



In the mood - for bangers and mash

Carolyn Paton

No sooner had Advent burst on the scene, than exuberant carols made themselves heard on the Green – paving the way a few days later for an evening of Carols, Bangers and Mash in the Village Hall. People from near and far filled every available seat, and the scene was set for a festive gathering of hungry and thirsty would-be singers. Beautifully decorated tables awaited the revellers and some of the participants were almost as decorative. Mulled cider was on hand along with a variety of other drinks, and lively chatter filled the room as the Rector Scott circulated, mysteriously bearing a clipboard and seemingly taking in cash! Were there really so many people who hadn't yet stumped up for their ticket? Why was he the one collecting these dues? All was revealed as he explained the purpose of his visit to each table – an ingenious quiz had been prepared, for which the answer sheets were available for a small fee. There were plenty of takers!

After Grace was said, the Guides made their entrance bearing plates of the most delicious winter fuel. The meaty bangers were very kindly donated by Simon and Jane from Old Heale Smallholding – many thanks to them. Thus fortified, all present were able to join lustily in the carols, ably led on the piano by Patrick Rendell and the Benefice Singers. Everyone gave of their all, assisted by the song sheets thoughtfully laid out on the tables for the purpose. Interspersed with the singing were breaks for delicious desserts provided by volunteers from the Benefice, a raffle, and the aforementioned Quiz.

It transpired that concealed within a seasonal text were many words that were also titles of international newspapers. The trick was to a) recognise them and b) get them down in time. Concentration was high in spite of all the joshing and merriment. It proved a challenge, but inevitably there was a winner – but only after a tie-breaker. Sighs of frustration from some, and amiable cries of 'fix' from others. Maybe any disappointment was mitigated by the many raffle prizes which finished up all



over the room, as lucky numbers entitled the bearers to a gift from the loaded prize table. Further carols rounded off the evening.

Many thanks to all who came for contributing to a warm, fun-filled, successful event.

Special thanks to the Guides, who not only served the feast, but did the washing up. They have received a donation in appreciation for their hard work. A huge thanks, also, to the heroic kitchen team (identifiable by their festive jumpers) who prepared and cooked so ably for the 90+ attendees. Not an easy task in a not very large space. Thank you again!

This was the fourth such evening and it has become an eagerly anticipated event; a step on the way to the Christmas celebrations. By the time you read this, it will be January and this special time of year will be closing. The memory remains.

Roll on next time!



District Councillor's Report

Tiffany Osborne

Happy New Year to all residents

South Somerset District Council has economic development and growth at the heart of its agenda and this commitment has been further strengthened by the approval of the draft Economic Development Strategy (EDS) which means that the document can now go out for public consultation.

The EDS 2019-28 sets out the vision, key outcomes, priority themes and action plan to deliver economic development over the next ten years in South Somerset. The purpose of the strategy is to provide a consistent vision with clear objectives and priorities for our District's economy through the whole Council approach. This includes having active, positive partnerships with key businesses to support a resilient business landscape, supporting local food and drink producers, promoting and developing tourism and bringing forward suitable land for small business units to provide local employment and entrepreneurship.

Public consultation on the draft EDS document will commence shortly and details of how you can have your say will be released soon. You can however take a look at the document now by visiting

<http://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=2295&Ver=4>.

A decision has recently been taken to re-instate the filling of Grit bins and the delivery of Dumpy bags for the current winter season which had previously been cut as part of the County Council's cost saving strategy. This will allow Parish and Town Councils to consider their precepting for next year to cover these costs in future financial years. Whilst it is also hoped to reinstate the 'ten bag per Parish' collection, this has not yet been confirmed and is dependent on further advice from the supplier

As part of the fire service's ongoing prevention and protection strategy, residents are encouraged to make contact for Home Fire Safety Checks - 0800 05 02 999. Equipment that can be provided for vulnerable people includes smoke and heat detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, hard of hearing alarms and arson proof letter boxes.

The Royal British Legion – Poppy Appeal 2018

Suzie Potter, Poppy Appeal Organiser

Having achieved the grand total of £3,775.95 during the annual Poppy Collection week last year, I was really hoping that in 2018 we would comfortably achieve over £4,000. It being one hundred years since the end of the Great War or the First World War as it became known.

However, commemorations both nationally and locally have been many and widespread and the generosity of everyone in Fivehead, Swell, Isle Abbots, Curry Mallet, Drayton,

Midelney and Curry Rivel has raised our total to an incredible £5,164.20.

Thank you to everyone who contributed and made this outstanding total possible and sincere thanks to all those who tirelessly collected and spent so much time going from house-to-house; regardless of how much each person collected it all counted towards achieving this superb total.



Primary School Activities

Frances Burns, Acting Head

The second half of the autumn term flew by in Curry Rivel Primary with lots of inspiring activities and progress. As part of a focus on farming for the younger children, the classes visited the Rural Life Museum in Glastonbury. This was much enjoyed and sparked some great writing. Some of the classes studied our Victorian past and received a visit from Somerset Heritage to learn about the Victorian Christmas customs. Our core aims are to help each child to 'be caring; be curious; be confident'. Having these visits really enthralls each child to ask questions and to get a breadth of understanding which gives confidence.

Christmas is always a happy time in school and the children should feel real pride in their various creative contributions such as singing at the CLP Advent Service in Somerton, sharing carols with residents in Fivehead and the Memory Cafe, performing a nativity play to packed audiences and the end of term Carol Service. The PTA also did a fantastic job of giving that extra sparkle to the end of term

with a beautifully decorated school, decoration-making, Christmas lunch and competitions.

We are tremendously lucky to have a large number of volunteers from the community who support the children with reading. Our key focus is to ensure each child makes good progress in their learning and the reading mentors really help with this. We also have great support with music from Mrs Patterson, French from Mrs Hamlin as well as our expert sports coaches. These specialists provide excellent opportunities for the children and help individuals' talents to grow. We are very grateful for these people's input.

In the new year, we will focus on reading for pleasure by re-invigorating the library, adding to our reading stock and developing comprehension through group discussions. We are also looking forward to improving the play possibilities with more fun equipment, quiet areas and role play areas outside. If you have any resources that you could donate, such as a model kitchen, Lego or model cars, we would really appreciate them. Please do phone the school! (01458 251404)

Dear Readers

I have always admired the dedication of people living in villages who put so much time and energy into making sure that village activities happen. It's always the same people who raise funds for churches and village halls, organise flower shows and fetes and galvanise residents into action for litter picking and speed watches. They give up their time to keep the village alive for everyone to enjoy.

I moved to Curry Rivel with my partner in July 2018 and one of the most memorable moments in the first few days was the sight of the brilliant Ed Pratt unicycling down the middle of the High street, waving with the biggest grin on his face. We didn't know who he was at the time, but now we know we are so pleased to be living in a place with such an inspirational person.

So I thought that it was about time that I stepped up and gave my energy and enthusiasm to contribute to village life, so here I am part of the team who bring Curry Rivel News to your door.

Joining the team with me is Hazel Morris, Distribution Manager, ensuring that the 1200 copies reach your homes. Hazel is also helping on the advertising front. Advertising in local news is a tricky balance between enough to create income to fund the printing and too much creating the impression that 'it's all adverts'. The aim of the advertising in Curry Rivel News is to fund its production so that it can remain free and delivered to you as well as to be useful – THE place to go to find that plumber who is just down the road, and where to find a really good Christmas tree. So I am sure you will forgive the slight increase in the ads – they are there for a good reason.

I hope that I will become a worthy replacement for Laurina Deacon who has worked so hard for many years. I am trying to meet as many people in the village that I can and look forward to receiving your thoughts, ideas and of course your news!

With best wishes

Helen Breeze



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Curry Rivel
ABOVE THE LEVELS

Your Community Website
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Your chance to help your family, friends and neighbours

Andy Anderson, Parish Council Chairman

In May 2019 the Parish Council must be elected for the next four years. Curry Rivel elects nine councillors and all nine slots are up for election in May. The existing eight Councillors can stand for election and it is for each of them to decide whether to or not.

You may think that the Parish Council has no power, is irrelevant to you and is only staffed by retirees.

You would be wrong on all counts. As budgets for District and County Councils are reduced they are concentrating on those things that take most resource and leaving the more day to day operations to Parishes. Most resources go to Adult Social Care and Children's Services, in consequence some Councils, Swindon is a good example, have created new Parish Councils (3 in Swindon's case) to enable the PCs to take over some operations funded by the precept they can legitimately raise. This approach raises taxes that the Larger Council cannot raise (because of Government capping).

So what are examples of recent works by CR Parish Council? The most visible is the regeneration that went with entering the Britain in Bloom competition. The area around the war memorial had been unloved for decades but has now been regenerated and has won a slew of awards in 2017 and 18. Would you like to help with future entries by working on other parts of the village? The PC has also enhanced the Westfield recreation area and continues to develop it. Would you like to help by running events for children on the site? The PC is fighting hard to stop CR becoming a dormitory village and has asked for the next tranche of building to include live/work units to encourage start up businesses in the village.

The best way to enable control of development and to try and encourage more employment in CR is a Neighbourhood Plan. However this requires a large commitment from

Councillors and a final say by the whole village. Would you like to help with this task? The Parish Council purchased grit bins in 2011 to help grit/salt the roads in winter but do not have enough volunteers to spread the material in cold weather. Do you live near a bin and can you help out in cold weather? One can find many more examples of the work of the PC.

So there are a number of areas that a new Councillor can contribute to and enhance the life of their family and friends.

What does one need to be a Councillor? You must have lived within the Parish for at least a year and be willing to attend one meeting a month (1st Thursday each month). There is no selection process before the election only a need to fill in a nomination form. Training for new Councillors will be given by SSDC and there are lots of opportunities to attend other courses about the work that PCs do. These are not compulsory but it would be hoped that enthusiastic councillors would want to attend. There is no pay associated with the position but there is an opportunity every year to help decide the local Parish tax and how it is spent. Finally one very important aspect is the evaluation of planning permissions within the Parish. Although the final decision on whether or not to grant planning permission rests with the District Council or, following an appeal, the Government inspectorate. The Parish Council opinion does carry weight and we like to listen to the public's opinion at our meetings.

Nomination forms will be available from the end of this month from www.southsomerset.gov.uk and they must be returned to SSDC between 18th March and 3rd April. Please come to the monthly Council meetings to meet the existing Councillors and to make appointments to discuss the Council workings in more detail. In the words of President John F Kennedy of the USA "Think not of what the community can do for you but what you can do for the community". He said Country not Community but the sentiment is the same.

TUESDAY GROUP

Barbara Lancey

The November meeting was our annual Skittles Match against the men of the Drayton Group, and what a fabulous evening it was too. Thank you to everyone who took part. We managed two good rounds of skittles before food was served, and had plenty of time for a final third round afterwards. There was plenty of encouragement and barracking on both sides, and hilarity to boot! Not sure we all followed official rules, but we certainly enjoyed ourselves.

Regrettably the ladies did not win this year.....aaaaaaah I hear you say.....but after two years at the top, it is only fair that the men were given their moment of glory. It also means we don't have to dust the trophy for at least a year! However, we weren't far behind the men, so a big thank you to all who took part and fought to the last.....our lady with the highest score was presented with a bottle of wine.

We were well served by the Drayton Crown, with perfect seating arrangements for when the delicious food was served. We were also very ably assisted by a young man who graciously agreed to 'stick up' for us, and very professional he was too.



When you read this we will have held our Christmas Party, the finale event of our year, which I shall report on in the next issue.

The Tuesday Group is a ladies social group drawing from Drayton, Curry Rivel, Muchelney, Fivehead, Langport and beyond, and usually meets on the third Tuesday each month at 7.30 pm in the Drayton Village Hall (there are a couple of exceptions!). 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 or Aideen Roche on 01458 252022, email aideenroche@btinternet.com.

Movies in the Village Hall

mvh.curry.wix.com/films

Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again (PG)

Friday 18 January



The film we've all been waiting for finally comes to Curry Rivel Movies in the Village Hall. This musical romantic comedy is a follow-up to the highly successful 2008 Mamma Mia! The plot is set after the events of the first film and also features flashbacks to 1979, telling the story of how Donna Sheridan arrives on the Greek island of Kalokairi and meets her daughter Sophie's three possible fathers. Reflecting on her mother's journey, Sophie realises that perhaps she is more like Donna than she thought. The film features many of ABBA's best-loved songs – just the ticket to brighten a dark January evening. How can you resist it? Stars: Amanda Seyfried, Meryl Streep, Julie Walters, Christine Baranski, Lily James, Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth and Stellan Skarsgård. Doors open at 7.00pm; show starts at 7.30pm in the village hall. Refreshments are on sale. Tickets £7 are available at the door. Don't forget we have our annual ticket for only £50 – saving you £20.

Coming soon:

Swimming with Men (12A): A man facing a mid-life crisis finds a new meaning in his life as part of an all-male, middle-aged, amateur synchronised swimming team.

January 2019

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Christmas Recycling

What can you recycle at or after Christmas? Quite a lot actually! Apart from the extra bottles and tins produced at this time of year here are some other things you can recycle: Wrapping paper can't be taken by the bin men as it is waxed or plasticised, but you could recycle and reuse it for next year

if large enough or use brown paper to wrap presents that can be recycled.

Use paper present bags that can be reused.

Packaging from presents can be recycled, take plastic to the mixed plastics bin in Langport Tesco if it won't go in your kerbside box.

Batteries can be recycled in most supermarkets or waste sites.

Christmas cards can be recycled as card or reused by remaking the picture into another card or cut up to make present labels for next year.

Postage stamps can be donated to charities.

Christmas trees can be left out by your green bin from 7th Jan or take to a recycling centre.

Recycle your left over turkey into soup, turkey, ham and mushroom pie, turkey curry!

Unwanted Christmas presents can go to a charity shop or put on Freecycle.

Declutter for the New Year and recycle it all

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At the start of the New Year, we are hoping you will join us for two very different events. Firstly on Friday 4th January, we are hosting our third Bring and Share lunch in the Old School Room from 12 until 2pm. This is a free event, open to all, not just WI members and their families. The numbers attending have steadily increased and we look forward to welcoming even more new faces in 2019. You are welcome to bring some of your favourite nibbles but the key ingredient is to bring yourselves. Anne Geach is organising this and she can be contacted on 01458 253078.

Do you have a New Year's resolution to get fit? Then our first WI meeting of 2019 may be of interest. We gather at 9.45 for a 10am start on Thursday 10th January when Linda Garret will lead us in Line Dancing. If you would like a lift to either of these events or would like more information about the WI,

please contact Jackie German on 01458 259688 or email <mailto:jackiegerman@hotmail.com>.

The beginning of a new year also sees us focus on a choice of resolutions to go forward to the Annual Meeting in Bournemouth in June. There are six very different ones to choose from, ranging from local bus services to very topical womens' issues. Each member gets a vote and these are forwarded first to County and then to National, the most popular one being forwarded to the Annual Meeting for debate. At the national conference in 2018, delegates voted almost unanimously to tackle mental health stigma, a campaign working towards ensuring those affected by mental health needs are given the same understanding and support as physical health sufferers.

In the coming year we will continue to support each other, enjoying a programme of activities including our usual walks, pub lunches and Needles and Natter meetings. Look out for a programme of completely new activities currently in development by our social committee.

January life

Helen Breeze

I love January. It's the start of the New Year, new plans, perhaps looking at holidays, plans for the garden and allotment. Life is beginning to stir, at least on the less cold and wet days and the days are getting longer:

Jan 1st Sunrises at 08:15, Sunset is 16:15 - 8 hours of daylight

Jan 31st Sunrises at 07:50, Sunset is 17:00 - 9 hours and 10 minutes of day light

The gardens are starting to come to life again with the perfect Hellebores, Snowdrops and catkins to provide early pollen for the bees, and Witch Hazel is gorgeously fragrant displaying their bright, crinkly petals. Robins, Blackbirds, Song Thrushes and Great Tits start singing to claim their territories and on bright, still evenings the Starlings will give us their mesmerising display. There are still berries around from the Autumn to feed the birds, but to help them through the worst weather, we need to keep putting out extra food for them. The fish are not feeding so

much, but take care to melt the ice on the frozen pond rather than give them a shock by smashing the ice! Look out for the hoar frost on clear mornings especially if you are one of the less tidy of gardeners; ornamental grasses look brilliant if left to die back naturally and provide the last few seeds for the birds.

I haven't got time for all that on the school run I hear you say! But if you can stop and pause just for a moment, you will be rewarded.

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Deck the Halls.....

Seventy to eighty villagers of all ages met on the Village Green on the evening of Monday 3rd December to sing Carols, accompanied by Patrick Rendell on guitar and supported by no less than 7 violinists. In cold but dry weather they sang over 20 popular carols, finishing with a rousing rendition of "Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly."

The party then moved into the Church for warm spiced wine, mince pies and a good natter!



Somerset Chamber Choir Concert

Sunday 17th February 2019 at 4.00pm Kings College Chapel, Taunton TA1 3LA

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Calendar Girls- The Musical is filling up fast so reserve a place now!

Our coach goes from Curry Rivel, Langport, Somerton, then Street/Wells or Keinton Mandeville/Shepton Mallet depending on bookings. Any profit is donated to charity.

For more details of all trips please visit www.theatretrips.webeden.co.uk

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Date	Show	Seating	Time	Price
Wed 16 Jan	Motown	Stalls	17:15	£52/£62
Thu 14 Feb	Comedy Bank Robbery	Stalls	17:15	£38/£43
Thu 7 Mar	Kinky Boots	Stalls	17:15	£51/£60
Wed 13 Mar	Bourne's Swan Lake	Stalls/Circle	17:15	£51/£61
Thu 11 Apr	The Magic Flute	Stalls/Circle	17:00	£56/£69
Thu 18 Apr	Rock of Ages	Stalls	17:15	£41/£50
Fri 3 May	Beauty & the Beast Royal Ballet	Stalls/Circle	17:15	£37/£47
Tue 21 May	Matilda	Stalls/Circle	17:15	£62/£72
Wed 29 May	Matilda	Stalls	11:00	£62/£72
Thu 6 Jun	Matilda	Stalls	17:15	£62/£72
Tue 11 Jun	Fame the Musical	Stalls	17:15	£45/£54
Mon 24 Jun	The Mousetrap	Stalls	17:15	£39/£44
Tue 16 Jul	Calendar Girls The Musical	Stalls	17:15	£47/£59
2020				
Wed 18 Mar	We Will Rock You	Stalls	17:15	TBC

Let us entertain you

Curry Rivel Entertainers are looking forward to delighting you with their 2019 pantomime 'Aladdin' showing in the Village Hall from Thursday 21st February. The rehearsals are well underway and tickets are available from 7th January from any of the cast as well as the following locations:

Curry Rivel Barber shop

The Village Hall every Monday from 7:30pm until 9pm

Greenslade Taylor Hunt in Langport

2019 show dates are:

Thursday 21st February at 7:30pm

Friday 22nd February at 7:30pm

Saturday 23rd February 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm

Email wannabe.1961@yahoo.co.uk for any ticket enquiries.

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Curry Rivel Village Hall

Any questions? Ask Hazel

07730 755203





Gina Beauchamp

What is Curry Rivel in Bloom? (CRiB)

Curry Rivel in Bloom came in to existence as a result of the Parish Plan in 2015.

In 2016 a small group of villagers lead by Peter & Sylvia Goodenough formed a committee and began to plan to enter our village into the Britain in Bloom, South West in Bloom Competition. As a large village we were placed in the Cox Cup category; the village size is allocated by electoral role numbers, not population. We are in the same group as Hutton, near Weston-Super-Mare and Beer, a lovely village on the south coast as well as other villages in the South West. A visit was arranged to Hutton, who had entered many times and had won a gold medal. We were shown around the village and the floral displays, had lunch in the very good pub there and were inspired to start our own project. We were quite envious of the wide pavements and planting areas in Hutton that we do not have in Curry Rivel. The main focus for our first year was to clear the very overgrown war memorial and replant the garden.

Tons of old trees, shrubs, weeds, glass and metal were removed from the garden which was planted in the 60s but had not been maintained properly for years. A wicker fence was put up at

the rear of the area, allowing for access at the back to treat the fence, posts were put in for structure and for hanging baskets. It took many hours of work all done by willing volunteers. We first entered in July 2017 with temporary planting in the garden and won a silver medal and the City of Bath trophy for the best landscaping project! This year we swept the board with our awards and won a gold medal and three other cups including the Cox cup for best in our group of large villages in the south west.

We now have to maintain our success and make continual improvements in making our village a beautiful place to live, not just with horticultural achievement but with community involvement and environmental responsibility.

How is it run?

We have a committee of about 12 main members who do most of the organising, paper work etc. but we have a lot of people who just like to come and help on planting days, help with watering, dead heading digging, grass cutting etc. If you help it does not mean you have to attend meetings or do paperwork, you will have time for your own garden and you can do as much or as little as you choose. We have a Chair, Deputy Chair, Treasurer, Photographer, website & Facebook managers, so people take on a role to manage an area such as Press releases, the wild life meadow, the allotment, DIY, the portfolio or the history of the village. We now have our own bank account and the Parish Council help with funding. We hold fund raising events to raise money and apply for sponsorship each year from various local businesses.

We are a friendly and cheerful group who are happy to take on challenges and find solutions.

How Can You Help?

We are always looking for more people to join in and come and help us, please don't be afraid that once you volunteer you will never have any time for yourself! You can help in any small way, you can suggest to us how you would like to help and offer your services. You can send us any ideas you have for improving the village. If you know of an area in the village that you feel is looking particularly 'unloved' then please let us know.

We would love to hear from you so why not make it one of your New Year's Resolutions to help the village in some small way.

Contact Chair Gina Beauchamp

Tel 01458 762296

cribsomerset@gmail.com

Visit our web page on the Curry Rivel website www.curryrivel.org.uk

We hope to have some really BIG news for you in the February CRN!

Watch this space!

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Pilates

Mo Masrour Pilates Foundation

Tuesday: Curry Rivel (Primary School)

5.45pm – 6.45pm (All levels)

7.00pm – 8.00pm (Intermediate)

Private sessions 1 to 1 also available

Contact Mo for details on: 07815748518

mospilates@yahoo.com



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St. Andrew's Church

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



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

Thursday 10.30 Holy Communion BCP

Please note that this service takes place only on the **1st & 3rd** Thursdays, **and** on the **5th** Thursday (this month). The applicable dates are in the diary below.

January

Thursday 3rd

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 6th - Epiphany

10.00 **FH** - All Age Family Service

11.00 **FH** - Short Communion CW

6.00 pm **CR** - Evening Prayer

Tuesday 8th

10.00-12.00 **CR OSR** - Craft & Coffee

Sunday 13th - First after Epiphany

9.30 **SW** - Holy Communion BCP

11.00 **CR** - Holy Communion CW & Sunday Club

6.00 pm **FH** - Evening Prayer CW

Thursday 17th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 20th - Second after Epiphany

8.00 **CR** - Holy Communion BCP

9.30 **FH** - Morning Prayer CW

10.00 **CR** - All Age Family Service

11.15 **CR** - Short Communion CW

Sunday 27th - Third after Epiphany

9.15 **CR** - Holy Communion CW & Sunday Club

11.00 **FH** - Holy Communion CW

Thursday 31st

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

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

Precious individuals

As you'll remember, last year saw some significant snow fall - enough to close the school for a few days and allow some proper sledging. No sign of a repeat performance as I write, but who knows what the New Year will hold.

To me there is something very beautiful but also rather awe-inspiring about watching snow fall. Standing out in the snow you can see millions of snowflakes filling the sky, with millions more following behind, with all of them just a tiny fraction of the flakes that have fallen over the years across the world. Can every one truly be different, each one unique, unlike any other? Well apparently so. It is theoretically possible that two of those tiny collections of ice crystals could be identical, but the odds against it are massive. Snow presents us with an awe-inspiring creation.

The same, of course, is true of people. We may look rather like our parents or siblings, maybe the resemblance is uncanny, but even identical twins are never completely the same. Yet despite that staggering truth, this doesn't stop us sometimes feeling rather insignificant. Our faces and personalities may be as unique as snowflakes, but we are all perhaps prone to that nagging doubt that we are merely part of a faceless crowd, or, more significantly that we are adrift in an impersonal universe, where our lives are ultimately irrelevant.

Thankfully God, our heavenly Father, has a different message for us, stating through the prophet Isaiah: **'You are precious in my eyes, valued, and I love you'** (Isaiah 43 verse 4a).



In these reassuring words God is speaking to the nation of Israel, his chosen people, but the message applies as much to us today. Despite our fears to the contrary, the Bible reminds us that in the eyes of God we are all not only unique, but also special - precious individuals. The 4th Century Christian leader Augustine described this truth beautifully: *'God loves each of us, as if there were only one of us.'* However much it may sometimes feel like it, our lives are not just statistics and our existence meaningless, God values you as a person of infinite worth, just as he equally values others.

There is no doubt that we live in unsettling times. We can feel small and insignificant as events on the world stage carry us along. Perhaps the issue of Brexit, just one amongst many, has shaken your sense of value, leaving you feeling small and insignificant. If so, then maybe, as together we strike out into the New Year, you need to hear the reassurance of God's Word. God's message of love, most fully seen in Jesus the divine Christmas baby with a mission to die, is that all people can hold their head up high, knowing that they have a place in his heart and his purpose.

With every blessing to you and those you love this January, and on into 2019.

Revd. Scott Patterson

Craft & Coffee in

St. Andrew's Old School Room

Please note that there **WILL** be Craft & Coffee this month, on **Tuesday 8th January** 10.00 - 12.00.

Final update on the 2018

Shoe Box Appeal

The final total of boxes that have gone from the village on their journey abroad to destitute families is **62**.

Many thanks to all who gave to this very worthy cause.

This year Ginny Smith followed the lorry to its destination! Look out in a future CRN for a recount of her experiences.

From St. Andrew's Registers

Baptisms

We welcome into God's church.

18th November - Leo Oliver James

Funerals

May God grant them eternal rest.

4th December - A Celebration for the life of Mrs Ena May Weaver († 13th November)

Children's Society

A huge thank you to everyone who helped raise money for the Children's Society by collecting their small change. There are now nearly 70 collection boxes in use in private homes in Curry Rivel and Langport.

In these boxes an amazing **£1,308.19** has been collected in 2018. At the Christingle services in St. Andrew's and the School a further **£191.90** and **£135.87** respectively was donated — altogether an excellent result.



Some of the children with their Christingle, after the service in St. Andrew's.

If you would like to help this charity by having a box in your home, please contact Tina Geary on 01458 259003.

St. Andrew's Rotas January

Brass - Gillie Purves

Flowers

5th & 12th - Sue Randell

19th & 26th - Angela Cole

Cleaning

5th - Tina Geary

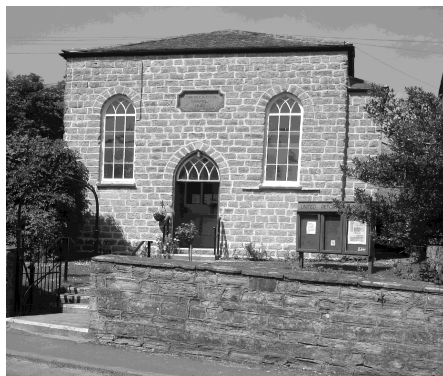
12th - Wendy Graves

19th - Liz Rendell

26th - Jackie & John de Ronde



United Reformed Church



January

(Services start at 10.30)

Sunday 6th - Epiphany

Rev David Huggett

(incl. Holy Communion)

Sunday 13th - Rev Rowena Francis

Sunday 20th - Uniting at Langport URC

Rev Brian Willetts

Sunday 27th - to be arranged

We are an inclusive, outward looking community and wherever you are on your life/spiritual journey we welcome you without regard to age, gender, denominational background, sexual orientation, race or ability. 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

Rev. Tim is back from his sabbatical, which included attending an International Peace Conference in Taiwan amongst other things, and can once again be contacted in connection with Church matters.

THANK YOU for helping us in our support of the work of ARC (Taunton Association for the Homeless) over the Christmas period by attending our Christmas Carol Service on 14th December and bringing with you filled shoeboxes, extra items and monetary gifts for ARC's work with the homeless. Accepted by ARC's CEO Justin Roxburgh, these gifts were much appreciated and served to make a practical and personal difference to those who received them.

The work of Christmas continues.

Thank you.



2018 into 2019

2018 grew to become a difficult year for our chapel community, marked by a number of serious health issues, concerns about the future welfare of loved ones and the shock and sadness of death.

We continue to put our hope in the Love-Light of God who promises to be present with us at all times and through all things – a promise we hold dear. The Members and Friends of Curry Rivel United Reformed Church take this opportunity of the threshold of a new year to look back with thanks and to step forward with hope wishing all readers of the Curry Rivel News a healthy, happy New Year.

As we enter another New Year –

Now the work of Christmas begins;
When the Song of the Angel is stilled,
When the Star in the sky is gone,
When the Kings and the Wisemen are home,
When the Shepherds are back with the flocks,

Then the work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost
To heal those broken in spirit,
To feed the hungry,
To release the oppressed,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among all peoples,
To make a little music with the heart
To radiate the Light-Love of Christ,

Every day, in every way, in all that we are and do and in all that we say.

When the festive fripperies and adornments are packed away, now,

Now the Work of Christmas begins.

Peppard

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In January Regular Events



MONDAY

9.45	Art Club	Village Hall
3.30-5.30	Messy Church (2nd only)	School Hall
6.00	Pilates	Primary School
6.45	Explorer Scouts	Scout Hall, Langport

TUESDAY

10-12.00	Craft & Coffee (2nd only)	Old School Room
10.30	Dancing Classes	Village Hall
2.30	Forget-Me-Not-Café	Village Hall
5.45 -8pm	Pilates	Primary School
6.00	Cub Pack	Scout Hall, Langport
6.30	Guides	URC Hall
6.30	Langport Youth Club	Ridgway Hall
7.00	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	Dancing Classes	Village Hall
6.45	Scouts	Scout Hall, Langport
7.30	Bell Ringing	St Andrew's

THURSDAY

9.30 -11am	Parent, Baby & Toddler Group (Term time only)	Primary School Hall
10.00	WI	(2nd only) Village Hall
1.30 - 3.30pm	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
4.30	Rainbows	Village Hall
4.30	Brownies	Village Hall
7.30	Parish Council	(1st only) Village Hall

FRIDAY

9.30-2	Get Together Club	Village Hall
7.30	Cinema Night	(3rd only) Village Hall

Some Useful Telephone Numbers

Youth Organisations

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts	01460 281184
Rainbows	01823 698940
Brownies	251953
Guides	252901
Pynsent Youth Football Club	251084
Langport Youth Club	0793 899 338

Sports Clubs

Bowls Club	251616
Cricket Club	01823 698849 & 01458 252791

Social

Flower Show	250311
Out & About	252146
Royal British Legion	251280
Twinning Association	251432
Women's Institute	259688
Rotary Club of Langport & Somerton	252813
PROBUS	252545
Sedgemoor Garden Club	250091
Heale Lane Allotment Association	253953
Get Together Club	251773
Health Walks	250725
Mother and Baby	07732 197030
Forget-Me-Not-Café	252710 & 741606
Inner Wheel	252648
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 - Lettings etc.	259391
URC Minister	01749 679300

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
Lay Reader	01460 281555
Churchwarden	259003
Secretary PCC	251355
Organist & Bell Ringing	253856
Flower Guild	252710
Roman Catholic Church, Somerton	274008
United Reformed Church Minister	252799



Deadlines for February Edition

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Send to:	crnadverts@btinternet.com
Comments & Articles:	5pm Tuesday 15 January
Send to:	curryrivelnews@gmail.com

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