

August 2016



Church  
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2016





# Housing Development Proposal Attracts Attention

Laurina Deacon

Extra chairs were deployed at the July meeting of the Parish Council to accommodate the members of the public who had come to express their views on an outline planning application to build on land between Bawlers Lane and Wiltown. The impact of increased traffic in Wiltown was of great concern as was overdevelopment in a rural location. The Parish Council has recommended that the development should not be approved on the grounds of highway safety. Parishioners were advised to let their feelings be known to the District Council, many of whom have done so by letter or email.

This planning application comes hard on the heels of another proposal to build on the land opposite the Shell Garage and the battle which the Stanchester Way and Dyers Road residents fought to prevent houses being built on their neighbouring field. Readers may wonder why there has been an increase in applications to build in the village when the District Council's objective, as stated in the Local Plan, was to concentrate housing development in urban areas.

The Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires each council to meet the needs of its area by defining a housing requirement in a local plan and to identify

a supply of land to meet five years' worth of housing against the requirement. A recent report prepared by SSDC officers states that the Council does not have a 5 year housing land supply as required by Government, something it has not had for 10 months of the 15 months period since its Local Plan was adopted in March last year. The report goes on to outline the consequences of this failure saying that there are 'significant implications' for its decision-making on planning applications because of this shortfall. Where local housing land supply policies are said to be out of date councils have difficulty in resisting housing development because of government guidelines. Under the NPPF, a council's starting point should be to grant planning permission unless 'significant and demonstrable harm' can be shown.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) has criticised South Somerset District Council and asked what it is going to do to defend its adopted Local Plan policies in the current situation. In their opinion 'the Council should extend its Early Review of the Local Plan to ensure that the housing need for the District is properly reviewed and assessed on the basis of the most up to date evidence'. CPRE conclude that until this happens housing developers in South Somerset will think it is 'open season'.

## Probus

Paul Crocker

From sneaking a heavily pregnant Princess of Wales past hordes of journalists and into hospital to give birth to Prince Harry, to telling a certain Chief Constable (who had once tried to get him sacked) that he couldn't hitch a ride in the royal helicopter, Allan Peter's talk about his career as a Personal Protection Officer to the Prince and Princess of Wales to Langport and Curry Probus Club last month was full of tales of the very funny, and very human side of the Royal household.

Probus is a mixed club for retired professional, business and other people, who miss the friendliness and conversation of the work place. We are an easy-going bunch who don't take

ourselves too seriously, and who enjoy a monthly get together, an interesting talk, and a nice lunch. Sometimes we organize trips out, and last month 15 of us enjoyed a visit to Burcott Mill, near Wookey. In August we have our annual Summer Lunch, and in September former Vulcan bomber pilot Wing Commander Tony Davies will be giving a talk.

We are always happy to meet new members, so if it sounds like something you would enjoy, have a chat with our Hon. Secretary Paul Crocker on 01458 252545

or have a look at the Club web site at [www.langportandcurryprobus.btck.co.uk](http://www.langportandcurryprobus.btck.co.uk)



### Deadlines for September Edition

Advertising: Send to:	5pm Thursday 11 August <a href="mailto:crnadverts@btinternet.com">crnadverts@btinternet.com</a>
Comments & Articles: Send to:	5pm Tuesday 16 August <a href="mailto:curryrivelnews@gmail.com">curryrivelnews@gmail.com</a>



# Curry Rivel in Bloom

Gina Beauchamp and Sylvia Goodenough

**B**ritain in Bloom was started by the Royal Horticultural Society in the 1960s, it is a nationwide community gardening campaign to transform cities, towns and villages. More than 1600 groups take part each year focusing on community action to transform areas within the community. Arising from the Parish Plan in Curry Rivel a small group met to see how this could be developed in our village. The group has been to Britain in Bloom seminars and is working on a plan for Curry Rivel's entry in 2017. The judging for Britain in Bloom South West takes place in July, so we are now less than a year away from our first entry into the competition! A group from the village went to visit a village of similar size to us just outside Weston-super-Mare a few days after they had been judged and we were very impressed by how attractive they had made their environment.

## What are the benefits if we participate?

Developing a sense of community and increasing pride in one's cleaner and greener surroundings are major benefits. Planting more trees, shrubs, bulbs will improve the look of the village.

See the RHS website - [rhs.org.uk/communities/campaigns/britain-in-bloom](http://rhs.org.uk/communities/campaigns/britain-in-bloom) for more information

## What can I do to help and join in?

You could plant troughs/ window boxes /hanging baskets to brighten up your front garden.

Perhaps help a less able neighbour with their front garden, planting or maintenance.

You could work as a group in your street and develop a few gardens or a wildflower area together.

You could grow plants to donate to the scheme and help with maintenance/watering etc.

You could share any ideas that you have with the group!

Or enter the

## War Memorial Garden Competition

Our first big project is to improve the War Memorial garden which is very overgrown. It is amazing how much space there actually is - approx. 18 metres (60ft) in a curved length, and

3.5 metres (11ft) in depth. We will clear the site soon after Remembrance Sunday on November 11<sup>th</sup> and then need to prepare the soil. After years of

no cultivation the soil is compacted and depleted. We will renovate the soil as much as possible so it seems sensible that for the first year we have temporary planting so that the soil can be further renovated in the winter of 2017/8. In that winter the soil should be in a state to support permanent planting so your design can be either a high impact planting scheme for year one or a longer term permanent planting scheme. We will choose the best design in each category, and you can submit one or two entries. Entries should include a planting plan and a brief description of why you have chosen the colours/plants in it. A scale drawing of the site is available, either via the community website or by contacting Sylvia on [smgoodenough@aol.com](mailto:smgoodenough@aol.com) or ringing 250091. If yours is the winning plan you can then be as much or as little involved in the planting as you like though of course we would hope you will want to see your plan to fruition!

The colour scheme is up to you, but should reflect what the memorial represents in some way. We recommend consulting an expert at one of our local garden centres if in doubt about suitability. Any queries/ Entries should be emailed to Sylvia by 30<sup>th</sup> September or sent by post to her at The Woods, Curry Rivel, TA10 0PW.



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# District Councillor's Report

Tiffany Osborne

Don't forget the annual free Playdays will once again be available throughout South Somerset during the summer offering a variety of activities ranging from arts and crafts to challenging adventures on mobile climbing walls. Curry Rivel's playday will be taking place on Saturday 17 September. Last year's event was a great success with over 700 people coming to enjoy the play opportunities in a relaxed atmosphere. So put the date in your diary! For more information, and to find out about all the free Playdays in the area, visit [www.southsomerset.gov.uk/playdays](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/playdays) or go to the Facebook page [www.facebook.com/playyouthsouthsomerset](https://www.facebook.com/playyouthsouthsomerset).

The devolution revolution for the South West took another step forward this month. Devolution would see more powers and finance devolved from Westminster to the region

to work together to deliver more for the residents in key areas such as the economy, homes, health and social care and to close the productivity gap, improve road, rail and broadband links. There will be a full public consultation on any proposal to introduce a Combined Authority, which would consist of representatives from Devon and Somerset county councils, Plymouth and Torbay councils, the 13 district councils in the two counties and Dartmoor and Exmoor national parks. Each council now needs to formally approve the Combined Authority proposals after which the negotiations for finance, powers and responsibilities will take place between the region and central government. However, all areas have been reassured that their devolution proposals do not require an elected mayor.

## Curry Rivel Active Living Group



Meeting in the Village Hall Fridays  
9.30 – 2.00pm

Programme for July, August, September

### July

1 Games  
8 A Talk on trekking by Ian Williamson & Deaf Plus  
15 Music with the Keyboard Man Malcolm Gregory  
22 Games  
29 Games

### August

5 Music & singing with Phill Lloyd  
12 Games  
19 A talk on Endangered Species by Dawn Lawrence  
23 Closed

### September

2 Closed  
9 Games  
16 Music with the Keyboard Man Malcolm Gregory  
23 Games  
30 A 'Blast from the Past' with Jonathan Weeks

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# Hit the Road for a Good Cause

Active Somerset are holding a Car Treasure Hunt on Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> August at 3pm, so get your vehicle in gear and head for the Village Car Park to pick up your quiz sheet. It only costs £5 to enter and promises a great couple of hours fun and entertainment for everyone taking part.

The event finishes at the Car Park where entries will be marked and a prize, donated by Active Somerset's chairperson Kaye Morgan, will be awarded to the triumphant winners.

The proceeds of the event, organised by Robert Crowley and Steve Beney, will go towards the Annual Curry Rivel Kids Free Fun Event staged for tots to teens on 17<sup>th</sup> September at the local primary school. So get your thinking caps on – it's all in a good cause.



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\*waived if on certain benefits



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# LANGPORT & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

## English Civil War 'this war without an enemy'

Barry Winetrobe

To complement his guided walk round the Battle of Langport site in June, as part of the Langport Festival, Julian Humphrys of the Battlefields Trust, gave a talk on the Civil War in England to the History Society at Langport Library. His title set out the theme of his presentation: "This war without an enemy."

This was a quote from William Waller, a Roundhead general but a reluctant participant, in a message to his opposing Royalist general, and close personal friend, Ralph Hopton. Julian used the quote to dash some popular myths about the Civil War, especially the idea that there were two clearly differentiated sides involved – the Royalist Cavaliers and the Parliamentary Roundheads – with diametrically opposite political, social and religious philosophies. The reality was much more complicated and fluid than that. Even our notions of how the two armies looked, with the distinctive Cavalier and Roundhead uniforms, are wrong, as most soldiers on both sides dressed alike. To help distinguish friend from foe, they had to resort to devise such as 'field words' and the like for identification purposes.

The core cause of the Civil War was the struggle between King and Parliament over their respective roles in the government of England. Charles I believed in the Stuart theory of the divine right of monarchs, and so brooked no interference from Parliament beyond their role to vote him

the funds he required. Though most parliamentarians accepted much of the King's position, they, being mainly from the country gentry, wanted more say in the policies they would have to implement in their localities.

Various sections of society took sides as the impasse between the King and his Parliament deteriorated and war became inevitable, and regions of the country allied themselves according to the dominant wishes of their local elites. Religion also played a key part, with Catholics tending to support the King, and Protestants, Parliament. But, as with all civil wars, not only were old associations and friendships shattered, but those caught in the middle, especially the peasantry and urban dwellers, bore the brunt of the devastation and disruption caused by such internecine warfare.

Julian concluded by tracing the progress of the military campaigns; 'republican' rule under Cromwell following the King's execution in 1649, and the growing desire for return of the monarchy as the Commonwealth collapsed following Cromwell's death.

The Society's regular monthly talks programme resumes on Monday 5 September when Janet Few will speak on Ducking Stools, Dissenters, Debtors and Drunks: crime and punishment in the seventeenth century. It is free to members (annual membership of £12 is due in September): non-members are welcome; admission £2, including refreshments. Anyone interested in joining the Society should contact Sue Standen (01458 273471, [suzannestanden471@btinternet.com](mailto:suzannestanden471@btinternet.com)).

## READERS' RECIPES

### Lemon Courgette Cake

Running out of ideas for dealing with the courgette glut in your garden? Try this delicious moist lemony courgette cake.

#### Ingredients

250g caster sugar  
235ml vegetable oil  
3 eggs  
2 teaspns lemon zest  
60ml fresh lemon juice  
200g grated courgette  
250g plain flour  
¼ teaspn baking powder  
2 teaspns bicarbonate of soda  
1 teaspn salt  
100g chopped walnuts  
40g icing sugar for decoration

#### Method

1. Preheat oven to 180 C / Gas 4. Lightly grease a 23cm x 30cm traybake tin.
2. In a large bowl, combine sugar, oil, eggs, lemon zest and lemon juice; mix well. Stir in grated courgette.
3. In another bowl, combine flour, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda and salt. Gradually add this mixture to the courgette mixture. Stir until thoroughly combined; mix in the walnuts.
4. Pour cake mixture into prepared traybake tin and bake until a skewer inserted in the centre comes out clean, 35 to 45 minutes. Cool.
5. Sprinkle cake with sifted icing sugar and slice into squares or fingers.



# Growing Your Own

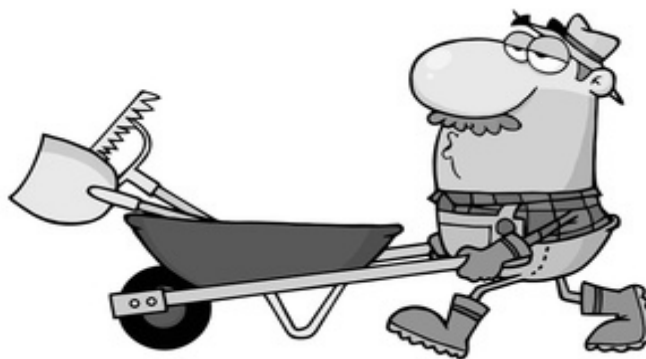
Peter and Sylvia Goodenough

We are looking forward to the Curry Rivel Flower Show on August 6<sup>th</sup> - it's good fun and there are classes to suit everyone - from vegetables to photography and flowers to cookery and painting. There are also children's classes, so how about occupying your little ones with some handicrafts? Schedules, which tell you all you need to know, are available from the Garage and Sandpits.

The rain that arrived on Open Gardens day was not entirely welcome but it did continue and replenished the butts. Unfortunately the water has now long gone and we are now using mains water to keep everything alive. At the time of writing we seem to have a mini heat wave with no rain in sight. So, watering is once again at the top of the list of things to do in the garden! A really good soak once a week for established plants and little and often for pots and new acquisitions. Watering in the evening is most effective as the water won't evaporate as fast as during the day. Even if your lawn is looking sad at present remember established grass is very resilient and will perk up again once we get more rain, though new grass will need constant watering.

Deadheading is another important job in August - sweet peas in particular really benefit from the removal of dead flowers before the pods form as this keeps them flowering profusely and generally deadheading prolongs flowering or leads to second flushes in many plants. Tall plants such as dahlias and chrysanthums need to be tied into their stakes as they grow, as do sweet peas. Cuttings of annual geraniums can be taken this month - it's so easy to cut off short pieces of soft new tip, 4-6cm long, remove all but the top couple of leaves and stick them into a pot of compost. With a minimum of watering over winter in a frost-free light position you will have rooted plants next spring that can be potted on ready to be planted out when the danger of frost is past. Fuchsias are also very easy to propagate as cuttings.

Early apples and pears are ready for picking during the month and restricted forms of these should be pruned.



Summer fruiting raspberries and loganberries are over and the fruited shoots should be cut out and new shoots tied in. Blackberries, both cultivated and the wonderful free harvest in the hedgerows, will be ripening and there should be some to pick at the end of the month. All autumn fruits will need some protection from greedy birds. Now's the time to plant rooted strawberry runners and take cuttings of herbs such as bay, mint, rosemary etc. Lots of vegetables are now at their peak, with sweet corn, carrots, peas, runner, French and broad beans all ready for picking. All these can easily be blanched and frozen if you have a surplus. Summer cabbage and cauliflowers can also be cut as required. Onions and main crop potatoes will be ready for lifting and storage by the end of the month.

During this relatively quiet month in the garden please do have a think about how we as a community can make our village War Memorial a more special place by making an attractive and peaceful garden around it - see the Curry Rivel in Bloom column for details of how you can enter the design competition.

## Wiltown Garage

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# RNLI News

## Selfies cause rise in coastal deaths

Mary Mullineux

Daring attempts to capture the perfect photograph have accounted for 92 deaths over the past 2 years. More than half of the 168 people killed at sea in 2015 entered the water accidentally while 385 others were spared only after being rescued by RNLI volunteers. The death toll is 50% higher than

the number of fatalities resulting from cycling accidents on UK roads over the same period. Alongside accidents caused by people attempting to traverse perilous coastal paths, fatalities also resulted from swimming, diving and sailing incidents and the driving of vehicles off cliff tops. Have a happy and safe holiday!



## Community Website Gets a Facelift

The new Curry Rivel website goes live 1st August 2016; it brings together material on the village, local businesses and local groups and events, which should give a real feel for the place.

**Curry Rivel: ABOVE THE LEVELS** will have lots of local up to date news and views. Go to [www.curryrivel.org](http://www.curryrivel.org) and try it out. Tell us what you think via the Contact Page, Facebook Page or email [editor@curryrivel.org.uk](mailto:editor@curryrivel.org.uk)

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**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN



The Salvation Army was formed in England in 1865 by William Booth, a former Methodist minister as the Christian Mission, but changed its name to the Salvation Army in 1878. In the UK there are over 800 Salvation Army parishes (known as *corps*), over 1,500 ordained ministers (known as *officers*) and 54,000 members, including senior soldiers, adherents and junior soldiers. A radical, William Booth believed that charity demeaned the individual and people should be offered a 'hand up' and not 'hand outs' to get them back on their feet. He provided soup kitchens to feed the homeless and he set up factories and farms to provide work for people down on their luck. In return they joined his ministry and some of them took on an evangelistic role. Our speaker in July, Captain Debra Oughton, told us some of its history but concentrated more on its current role today. One of its best known is its family tracing service but they also work against human trafficking, providing clean water around the world and they run residential care homes. Each corps tries to meet the specific needs of its community, so each one is quite different. Our garden visit to Waverley, in Moorland, proved very

interesting. The garden is packed with plants and grouped to create different growing conditions. They had just finished planting up the garden when the floods hit in 2014, fortunately when many of the plants were dormant. They only lost a few plants and trees and the garden today is a tribute to all their hard work since then.

As we have no meeting in August, we had a lot of arrangements to make at our meeting. We have a County Quiz (2 teams of 6 are entering), two more gardens to visit, a game of golf croquet, a visit to Clark's museum and so much more.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 8th September in the Village Hall and our speaker will be Peter Rixon from Greenslade Taylor Hunt. He will be talking about antiques and he will value and discuss the random items we are taking in. If that's something that interests you, then come along and join in, 9.45am for a 10.00am start and find out more about us. If you'd like a lift or have any questions, please call Jackie German on 01458 259688 or email [jackiegerman@hotmail.com](mailto:jackiegerman@hotmail.com)

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Evening & weekend appointments

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*Tuesday: Curry Rivel (Primary School)*

5.45pm – 6.45pm (All levels)

7.00pm – 8.00pm (Intermediate)

Private sessions 1 to 1 also available

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# Curry Rivel's Natural Health Service

David German

Last month we asked residents to send us details of any sightings of hedgehogs, we received reports of seven seen in Heale Lane, Stoney Lane and Stanchester Way and a juvenile hedgehog in a garden near the main road at the Langport end of the village. A report of unusual behaviour at this time of the year was received from a resident in a nearby parish who noticed a hedgehog building a nest with dry leaves and twigs close to the house, which it did in one day. The hedgehog has taken up residence and is being watched to see what happens next. If I get further news I will post it on CR Facebook page. An excellent start confirming that these animals are active in the village. We welcome more reports from all parts of the parish so please keep looking. We will produce a map of sightings in due course. Here in Townsend on the private Nature Reserve, 'Batty's Piece', off Holdens Way, we continue to invite anyone interested in our wildflower meadow to arrange a visit. At least half a dozen different species of butterflies, which include the very attractive Marbled Whites and Meadow

Browns are to be seen over the summer, bee orchids have nearly finished flowering and are setting seed, pyramidal orchids are in flower and in some areas of the meadow are very numerous. The great green bush cricket is also present in large numbers and impressive to see when compared with the more familiar and much smaller grasshoppers.

We are pleased to hear that management of Eastfield is becoming more wildlife friendly with a new mowing regime, and the ten foot margins left uncut round the field are showing a considerable number of Pyramidal Orchids.

A family glow-worm hunt is being organised for August. To see the spectacular show these beetles put on to attract their mates please phone to book a place with me on 01458 259688 or Catherine 01458 250655. The date is likely to be Friday 5th August, meeting on the Green, starting at 8.00pm, children must be accompanied. Contact details needed in case of cancellation due to rain.

## Health Walks in Curry Rivel

**Come and Join Us!**

The Health Walk scheme has been running in Curry Rivel since the beginning of the year. We walk for about an hour, 2 – 3 miles, along quiet country lanes and across fields in the village. The walks are proving popular, providing an opportunity for people to walk for an hour and explore our surrounding countryside. There are also Health Walk schemes in Langport and Somerton and a number of walkers join the different groups to walk in different areas.

The aim of the Health Walking scheme is to encourage people back into regular exercise by introducing a gentle

walking programme. Health Walks are ideally suited to people wishing to walk slightly farther than they currently do, or who simply wish to meet and walk with other people.

The Walks are free, and are led by Andrew Jordan. Starting on the Green at 10.30am, on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month, our next walk will be on Wednesday 3 August.

Come prepared for the weather! Wear waterproofs, stout walking boots or shoes, warm clothes as necessary. Please don't bring dogs.

Contact Andrew Jordan 01458 250725



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# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor.....

## Memories

The Memorial held for Rosemary Leaf in March at St Andrews was beautiful and indeed for a beautiful lady. Maurice and I knew Rosemary for many years, and during our campaign she was always there to help us in every way she could. She would send us to the Yarlington Care Homes, mostly in Somerset, and some further afield, as we could let all of the carers and the elderly know what the boys and girls in the services thought of their gifts and we used to read them the letters we received from Iraq and Afghanistan, which they loved, as some of the elderly were veterans themselves and knew what it was to receive parcels from strangers.

We used to visit

Rosemary

when she was

in the care

home in Langport, she always had that lovely smile and loved a good joke, we used to talk about the old days when we were young, how I would think of Rosemary as 'a beautiful giggly girl in a silver frame'.

Maurice and I will miss her, as I am sure lots of people in Curry Rivel will. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family

Maurice and Joanne Goody-Oris  
aka The Mo and Jo Team



## Call for a 20mph speed limit - 'Where there's a will there's a way'

Through the courtesy of your columns I should like to reply to the Parish Councillors' response to my letter which was published in the June issue of the *Curry Rivel News*.

They ask how a 20mph speed limit could have prevented the Head-on collision to which I referred. The answer is that presumably the driver of the 4-wheel drive vehicle was travelling at the existing speed limit of 30 mph, but had he been travelling 10mph slower he would have had half as long again thinking time in order to avoid an impact. For example, at 30mph it would take him 3.4 seconds to travel 50 yards, but at 20mph it would take him 5.1 seconds to travel the same distance. In the extra thinking time, he could have taken effective avoiding action. In addition, by progressing at a slower speed he could have caused less damage to the foot of the lorry driver, or possibly no damage at all!

However, the main point I wish to make is that this blind bend is a danger point in our village. Particularly because of the narrow pavements, pedestrians are very much at risk. Should any of our elected representatives doubt this, may I suggest that they try navigating a push chair from the King William IV pub to 'Living Pretty' at 8am one weekday morning.

There is a strong correlation between the severity of damage caused to pedestrians and the speed of the vehicles by which they are hit!

The following table illustrates this

<u>Vehicle Speed</u>	<u>Probability of Pedestrian Death</u>
20 mph	5%
30 mph	45%
40 mph	85%

Source: Killing Speed and Saving Lives, UK Dept. of Transport.

May I suggest that our councillors consider these facts, coupled with the old adage that 'where there is a will, there is a way'.

Maurice Powell



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## St. Andrew's Church



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

### August

#### Thursday 4th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

#### Sunday 7th

10.00 **CR** - United Benefice

Holy Communion CW

#### Tuesday 9th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Drop-In

#### Thursday 11th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

#### Sunday 14th

10.00 **FH** - United Benefice

Holy Communion CW

#### Thursday 18th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

#### Sunday 21st

10.00 **SW** - United Benefice

Holy Communion CW

#### Tuesday 23rd

10.30 **CR OSR** - Drop-In

#### Thursday 25th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

#### Sunday 28th

9.30 **FH** - Holy Communion CW

11.00 **CR** - Holy Communion CW

& Sunday Club

6.00 pm **SW** - Evening Prayer/

Evensong BCP

#### Wednesday 31st

2.45pm **Immacolata House**

- Residents' Communion

### September

#### Thursday 1st

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

#### Sunday 4th

10.00 **FH** - All Age/Family Service

11.00 **FH** - Short Communion CW

6.00pm **CR** - Evening Prayer

**CR** = St. Andrew's Church, Curry Rivel

**CR OSR** = St. Andrew's Old School  
Room

**FH** = St. Martin's Church, Fivehead

**SW** = St. Catherine's Church, Swell

## Scott's spot

### Brittle Shields (incl. Rector's Reasonings No. 1)



In recent months I've become increasingly aware of how many false assumptions and misunderstandings are being repeated and reinforced across our culture. No, I'm not talking about Brexit, but rather about the Christian faith. Again and again I hear the same things; statements made rather like a shield when the subject of God and faith is near. "There's no proof for God", "science has disproved God", "so many different religions, they can't all be right", "Christianity is intolerant", "all religion is brain-washing", "look at the harm done in the name of religion", "it's just wishful thinking"...

Well, in order to help those of faith who struggle with such 'shield-like' assertions, and to perhaps challenge those who say them, 'Scott's Spot' will now sometimes be subtitled 'Rector's Reasonings'. Bit by bit I hope to begin to show that the statements above are rather less impregnable than they might seem; that they're actually 'brittle shields' that can be challenged.

This month, then, I begin with one of the major reasons people give for not believing in God: the assertion that **'there's no proof, or evidence, for God'**. They want proof, something that would seal the deal, like God writing his name across the sky in stars.

Now I suppose it might make someone feel enlightened to say something like: 'I'd believe in God if there was irrefutable proof', but that's not how human beings actually live. Claiming that we will believe **only** in what can be proved may sound logical, but it's just a sound bite because **nobody** does this in real life. What we do instead is look at the evidence and make a judgement on where that evidence leads. So for example I can't prove that my wife loves me, or that I love her. I can put forward a good case (and perhaps a scrap book!) but I can't prove it by science or logic.

Actually we can strongly say that nothing worthwhile in life can be 'proven' in this strict sense. Love, hope, beauty, purpose, forgiveness: these are the things that really count in day to day life. We all know these things to be true, even though we can't prove it.

So maybe the demand for irrefutable proof when it comes to the question of God is in reality just a cop-out - one of those shields to hide behind.

But what about that related statement: **'if there was a God then He would have proven it to us by now'**? Well, if you've wrestled with this one then be reassured because it's perfectly correct to say that **he has** - to millions and millions of people around the world and throughout time. The testimony of millions is evidence for God.

But that's not the end of the story. To this we can add the hand of God in the minutiae of creation and in his revelation of himself as he formed and interacted with his Old Testament people, Israel.

But centrally we see God revealing himself to humanity, through Jesus his Son. Had we lived 2000 years ago around the Jerusalem area, and had we listened to and watched this person, then as he healed the sick with just a word, as he brought calm to a raging storm, as he fed thousands from next to nothing, as he held crowds spellbound by his peerless teaching, and as he died and rose again as he predicted, then the chances are you'd be pretty certain that God was real.

To point to these biblical revelations may not be proof in the 'name written in the stars' sense, but it is evidence. Scientists speak of *'inference to the best explanation'*, meaning we make judgements on where the evidence leads. Billions claiming relationship with God, the Bible presented and experienced as his Word to us, the historical figure of Jesus and the eyewitness accounts of all He said and did. Where is the evidence leading you?

With prayer and every blessing this summer,

Revd. Scott Patterson.

## CHURCH FETE

*St. Andrew's Rector, PCC and the 2016 Fete Coordinators wish to thank everyone who came to the Green and helped raise a tremendous £ 2,900.*

Also, a sincere thank you to all who helped on a stall, to the members of St. Andrew's Flower Guild who again decorated the church so beautifully, and those who generously donated money or items for sale at stalls or as prizes for the tombola.

We hope that everybody enjoyed themselves.

More about the fete elsewhere in this month's CRN.

## The 2017 FETE

is planned for Saturday 8th July

## St. Andrew's - Rotas August

**Brass** - Jackie de Ronde

**Flowers**

6th & 13th - Diane Talbot-Williams

20th & 27th - Nicky Barker

**Cleaning**

6th - Nicky Barker

13th - Lynne Comley

20th - Lyn Cotterill

27th - Julia Gauler



## Drop-In

Please note that during the summer Drop-In continues as usual on every **2nd & 4th Tuesday 10.30 - 12.00 am**, in the Old School Room.



Take a break from your busy morning and join us for coffee, home-made cakes and a friendly chat.

All ages very welcome.

## Service pattern change Advance Notice

Following consultation with the Benefice Council and PCCs of the churches involved, it has been decided to trial a change to the Service pattern, **starting in September** and affecting **ONLY the 4th Sundays**.

There will be a swap between Curry Rivel and Fivehead: the Communion Service in **St. Andrew's** will begin at **9.15 am** and the Service in **St. Martin's** at **11.00 am**.

This change is intended to allow the Rector to spend some more time with the Fivehead congregation after the Service.

## United Reformed Church



## August

(Services start at 10.30 am)

**Sunday 7th** - members of the

congregation

(including Holy Communion)

**Sunday 14th** - Rev Rowena Francis

(N.B. NO Sunday School)

**Sunday 21st** - Mr Barry Bryer

**Sunday 28th** - Rev Peter Henderson

Services are always followed by tea/coffee, providing us with the opportunity to talk with each other and the service leader. We are a small outward looking group and welcome you wherever you are on your life/spiritual journey regardless of age, gender, race, abilities, sexual orientation or denominational background

**URC Minister:** Rev Tim Richards

01458 252799



**"Secondary school is a blink of an eye away"** - a sentence in last August's 'pillowtalk': we've blinked and it's here.

In that one blink a whole 12 months has passed and in that passing we've come to a place of Goodbye. Goodbye to all that has grown familiar; routine, times, patterns of days, patterns of terms, teachers, lunchtime supervisors ... we've grown; from being the smallest to now one of the tallest; from knowing nothing and no-one to knowing *everything* and *everyone*!; from hardly speaking in class at all to standing confidently on stage in front of 'the world and his mother' declaring in every fibre of being 'I can do this'. The years have flown by and yet what ground we seem to have covered.



... continued

And so this chapter ends. As I write, in 3 days' time Primary School will become a memory: and for my daughter a happy one. She has been incredibly fortunate to have made some good, solid friendships which will see her through the daunting days of brand newness ahead.

It's been a huge journey for me too; standing nervous at the school gates to drop her off, unsure how she'll find it, unsure of myself. Her journey has been my journey; as she has grown in stature so have I. From someone isolated to someone surrounded by good friends; from someone nervous and shy to someone more settled, more comfortable therefore more confident in myself. The rites of passage have not been hers alone but ours, together.

Will we weep at the final pick up? She may not but I suspect I will. At the end of Primary school I have a more grown up daughter and I too have grown up - for how her journey so far has impacted upon and grown me I am truly grateful. We do not exist in isolation from each other unaffected by what happens to those around us: we exist, we learn, we grow, we evolve, we keep on becoming who we can most fully and richly be *in relationship* - school has helped teach my daughter this; in turn teaching me.

The next step - and it feels like a big one- we take together in the company of friends: both of us.

## From St. Andrew's Registers

### Weddings

*We wish them God's blessing at the start of married life.*

9th July - Katie Dowling  
and James

McWhirter

23rd July - Annie Robson  
and Matt Rogers

### Baptisms

*We welcome into God's church.*

19th June - Edie Rose Livvy Chaplin,  
Billy Guy Neville Chaplin and  
Ava Louis Hope Chaplin

25th June - Noah James Gambrill

### Funerals

*May God grant them eternal rest.*

7th July - Service to celebrate the life  
of Bessy Florence (Betty) Bagg  
(† 27th June)

# United Songs of Praise at the URC

by Robert Crowley (URC Secretary)

It is very pleasing to report about a highly enjoyable joint Service of Songs of Praise, which took place at the URC Chapel on 19th June last, with the Parish Church and Benefice choirs, with their organist Patrick Rendell. A number of visitors from the village also attended. Patrick and I had the pleasure of organising the service between us - Patrick was a tremendous help for which I thank him greatly. The Minister of the URC Rev Tim Richards was unfortunately indisposed and I introduced the hymns, after giving an introductory prayer and lighting the Peace Candle. The Priest in Charge of St. Andrew's Rev Scott Paterson, closed the service. Eight hymns were chosen by the Reverends, choir and congregational (URC and St. Andrew's) members. In addition, there was a quartet, comprised of two

'choristers' from both churches, singing the Chorale from Bach's B Minor Mass, which was well received. We all enjoyed the wide choice of hymns and Patrick playing organ voluntaries before and after the service. We all had an excellent 'sing,' praising God, particularly as we were all in the main body of pews, rather than using the choir pews adjacent to the organ - the sound of the voices was tremendous as I was facing everyone. Tea and cakes, which were extremely welcome, followed our very warm exertions. There was good fellowship and the success of the joint 'Songs of Praise' was indicative of an encouraging act of ecumenism on the part of both churches.

## Village Hall 200 Club

The Summer Draw took place on 2 July at the Church Fete and the following were successful;

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	£120.00	Mrs M Whitehead
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	£65.00	Mrs R Hollard
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	£55.00	Mrs L Deacon
4 <sup>th</sup> Prize	£40.00	Mrs L Cotterill
5 <sup>th</sup> Prize	£25.00	M C Osmond
6 <sup>th</sup> Prize	£17.50	Dr Haines
7 <sup>th</sup> Prize	£15.00	Mrs L Cotterill
8 <sup>th</sup> Prize	£12.50	P Crosland

and the following received prizes of £10 each; P Wheeler, Mrs M Henderson, Mrs A Washington, Mrs F Clapp, Mrs P Williams. The committee of the Village Hall would like to thank everyone who has purchased a unit in the 200 club, their support is greatly appreciated. Should anyone wish to purchase a Unit please ring Mrs Myfanwy Ashton the promoter on 01458 251877



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## In August

### Regular Events

#### MONDAY

9.45	Art Club	Village Hall
6.00	Pilates	Primary School
6.00	Youth Drama	Village Hall
6.45	Explorer Scouts	Scout Hall, Langport

#### TUESDAY

10.30	Drop In (2nd & 4th only)	Old School Room
5.45-8	Pilates	Primary School
6.00	Cub Pack	Scout Hall, Langport
6.30	Youth Club	Ridgway Hall, Langport
6.30	Guides	URC Hall
7.00	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
7.30	Sedgemoor Garden Club	All Saints Hall, L'port (2nd only)

#### WEDNESDAY

2.00	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
6.45	Scouts	Scout Hall, Langport
6.00	Youth Club	Village Hall
7.30	Bell Ringing	St Andrew's

#### THURSDAY

10.00	WI	Village Hall (2nd only)
4.30	Rainbows	Village Hall
4.30	Brownies	Village Hall
7.30	Parish Council	Village Hall (1st only)

#### FRIDAY

9.30-2	Get Together Club	Village Hall
7.30	Cinema Night (not August)	Village Hall (3rd only)

### Special Events

Sat 6	2.30	Flower Show	Village Hall
Sun 21	3.00	Treasure Hunt	Village Car Park

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### Some Useful Telephone Numbers

#### Youth Organisations

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts	01460 281184
Extreme Youth Club	251773
Langport Youth Club	07930 899 338
Rainbows	252429
Brownies	253855 <b>251953</b>
Guides	252901
Pynsent Youth Football Club	251084

#### Sports Clubs

Bowls Club	251616
Cricket Club	01823 698849 & 01458 252791

#### Social

Flower Show	250311
Out & About	251078
Royal British Legion	251796
Twinning Association	251432
Women's Institute	251689
Rotary Club of Langport & Somerton	252813
PROBUS	252545
Sedgemoor Garden Club	253953
Heale Lane Allotment Association	253953
Get Together Club	251773
Health Walks	250725

#### Arts

Entertainers	250311
Music Club	250863
Art Club	253126
Youth Drama	251773

#### Community Facilities

Village Hall	(crvhbookings@gmail.com)	0751 664 2704
Old School Room Bookings		250655
United Reformed Church Hall - Lettings etc.		259391
URC Secretary		259434

#### Community Services

Doctors	250464
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Huish Episcopi Leisure Centre	251055

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