magnificently by two performers of consummate virtuosity.



The trombonist, Peter Moore, winner of the BBC Young Musician of the Year at the age of 12 is now, at 24, Professor of Trombone at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and the Principal Trombone of the London Symphony Orchestra. His electrifying playing of older works – necessarily adapted for his instrument – and modern work written for the instrument, some with him in mind, delighted the audience and challenged the integrity of the roof structure of St Andrew's Church.

No less skilled was his duo partner, Robert Thompson, whose full CV would threaten our relationship with the Editor of Curry Rivel News. Suffice to say, it glows. The lightning speed of his fingers left a blur as remarkable as the brilliance of his musicianship. Those who wrote with the trombone first in mind had no inclination to spare the accompanist and provided a double strand of delight to the audience.

The applause was rapturous and prolonged for yet another altogether splendid and memorable event.

Subject to what we all know lurks about us, our next concert will be on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00 pm when we hope the Ruisi String Quartet will play for us.

Full details are on our website, [curryrivelmusic.org](http://curryrivelmusic.org) or contact our Secretary, Anne Michell, on 01458 250863 or email [anne.michell@btinternet.com](mailto:anne.michell@btinternet.com)



Trombonist Peter Moore

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# Sedgemoor Gardens Club

Peter Goodenough

On March 10<sup>th</sup> Sedgemoor Gardens Club members were delighted to welcome Sally Nex, who gave us an excellent talk on "Year round vegetable growing". Sally is extremely knowledgeable and herself completely self-sufficient in vegetables for her family all through the year. In a well-illustrated presentation, she talked us through crop selection, managing our veg gardens and the best ways to avoid the so-called 'hungry gap' in early spring. She plans her vegetable garden meticulously using an on-line planner, making sure no soil is left without a crop growing on it! Lettuce throughout the year, many varieties of brassicas and an exciting range of seasonal vegetables ensure her family never go hungry. I was particularly delighted to hear her say that she deals with gluts of beans by freezing them without any topping and tailing and often without blanching - and they come out of the freezer perfectly fresh! Why have I wasted so much time on these in the past?? Crops that can't be successfully stored are grown in exactly the right quantities to supply her family - for example, they get through twelve cabbages in a year so that's what she grows, no more no less.

Another of her tried and tested tips we will be following up was an unusual way of keeping pigeons off your crops. We have lots of old VHF tapes but if you are less of a hoarder charity shops are a good source. Extract the tape and string it across the crop on canes - apparently it makes a humming noise in the wind and even in still air its colours change and put the birds off!

We are now preparing for our annual Daffodil Festival on March 21<sup>st</sup>, hoping it won't be affected by the corona virus epidemic. All being well there will be more on this next month. In April we will be welcoming our last speaker of this academic year, as we go on garden visits during the summer months. Michael Brown will be talking on "Capability Brown - hero or hooligan" which should be very interesting as I'm sure there will be differing opinions within the audience on this one!

As ever, we welcome new members and visitors to any of our meetings - visit our website or ring 01458250091 for further information or head to All Saints Hall in Langport for a 7.30 start.

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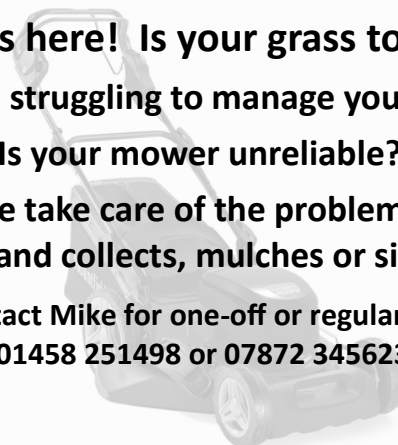
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# Curry Woods Conservation Trust

*Peter Goodenough, Chair of the Trust*

**Well done to the supporters of the Trust, good news about the campaign to buy Curry Woods, plant more trees and conserve and enhance the biodiversity there.**

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February will be remembered for storm Dennis that brought misery to many. On that day the CWCT held an open all day meeting to highlight how these dramatic new weather events will affect Curry Rivel and what it intends to do to mitigate these effects. On the same day we also first heard the Met Office describing "atmospheric rivers" - the earth's new higher temperature now allows rivers in the sky; the Met Office said storm Dennis was 2000 kilometers long and held as much water as the Amazon (the river not the internet firm). As that river reaches land from the Atlantic it rises - this leads to it cooling and bingo, down comes the rain. Did the weather daunt us that day - no, a spectacularly successful event was held by the Trust and £24,912 was pledged, donated or loaned on an interest-free basis. The following week a local Trust gave us the result of our application for funds; we had asked for £10,000 towards funding the purchase of Curry Woods, they gave us £15000!

Enormous thanks to all those who donated and to the Trust referred to above. Names of all who donated and who give permission will be displayed on a board at the entrance to the land at Curry Woods. With this wonderful success we embark on a final push to raise the last £20,000 to buy the land. We are confident we can do this and urge anyone wishing to join this massive community project to go to our website, [cwctrust.simplesite.com](http://cwctrust.simplesite.com), download a pledge form and a gift aid form (if you pay tax) and fill it in. Please send completed forms to CWCT, The Woods, Hellards Hill Lane, Curry Rivel, TA10 0PW. Don't worry, there is a house there, it's not just a letterbox on a tree!!

Now, exciting news for your diaries, the CWCT is already planning two summer events. On 6<sup>th</sup> June a distinguished geologist working as Deputy Head of the International branch of the British Geological Survey (one of the components of the Natural Environment Research Council) will come to talk to us about how the search for rare minerals to power all those mobile devices and all other artificial intelligence

machines is leading to a massive new wave of mining in many countries, with all the attendant environmental problems. You may think electric cars are a very good thing but the electronics to control them rely on us digging up billions of tonnes of the earth to find the rare minerals - nothing is ever simple. Now is your chance to hear about this new challenge to the environment. 7.30pm in the Old School room - don't miss it!

Secondly, we are very excited to announce that Mr Tim Schroder has volunteered to once again open the Burton Pynsent monument to visitors, this time in aid of the Trust. The date will be announced later once planning is further advanced but it will be in late June or July. For those of you who have not climbed the monument and seen the view from the top this is a treat you must not miss. By this time, of course, the Trust should own the Curry Woods and members will be able to conduct walks within the woods on the same weekend, so you will be able to see what your efforts have secured.

Finally breaking news that Somerset now has a Climate Emergency Framework, published by Somerset County Council. Under Theme 1, Sequestration and Land use, it is stated that this work stream will support schemes to plant trees and increase tree cover in Somerset, such as the Urban Tree Challenge or the Parish Tree Policy produced by the Re-imagining the Levels programme. We are bang on the money with this as we are part of the Re-imagining the Levels programme, so Curry Rivel leads the way in the work to protect Somerset during climate change. Boy, do we need protecting, the Levels are one of the most threatened areas in the country.

Watch this space for more information on our upcoming events showcasing our work on adapting to climate change and enhancing biodiversity in Curry Rivel.

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Bristol Hippodrome closed on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March to try to reduce/slow the spread of the virus. When it will re-open depends on government advice. As we pass each show date we should receive a full refund of our ticket payments as long as ATG stays solvent. I am still taking bookings.

2020 planned trips are Mon 8 Jun **Mamma Mia**; Wed 3 Sep **Dreamgirls**; Fri 30 Oct **Barber of Seville** (W.N.O.); Tue 3 Nov **Strictly Ballroom**

In 2021: Tue 16 Feb **The Commitments**; Tue 23 Feb **Matthew Bourne's Nutcracker**; Wed 31 Mar **Il Trovatore** (W.N.O.); Tue 20 Jul **School of Rock** (based on the film with extra music by Lloyd-Webber). We also are expecting **The Phantom of the Opera** sometime in 2021.

Two other trips will run if the theatre is open and there is enough demand; This August to **Sunny Afternoon**, featuring The Kinks music and Jan 2021 a Sunday matinee of the **Snow White** pantomime.

Details at <https://www.atgtickets.com/venues/bristol-hippodrome/> or of course via Miss Google. Contact me if interested in either of these.

Prices include transport. Pick-ups in Curry Rivel, Langport & Somerton, and then either Keinton Mandeville & Shepton Mallet OR Street & Wells.

# Inland Waterways Association

Vicky Pearson

## Litter Picking along the River Parrett

The Inland Waterways Association are doing their bit for Langport, by leading monthly work parties, to litter pick along the River Parrett and around the town.

The sessions begin at 10.30-12 pm, meeting outside the library. If you are able to volunteer, just turn up in clothing and footwear suitable for the weather and riverbank conditions (wellies are a must at the moment!) and all the litter picking equipment is provided. After a brief outline of health and safety requirements, the volunteers split off into small groups, to cover different areas throughout Langport.

This is my second experience of being involved and if you happen to have a couple of hours to spare, I'd highly recommend joining in. It's a great way of feeling like you're doing your bit to keep our wonderful community litter free and looking lovely, not to mention getting outdoors in the fresh air, meeting others and even spotting some of our beautiful, local wildlife; such as kingfishers and herons.

The next session is on Friday 3rd April at 10.30am but may be postponed; but please feel free to pick up litter you see anyway!

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# LANGPORT & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

## TALK REPORT *Somerset Photographers 1839-1939*

Janet Seaton

The Society's March meeting featured an illustrated talk from Phil Nichols, one of the authors of the 2018 book, *Secure the shadow: Somerset photographers 1839-1939*. We had contributed to the compilation of the book, and so were keen to hear how our local photographers fitted into the Somerset scene.

Phil's talk covered the different types of early photographs such as ambrotypes, cartes de visite and postcards, and by showing them side by side we were able to recognise the differences between them. He then introduced us to the pioneers of photographic techniques, such as Daguerre (daguerrotype) and Fox Talbot of Lacock Abbey (calotype). He went on to identify the earliest images taken in Somerset, and the first photographic studio, which was established in Bath in 1841.

The remainder of Phil's talk was devoted to the lives and work of photographers from the area around Langport. Phil had obviously put a great deal of thought and effort into making the images relevant to the audience, and they were fascinated to see what he had found.

Many of the images he focussed on were from our own digital collection. Although some of the subjects were familiar, Phil explained the research processes he had gone

through in his attempts to date the images and identify some of the individuals in them.

In addition to Charles Payne and Edward Bennett from Langport, we also learned about Harry Stone in Drayton, George Bartlett Coggan, who was born in Aller, John Webber, who lived in Wells, William Lenton of Curry Rivel and James Jones, from Somerton. We learned that many had other occupations as well as photography, including one seemingly a jack of all trades, including dentistry. It was common for them to face bankruptcy, some more than once, and it was obviously not a lucrative occupation.

Finally Phil showed us how different companies came to publish the works of different photographers, particularly as postcards, again using as examples many local images.

The impressive amount of research that Phil demonstrated gave us a greater understanding and appreciation of the strength of our own collection, and led several people to buy copies of his book after the talk.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 epidemic, all the talks planned for April, May and June have been cancelled. We hope that they can be re-scheduled for 2021.

Follow the History Society at @langporthistory, and: <https://sites.google.com/site/langporthheritage/home>.

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# Pantomime in Pictures...

*Photos by Mike Mason*









# Need some cash for your group?

**G**et Your Grant Applications in for a April or October Pay Out (Subject to Approval)

The Curry Rivel Parish Council awards grants to local organisations at the April and October meetings. Unfortunately we are not able to award grants to individuals. The use of the grant must benefit the residents of the Parish. The requirement for the grant must be financially sound followed at a later date by a report on how the money was spent. Applicants are encouraged to have more than one estimate if they propose buying products or services with the grant.

#### How to apply:

Download and print a hard copy of the Grant application form and return the completed form to the Parish Clerk (details below). Alternatively contact the clerk on 01458 251432.

The deadline for applications is the end of the third week in February or September. Be prepared for a representative to come along to the Parish Council meeting to give a three minute presentation about your application and answer questions arising. Following each question and answer session there will be a brief discussion between Councilors when they will vote to approve or not approve the request. Occasionally, an application may be deferred to the next meeting if more information is needed.

Jenny Ludgate  
14 Brookland Road  
Huish Episcopi  
Langport  
TA10 9SZ  
clerk@curryrivel.org.uk  
01458 251432



*Kay Williamson*

Regrettably due to the current situation regarding Coronavirus, all U3A meetings have been cancelled until further notice.

## United Reformed

*Alison Reed Richards*

A decision was made to suspend services at Curry Rivel United Reformed Church until May.

This will also mean the Soup & Bread lunch on Saturday 11th April will NOT be taking place.

HOWEVER Tim & I will be at the Chapel on 11th April between 12noon & 1pm to collect any goods collected for the foodbank. It is highly likely that foodbanks will come under increasing pressure in the following months and we wanted to continue with our practical support.

## Movies in the Village Hall

With regret we have made the decision to cancel our film screenings for Fri 20 March and Fri 17 April because of the Coronavirus – we are very much aware that our audience is largely made up of people who may be more vulnerable. We'll take a view on our May film in the coming weeks.

**Keep well everyone.**



*Gina Beauchamp*

Curry Rivel in Bloom will regrettably cancel all plant sales and the quiz planned for May.

We will however keep up our floral displays around the village. We will do our summer planting on the railings, village ends, allotment and other places around the village. These places can be managed by our volunteers and we will work alone, please don't stop to talk to us!

We have entered the village into the South West in Bloom competition for this year but will wait and see if the event will happen in July.

The front garden competition for the village can still take place however as you do not need to be present for your garden to be judged and the judges will visit on their own. This might change depending on how things go.



Our Website  
[curryrivelprimary.somerset.org.uk](http://curryrivelprimary.somerset.org.uk)

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**01458 252822**

## theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

Laraine Hayes

The WI meeting on 12 March covered details of the North Curry carol collection to Open Door Taunton, the cancelled Roadshows (as not enough members are attending), Wilton Lodge has been sold, plus a variety of events and activities.

The invitation for the April meeting is "Design a garden bed to commemorate a Celebration (WI Centenary?)" on A3 paper for the Win Roos competition.

Marion Dale of Summerdale Garden Design spoke about her change of career from London business consultant to award winning garden designer at the Bath & West Flower Show and RHS Malvern Flower Show. She also does historical tours of the garden at Barrington Court.

Marion's advice about designing a garden: create your own brief, a specific 'look and feel' for your garden situation, to fulfil different practical roles. Hard landscaping: straight lines or curves, entertainment and play areas, structures, fences, raised beds, architecture.

Always work out the type of soil: sand, silt, clay, chalk, test the pH, neutral to alkaline suits many plants. Select plants

that prefer the soil type and the orientation for them to thrive. Decide what role the plants have to play: focal points, security/privacy/screening/dividing areas, solving problems, seasons, maintenance. Remember to allow for plant height, spread and position, check the 10 year size of each plant, leave space between shrubs, fill in with temporary planting. Pruning can help with controlling size. Use pots filled with ericaceous compost for acid loving plants to extend your planting choices.

Select a colour scheme: calming blues and whites, evergreens are relaxing, red draws the eye. Place tall plants towards the back of a bed or central for a feature area, use repetition of variety and colour in odd numbers, lay out the pots before planting. With bulbs toss them in the air and plant them where they land. Take photos of the seasons to improve and develop your design. How much do you want to spend? Small plants are economic or larger specimens for investment and instant impact. Go to garden centres with a notebook to research but without your purse!

Marion very generously acted as a consultant, free of charge, for the Curry Rivel in Bloom (CRiB) War Memorial garden, which was designed and created in 2018 by WI members Gina Beauchamp and Laraine Hayes. This garden contributed to Curry Rivel winning Gold Awards for SW in Bloom in 2018 and 2019, along with a Silver Gilt Award in the UK Finals of RHS Britain in Bloom in 2019.




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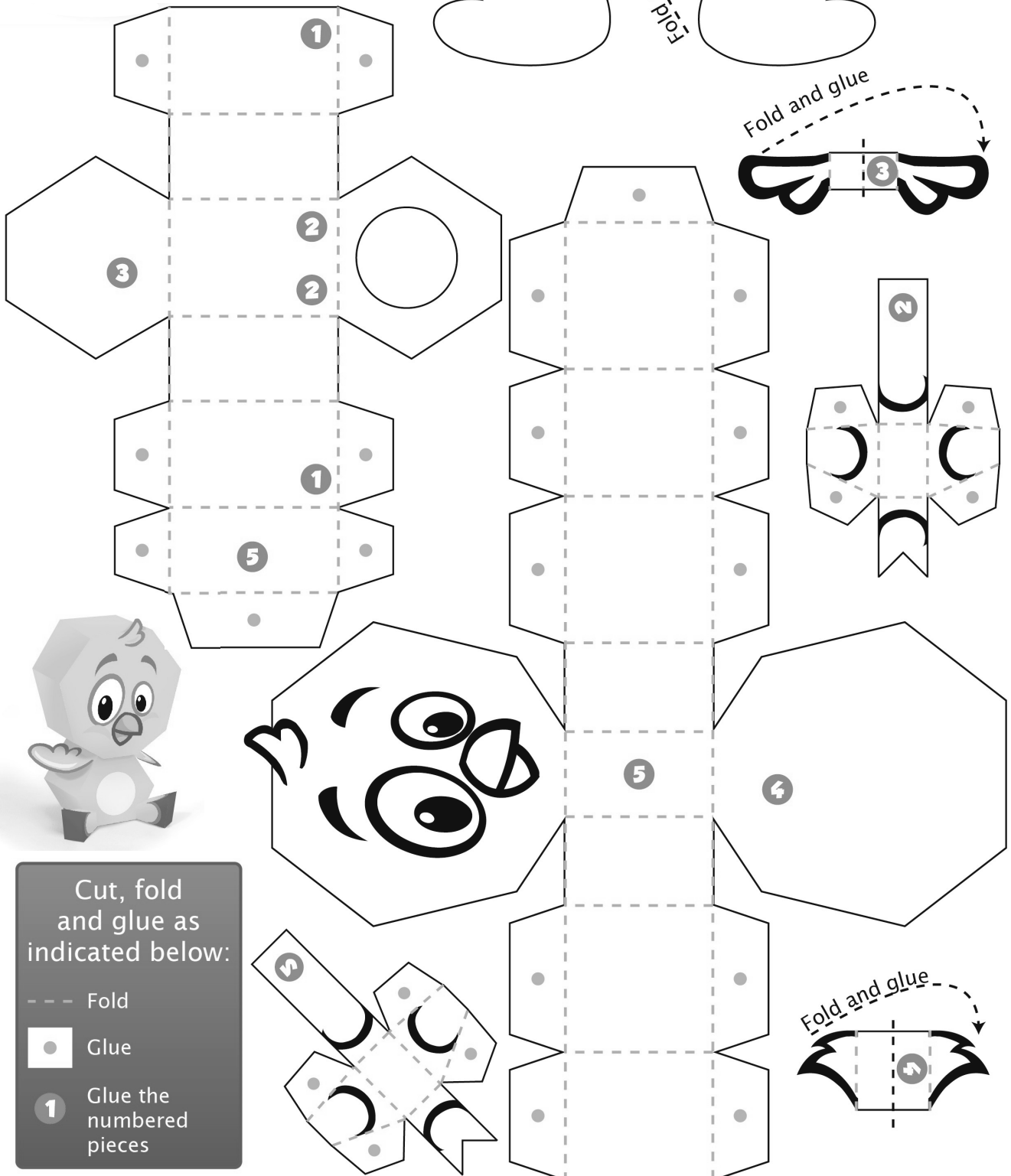
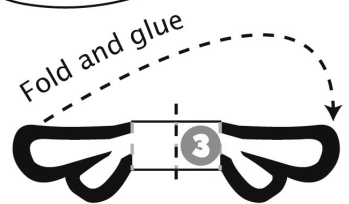
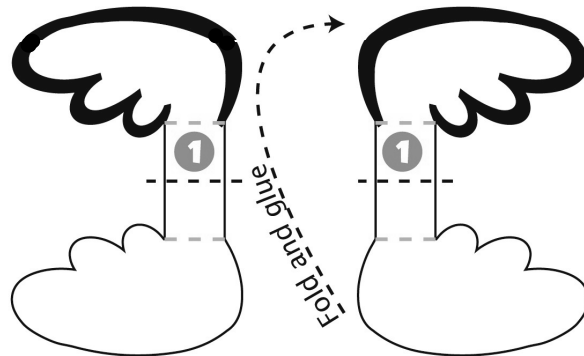
# Children's Page



# Just For KIDS

## Easter Chick

Colour in the picture then ask an adult to help cut out and glue your Easter chick (only when they have finished reading the rest of the paper!) Instructions below.



Cut, fold and glue as indicated below:

--- Fold

• Glue

**1** Glue the numbered pieces

# TUESDAY GROUP

Barbara Lancey

Unfortunately, we were once again let down by the Community Banker rearranged for our February meeting, but we were so lucky that Dave Moore was available again and able to pull yet another of his talents out of the hat and step into the breach. With only a few hours' notice he gathered together some simple art materials and involved us in a most enjoyable and inspiring evening.

With beautiful sea shells and small animal skulls (of mainly badgers gathered from woodland walks!) among the materials, we were encouraged to choose one and draw its outline onto some thin card. This was then cut out and lightly pinned to another piece of white card and drawn around once. The shape was then turned slightly,

three or four more times, each time drawing around the shape. We were then provided with quick drying paints to create patterns of light through to dark, or as desired, and the results are here to see! Some insisted they had no artistic ability whatsoever but produced some of the most beautiful effects. The whole process was quite satisfying and the concentration levels amazing!

We thank Dave enormously for saving the day!

Our March meeting is on St Patrick's Day, and includes some interesting 'moves', all to be reported on next time!

The Tuesday Group is a ladies social group drawing from Drayton, Curry



Rivel, Muchelney, Fivehead, Langport and beyond, and meets on the third Tuesday each month at 7.30 pm in the Drayton Village Hall. Annual membership is only £10, or come and try for a guest fee of just £2.50 per meeting. For further information please contact either Barbara Lancey on 01458 252657, email [barbaralancey@hotmail.com](mailto:barbaralancey@hotmail.com), or Jean Padfield on 01458 253948, email [jeanpadfield2002@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jeanpadfield2002@yahoo.co.uk).



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## St. Andrew's Church

Find us at: <https://www.curryrivel.org.uk/local-info/churches/st-andrews-church.html>  
or <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11260/>



### A message from Rev. Scott Patterson

This is where all our Benefice services are normally advertised, but like so much of normal life, these too have been suspended as the Church of England plays its part in 'social distancing'.

This doesn't mean that the Church of England or our churches are 'shut down'. Far from it. We shall be seeking creative ways to continue 'being church' even when we can't meet 'in church'.

For now, you might like to know that St. Andrew's church will be open in the daytime for anyone. Perhaps you'd value its space for reflection, prayer, quiet, peace...

With prayer in all we face together,  
Scott.

## Scott's spot

### God in the darkness

Are you scared of the dark? It's unlikely that many of us will be afraid in the way we might have been as children, but for some there's still something about darkness that means we often associate it with something sinister, evil or unknown. Horror films don't help. Just flick onto the horror channel and it will be that dark house, dark forest or dark abandoned starship that is not surprising therefore that if there was one thing we associate with God more than any other, it is 'light' – the opposite of darkness. In the Bible God is presented to us as 'light' many times. In Psalm 27: *'The Lord is my light and my salvation'*. In Psalm 36: *'With you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.'* And then of Jesus in John's Gospel (4:16): *'the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned'*.

Yet this isn't the whole picture, and it is a good thing that that's the case, because there are times when our lives may seem dark, bleak and forbidding. At the time of writing (mid-March) it seems likely that together we are facing a significantly challenging time because of coronavirus. There seems to be darkness on the horizon and we do not know what the future holds. Perhaps as you're reading this – confined to your home in self-isolation, lonely, perhaps feeling ill – God seems far away and you feel like crying out in despair. You are not the first. The 16<sup>th</sup> century Spanish Priest St. John of the Cross described those sorts of times as 'the dark night of the soul'.



Scott's spot ctd. . . .

What are we to make of times like these? Has God no place in them? Must we face them alone? Well no, not if the accounts of the gospels regarding the death of Jesus are to be believed. Because it is there we can read about how darkness covered the land as Jesus hung there.

In Mark's gospel (15:33) we read this: ***'When it was the sixth hour, darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which translated means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"'*** At that moment it seemed, even to Jesus, as though God wasn't close. But the reality was quite different. It was here that God was centrally and astonishingly at work, offering Himself for the life of the world, paying the price for sin that would set us free. Though darkness seemed to have overtaken the world, the reality was that the light of God's love was shining brighter than ever.

There are times when, for the Christian as much as for anyone, life seems dark and God seems far away. But never feel that God has abandoned you, for sometimes it is in the darkest moments of life that He is there most of all...

With prayer for you and those you love this Easter time, and beyond.

Rev. Scott Patterson.

### Prayer

Loving God,

We pray for all those who are suffering because of the corona virus – may they know your healing power.

When we are afraid for ourselves and our loved ones, give us your strength and courage.

When we feel alone and isolated, reassure us with a sense of your presence.

Give wisdom to those in authority and may your community work together for the good of all.

We give thanks for those who care for others and ask you to bless them in all they do.

We ask this in the name of Jesus,  
healer and physician.

Amen

### Are you feeling isolated and anxious because of the corona virus?

We want to assure you that the church community remembers and prays for those who are in any kind of need.

Please call any of the following, if you would like prayer or conversation.

Do be in touch if you would like support.

Patrick and Liz Rendell – 01458 253856.

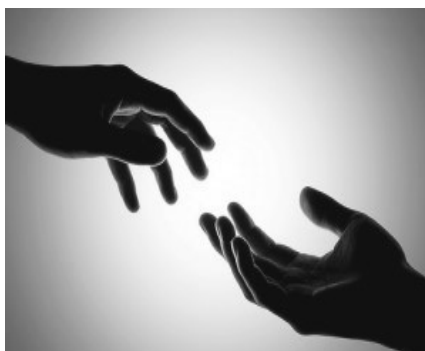
David Geach – 07584 671060.

Anne Geach – 07787 687101.

Eric and Liz Richardson – 01458 252788.

Nancy Martel – 01458 250915.

Rev. Scott and Rowan Patterson – 01458 25137.





### Easter collection donation at St. Andrew's

The money collected during the Easter Service, on 12th April, will be donated to our local Guides, in support of their fundraising for participation in several international camps & events.

**No Easter service**

### St. Andrew's Annual meetings Monday 27th April 7.30 pm, in the Old School Room

- Annual Meeting of Parishioners (AMP) and
- Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

**Meetings postponed.**

### St. Andrew's Church fete Saturday 4th July (subject to Corona virus developments)

### St. Andrew's Rotas April

**Brass** - Lynne Comley

**Flowers**

4th - Lent

11th - Easter Lilies (t.b.c.)

18th & 25th - Lyn Cotterill

**Cleaning**

4th - Lynne Comley

11th - Lyn Cotterill

18th - Julia Gauler

25th - Tina Geary



### From St. Andrew's Registers Funerals

*May God grant them eternal rest.*

27th January - Interment of ashes of Margaret Rose Parsley

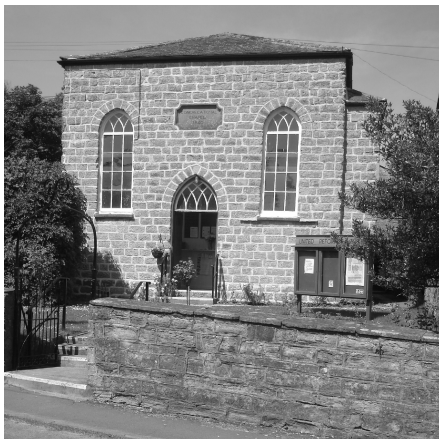
27th January - Service of Thanksgiving at Taunton Crematorium of Jack William Barnett

26th February - Memorial Service for the Life of David Michael Osborne († 6th February)

2nd March - Celebration for the Life of Patricia June (Tricia) Way († 16th February)

17th March - Memorial Service for the life of Edward Oscar (Ted) Pring († 13th February)

## United Reformed Church



## April

(Services start at 10.30)

**Due to the situation re Covid-19 (Corona virus) there will be NO services on**

**Sunday 5th Palm Sunday,  
Thursday 9th Maundy Thursday and  
Sunday 12th Easter Day.**

**Subsequent services will depend on a review of the situation.**

We are an inclusive, outward looking group of people and we welcome all: wherever you are on your life/spiritual journey we welcome you without regard to age, gender, denominational background, sexual orientation, race or ability. We respect the traditions of our past, engage with present and look forward to the future, believing that Christian truth is not contained in static propositional statements but is ever changing and constantly evolving. Tea/coffee is served after every service providing the opportunity to meet and chat with each other and the preacher.

**URC Minister:** Rev Tim Richards  
01458 252799

### Lost and found at St. Andrew's

There are several items which have been left in (or near) the Church, some as far back as in December: black snood, black woolly hat, hearing aid, car parcel shelf and plastic car seat cover.

All items can be found on (or behind) the desk, immediately to the left when entering the Church.

**Items that have not been collected by the end of April will be disposed of.**

Back in March we invited readers of the Curry Rivel News & our village community to join us in our **giving up** during Lent at the URC this year by **giving to ....** putting something aside (in -date, non-perishable foodstuffs, toiletries, household items, sanitary products, baby supplies or money) either on a daily, weekly or as-you-can basis to give to our local foodbank.

At the date of the CRN's distribution there will be 11 of the 40 days of Lent left: we wonder how you are getting on?

If you haven't started yet there is still time (our giving to and support of the foodbank need not bound by the days of Lent - you may have been a supporter for a while and/or you may wish to extend your support beyond the season of Lent).

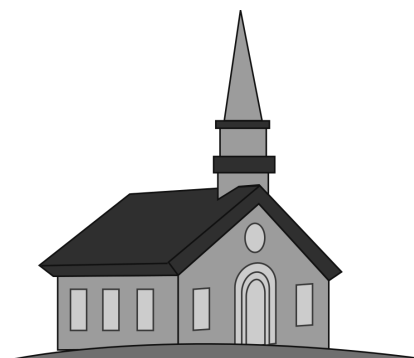
And it doesn't need to be much: five loaves and two fishes fed a multitude - 10p every day for 40 days = £4:00 will make a difference.

If you want to know more or discover specific item requests visit <http://taunton.foodbank.org.uk>. At the time of writing specific requests include tinned potatoes, tinned fruit, and instant mash but this list changes regularly according to demand and lack. Keep checking!

To say **THANK YOU**, the URC Hall will be open **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April, 12 noon – 2pm** to receive your items/money for the foodbank.

We look forward to welcoming and thanking you when you deliver your donations.

**Note: in view of the corona virus situation, there will be NO Soup & Bread Lunch, cake & tea/coffee on 11th April.**



## \*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

### In April

#### Regular Events



##### MONDAY

9.45 Art Club *#postponed until further notice#*  
 3.30 - 5.30 Messy Church (2nd only) School Hall  
 6.00 Pilates Primary School  
 6.45 Explorer Scouts *#postponed until further notice#*

##### TUESDAY

10-12 Craft & Coffee (2nd only) Old School Room  
 2.30 Forget-Me-Not-Café *#postponed until further notice#*  
 5.45 - 8 Pilates Primary School  
 6.00 Cub Pack *#postponed until further notice#*  
 6.30 Guides *#postponed until further notice#*  
 6.30 Langport Youth Club Ridgway Hall  
 7.00 - 9.00 Short Mat Bowls Village Hall  
 7.30 Sedgemoor Garden Club (2nd only) All Saints Hall, L'port  
 7.30 Tuesday Group (3rd only) Drayton Village Hall

##### WEDNESDAY

9.30 Mother and Baby Group Village Hall  
 7.00 Line Dancing Classes Village Hall  
 6.45 Scouts *#postponed until further notice#*  
 7.30 Bell Ringing St Andrew's

##### THURSDAY

10.00 WI *#postponed until further notice#*  
 2.00 - 4.00 Short Mat Bowls Village Hall  
 4.30 Rainbows *#postponed until further notice#*  
 4.30 Brownies *#postponed until further notice#*  
 7.30 Parish Council (1st only) Village Hall

##### FRIDAY

9.30-2 Get Together Club Village Hall  
 7.30 Cinema Night *#postponed until further notice#*

### Some Useful Telephone Numbers

#### Youth Organisations

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts 01460 281184  
 Rainbows 01823 698940  
 Brownies 251953  
 Guides 252901  
 Langport Youth Club 0793 899 338

#### Sports Clubs

Short Mat Bowls Club 251201  
 Cricket Club 01823 698849 & 01458 252791

#### Social

Flower Show 250311  
 Out & About 252146  
 Royal British Legion 01460 281115  
 Twinning Association 01460 281905  
 Women's Institute 259688  
 Rotary Club of Langport & Somerton 252813  
 PROBUS 252545  
 Sedgemoor Garden Club 250091  
 Heale Lane Allotment Association 253953  
 Curry Rivel in Bloom 762296  
 Get Together Club 251524  
 Health Walks 250725  
 Mother and Baby 07732 197030  
 Forget-Me-Not-Café 252710 & 741606  
 Inner Wheel 251940  
 Tuesday Group 252657/252022

#### Arts

Entertainers 250311  
 Music Club 250863  
 Dancing Classes 07730 755203  
 Art Club 253126

#### Community Facilities

Village Hall (crvhbookings@gmail.com) 741606  
 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

#### Education

Little Pips 252822  
 Primary School 251404  
 Huish Episcopi Academy 250501  
 Huish Episcopi Leisure Centre 251055

#### Local Authorities

Parish Council (Clerk) m.ludgate@btinternet.com 251432  
 District Council 01935 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 274008  
 URC Minister 252799



### Deadlines for May Edition

**Advertising:** 5pm Thursday 9th April  
**Send to:** crnadverts@btinternet.com  
**Comments & Articles:** 5pm Tuesday 14th April  
**Send to:** crng2019@gmail.com

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