

May 2023



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



There will be an art exhibition in the Village Hall throughout the weekend by the Curry Rivet Art Club.

Friday  
5th

### *The Big Coronation Play*

An enactment with the school children and community members in St Andrews Church. Limited seating, first come, first serve basis.

### *The Big Coronation Cream Tea*

Residents are invited to a free scone and cup of tea in the school.



Saturday  
6th

### *The Coronation of King Charles*

Free ticketed live screening of the Coronation coverage in the Village Hall from 10am. Tea and refreshments provided. Contact Tony for more details and booking 01458 252495 or [tony.greenaway@curryrivet.org.uk](mailto:tony.greenaway@curryrivet.org.uk)

### *The Big Coronation Picnic*

Bring your own picnic to Westfields from 2-6pm or enjoy food and drink for sale on site. There will be children's entertainment, bouncy castle, live music, licenced bar, free squash and a free coronation cup cake (whilst stocks last).



Pick up a Pizza & Prosecco Picnic from The Firehouse (excludes calzone and PIMP) for just £15 available from 12 noon until 6pm. Call to order 01458 887447.

Grab a drinks voucher at the picnic and head down to the The Firehouse to continue the festivities and enjoy coronation drinks promotions.

Sunday  
7th

### *The Big Coronation Breakfast*

Let the Village Hall team cook you breakfast from 8.30am. Great prizes to be won on the raffle and tombola. Last orders 12 noon.

### *The Big Coronation Pingo*

Join friends and family at The Firehouse for Royal Coronation Pizza and Bingo. Starts from 7pm, booking essential on 01458 887447.



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## Please help to keep Curry Rivel (and the rest of Britain) tidy

John Casebourne

**F**or the eighth year, Keep Britain Tidy is promoting the *Great British Spring Clean* which is the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign. It is encouraging individuals, groups, schools and societies to commit this spring to picking a bag of litter.

Of course, this isn't news to us locally. For over two years now Drayton and Curry Rivel litter teams, along with many other residents, have been collecting litter along our parish highways and around our two villages. Most of the litter collected consists of coke, lager and a varying amount of other drink cans, glass and plastic bottles. The pickers collect crisp packets, coffee cups, sandwich cells and sweet wrappers. McDonalds wrappers feature, despite the nearest drive thru being more than 10 miles away. What do you do guys — store them in your car until you drive through Curry Rivel and then chuck 'em out? Unsurprisingly there are cigarette butts and discarded packs, plus the almost obligatory full poo bags. Just who is it that still doesn't know of the harm dog faeces (and the bags) can cause to livestock?

There can be no denying that there is also litter from our domestic waste bins which, by the way, you can report. If you see litter falling from a refuse truck, go to the Somerset Waste Partnership website. You will need to report the registration number and the location of the offending vehicle - but don't forget some things may have changed with the advent of the new Somerset Council which became the unitary authority on 1st April.

And let's not even start (again) on tipping of tyres, garden waste and rubble from home improvements. Much of which could be recycled if disposed of properly.

Many people today are concerned about the effects of global warming — the survival of our wildlife, clean beaches, clean rivers, the use of chemicals — the list goes on. And yet think nothing of dropping a fag packet. We are struggling to deal with these issues, and there is no easy fix for our world. Each one of us is responsible for our actions. It is so easy to criticise, and yet we are all guilty, quite often just absent-mindedly, of leaving our mark — the paper cup you forgot you'd tucked under the seat in the cinema that someone else has to deal with. That's litter. Meaning no harm or with no ill intent, just not thinking that if we drop something, or kick it into the undergrowth, it's a problem left behind for someone else to pick up. That's litter.

So please, if you throw stuff down or out of your vehicle, leave that full dog poo bag in the hedge, fly tip or dump your garden waste, remember it costs money for our councils to clean it up. Approximately £500 million nationwide according to Keep Britain Tidy. This money could be used for other projects like the food bank, care in the community, NHS, and even help reduce council tax.

Maybe by changing our attitudes we will leave this world in a fit state for our children, grandchildren and for future generations to come. And yes, it is undoubtedly the case that the majority of people reading this will not recognise themselves, or anyone they

know, as a litterer. But it obviously comes from somewhere. How do we get the message across to those who would harm our environment? That's a big question, and of course if you have any thoughts let us know at: [curryrivelnews@gmail.com](mailto:curryrivelnews@gmail.com) Ideally we wouldn't be organising litter picks, we'd be getting through to those who, probably without malice or ill intent, just think it's OK to lob an empty bottle out of the car window. But in the meantime, Drayton and Curry Rivel litter pickers would be grateful for your help in any small way — just pick up that can some thoughtless individual dropped outside your gate and put it in your recycling. If you would like to join the litter-pickers, contact John at [johncasebourne@sky.com](mailto:johncasebourne@sky.com) Roll on the day when this doesn't need to happen!

### VOLUNTEER CARETAKER REQUIRED



- Curry Rivel Village Hall needs a volunteer Caretaker
- Approximately one hour per week
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- For more information contact: [peter.sleightholme1@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.sleightholme1@btinternet.com)





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# The £2 Bus Fare Extended Until The End Of June

*Peter Travis – Co-Chair Somerset Bus Partnership*

**The Somerset Bus Partnership has welcomed the Government's decision to provide an additional £75 million. This will enable bus operators to continue to cap their single adult bus fares at £2. The £2 flat fare introduced in January is now set to continue through to the end of June. Bus users in Somerset will be able to continue to travel on most bus routes in the county and beyond for just £2.**

It's worth remembering that this initiative applies to cross-boundary services, which means you can travel for example from Yeovil to Taunton or Chard to Taunton for just £2.

It's hoped this will persuade even more people to travel by bus, whether that's for work, education, shopping or medical treatments. Millions of people across England will be saving money just at a time when many households are suffering from the rising cost of living.

The 13 operators involved in the scheme are: ATWEST, Bakers Dolphin, Community Transport (South West) Ltd, Dartline, Faresaver Buses, First South West (Buses of Somerset), First West of England, Hatch Green Coaches, FromeBus, Libra Travel, Mendip Community Transport, Somerset County Council and South West Coaches. For more information on this scheme: <https://www.travelsomerset.co.uk/busit>.

Somerset County Council and the Somerset Bus Partnership have launched the 'BUS IT' campaign to promote bus travel.

Bus usage had declined in Somerset

during the previous decade, and even more so during the pandemic. So initiatives like the £2 flat fare are needed to boost passenger levels. Encouraging people to choose buses over cars is really important because it also helps reduce our carbon emissions. Transport accounts for nearly half of our carbon emissions in Somerset. Somerset Bus Partnership will therefore be continuing to work with Somerset County Council to encourage greater bus usage."

## Help Needed

Somerset Bus Partnership is a voluntary organisation formed some 2 years ago. It now has 150 bus champions and works with 125 Parish Councils across Somerset. It ensures the views of bus users are heard on what they need from bus services in our County ... which means people can get to where they want to ... when they want to ... and the journey is reliable, comfortable and affordable. Key to the journey experience is easy access to bus information, improved bus stops and bus stations, and bus services that integrate with rail.

We are looking to expand the work of Somerset Bus Partnership over the next 12 months. However, we need more resource to help us do this. Can you spare an hour a month to help? We could do with some assistance with our membership and administration. Or do you have a background in Planning, Traffic Management or Public Transport? Or have fundraising experience and could help with submitting fundraising plans?



If you can help please get in contact:  
[somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com](mailto:somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com)  
<http://www.somersetbuspartnership.co.uk/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/Somerset-Bus-Partnership-105704811629827>

## WIN £50 UPDATE

The response to our competition has been brilliant!  
 We will be drawing the winning name shortly and announcing the winner in June's edition.

## VOLUNTEER TREASURER REQUIRED



- Curry Rivel Village Hall needs a volunteer Treasurer
- For more information contact: Myfanwy - 01458 251877



# Curry Rivel, Drayton and Hambridge Food Bank

Ginny Smith

**T**he days before Covid now seem to be long ago and they pre-date our food bank too. December 25th 2019 was the last Christmas before Covid struck the country. The Trussell Trust food bank had been well established in Langport, at the Ridgeway Hall, for more than 5 years before Covid, but had to close, as all of the volunteers were over 70 years old and were deemed to be vulnerable.

A small group of thoughtful, well organised, community minded volunteers in the village, met to discuss what support should be planned for the village, and they were soon joined by many more members of the community wishing to help. The red and green card system evolved, along with prescription collections, lifts to vaccination centres and the birth of our own local, independent food bank.

From the beginning it was decided that volunteers should deliver to the family homes. This turned out to be a blessing because the food bank was able to function seamlessly throughout the lock down periods too. We could deliver to the doorstep and then stand 2 metres away, whilst chatting to our families, checking how they were feeling and what help they needed. The URC kindly allowed the centre to be based in their hall. There was no idea how long the support would be necessary. The volunteers met each week to pack the food parcels and deliver them. Meetings were held by Zoom and the main discussion throughout was 'how long shall we be running this for?' Originally we thought 6 months, then we considered it being at least 9 months and eventually those months became years.

Today the food bank is based in the North Chapel at St Andrew's. It has been very well stocked due to the incredible generosity of the members our villages. We are eternally grateful to all of our donors, who continue to give, week after week - but our stock goes down every week too. Many residents have committed to regular financial donations. It was hard going to find a bank that would accept us but sheer determination saw the eventual opening of an

account. Those donations also enable us to fill the bags with groceries each week. No-one was aware of what was going to follow, once vaccinations became the norm. We weren't expecting members of our community to lose their jobs, businesses to fold, food prices to rise and energy prices to rocket. Since December 2019 the need for support has grown and grown. We are now feeding more members of our community than ever before.

If you are growing veg or fruit in your garden or allotment this year, please remember us when you have excess. We'll happily collect from you if delivery is a problem. If you check the Curry Rivel website, there is a weekly list of food which is specifically in short supply; you can never go wrong with mayonnaise, tomato ketchup, soup, squash, tinned meat, kitchen roll, toilet rolls, washing up liquid, laundry powder/ gel/tablets.

Between 10.30am and 11.30am every Wednesday our volunteers are packing bags for delivery and are grateful for any fresh or perishable food that you may have to donate. Non-perishable items can be taken to St Andrew's any day and left in the North Chapel. There is also a box for donations at One Stop in the village.

Throughout the years of the food bank's existence, the generosity of our donors has been superb and the gratitude of our recipients too. We feel honoured to be responsible for the distribution of the donations and see it as our responsibility to ensure that we are dealing with the food wisely. There are many babies, children and teenagers benefitting from your kind donations. Thank you from us all. If you need more information, a delivery, account details or anything else, please ring either of these contact numbers.

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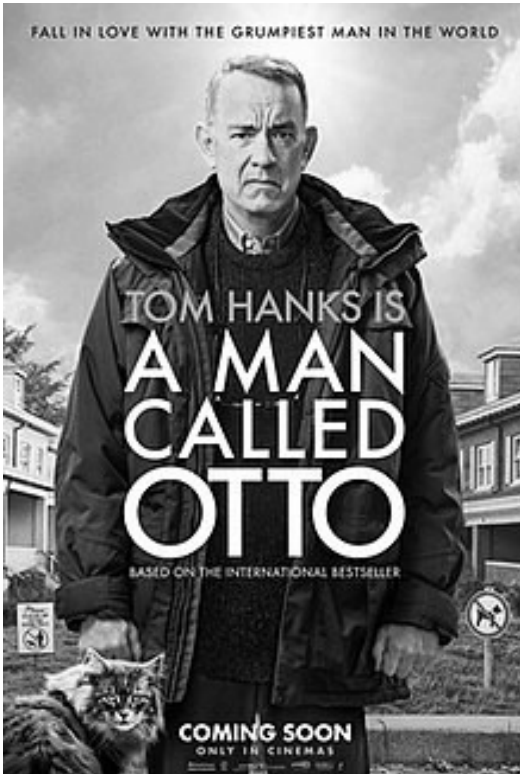
## Movies in the Village Hall

[mvh.curry.wix.com/films](http://mvh.curry.wix.com/films)

*Alison Cockrell*

### A Man Called Otto (15)

Friday 19 May 2023



**T**om Hanks plays Otto Anderson, a curmudgeonly 63-year-old who lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Otto is feeling low in spirits after retiring from a steel company and having lost his wife Sonya, a schoolteacher, six months previously. He is befriended by neighbours Marisol and Tommy and despite his grouchy ways he adopts a stray cat that has been hanging around. A local teenager recognises him as being the husband of his former teacher and a friendship develops.

Based on the 2012 novel A Man Called Ove by Swedish author Fredrik Backman, this comedy-drama will take you on an emotional rollercoaster.

Also stars: Mariana Trevino, Manuel Garcia-Rulfo and Mack Bayda. Doors open at 6.30pm, show starts at 7.00pm in the Curry Rivel Village Hall.

Tickets £7 are available at the door. Refreshments available.

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# Somerset Council is GO!

*Richard Wilkins & Mike Stanton  
Councillors for Curry Rivel and Langport*

**F**lags are flying as a new era dawns with the official launch of Somerset Council.

The new, single council's logo features on flags that are flying at council offices in Bridgwater, Shepton Mallet, Taunton and Yeovil.

The combination of five councils into one will free-up resources, save an estimated £18million every year, protect jobs and services, grow Somerset's voice nationally, help deliver investment in business and infrastructure and drive action to tackle climate change.

It is now easier for customers to access the services they need: a single telephone number 0300 123 2224 and a single website [www.somerset.gov.uk](http://www.somerset.gov.uk). The number of Customer Access Points across Somerset is almost doubling from 12 to 19.

Somerset Council, with 110 councillors, is one of the largest unitary councils in England – with 512 services –its scale will enable innovative approaches to tackling the big challenges facing us today.

Cllr Bill Revans, Leader of Somerset County Council, said: "This is the biggest shake up of local government in Somerset for 50 years. While people will see some immediate benefits, such as simpler ways to get in touch, there won't be a big difference right away.

"In the years ahead, services will be more joined-up and we can use this powerful new council to take on the big challenges such as improving opportunities for young people, managing the impacts of an ageing population, and addressing the cost-of-living and climate crises."

Cllr Val Keitch, Executive Member for Local Government Reorganisation and Prosperity, added: "The new council will have strong links with local communities built in. The introduction of 18 Local Community Networks (LCNs) across the county will involve a wide range of people and partners with real power to influence the issues that matter to them. "Creating a new council is a complex project that we've delivered on time and on budget. That is thanks to hardworking council staff working collaboratively for the good of our county. This shows how in Somerset we get the job done."

## **Ambitious plans to transform education in Somerset**

Ambitious plans to transform education and drive improvements in Somerset schools have been unveiled.



Somerset Council's new five-year education strategy was shared with professionals from across schools, local authorities, Ofsted and the Department for Education at the Somerset Education for Life event, held at Fleet Air Arm Museum in Yeovilton on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

The new plans have been developed following reports that Somerset is in the top ten Local Authorities nationally for the proportion of inadequate schools, and recent poor exam results across the board.

You can find out more about Somerset Education for Life at: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/how-the-council-works/education-for-life-strategy/>

## **Responding to frustration over disruption to bus services in Somerset**

Cancellations and disruption to timetables hitting bus routes across Somerset have been flagged with the region's main operator by the Council's Lead Member for transport, Councillor Mike Rigby. He has written to First South's Managing Director Simon Goff asking for an "urgent explanation" for the number of cancellations in the last year and an action plan for improvement. He has also criticised cleanliness of some buses which he said creates a "bad image for existing and potential passengers".

The Lead Member for Transport and Digital has underlined his concerns that the unreliability of timetables will undermine efforts to get more people on buses, despite money from Somerset's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) supporting a £1 fare for Taunton, Government funding making possible a £2 single fare across the county, and the Council investing significantly in a sustained 'Bus It' campaign. Mr Goff has responded citing a national shortage of drivers which has hit the industry since the pandemic, as well as an unusually high level of absenteeism, and said he is "determined to restore passenger confidence" and to ensure disruption is short term. He has underlined measures to increase the number of drivers and new trainees coming through.

Buses of Somerset currently have vacancies for trainee bus drivers visit [www.careers.firstbus.co.uk](http://www.careers.firstbus.co.uk) to find out more.

...continued....

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### Council extends online support for carers with new digital service

Many Somerset residents who provide unpaid care do not access the support available to them. This could be because they do not see themselves as carers because they are simply supporting a relative, friend or neighbour who needs them to due to disability or illness.

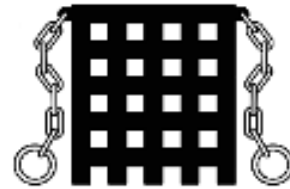
Somerset Council has recently launched a three-month pilot project with Mobilise, an online business created by carers to help unpaid carers get the support they are entitled to. The new pilot will use social media and digital

marketing to help find and identify 'unpaid carers' in Somerset and link them with the support that is available to them. Mobilise will work directly with the existing commissioned Carers Service, including the Community Council for Somerset Agents, to ensure that targeted information will be given to carers and their families. This will include a range of online support, from website guides, regular contact through emails, guide to caring e-course to 'virtual cuppas' and even individual support calls - seven days a week.

The Mobilise service is free for residents of Somerset and can be accessed via: <https://support.mobiliseonline.co.uk/somerset>

## Private Guided Tour of the Fascinating Rural Life Museum

Janet Seaton – Chair LDHS



**L**angport and District History Society has arranged an evening group visit to the Somerset Rural Life Museum on Thursday 6th July. This is after the museum is closed to the public, so it gives us exclusive access to the collections, a private guided tour, and light refreshments. It will be from 7pm to 9pm, and costs £15 per person. If you'd like to join us please contact Peter Mottram on 07936 166841 or [motty.goodwood@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:motty.goodwood@yahoo.co.uk) to book a place.

### Bygone Days

The tower of St Andrew's Church in Curry Rivel had to be demolished because it was unsafe, and the foundation stone of the new tower was laid on 8 May 1860. The ceremony was performed by Miss Frances Coker on behalf of Miss Pinney of Somerton Erleigh, who was unable to attend due to the death of her mother. She used a silver trowel, "the

handle of which was made from a piece of the famed Glastonbury thorn, and very beautifully carved."

The report in the *Sherborne Mercury* of 15 May 1860 went on to say, "About sixty or seventy of the clergy and gentry of the village and neighbourhood repaired to the school-room, where an elegant luncheon was provided by Mr Meade of the Dolphin, Langport, at which the worthy vicar, the Rev. Henry Roberts presided, supported by the Dean of Canterbury and Miss Coker, the lady acting for Miss Pinney. W W Munckton Esq, senior churchwarden, was in the vice chair. The room and table were most artistically decorated with evergreens, and the choicest stove and greenhouse flowers."

<https://langportheritage.org.uk>

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# Letter to the Editor

## Fair government



Firstly this letter is not political. I'd write exactly the same letter if Labour, LibDems or Greens were in power.

It just seems to me that the way our votes are assessed at general elections is unfair and unrepresentative. It's called "First Past the Post" (FPTP) and means that sometimes the winning party can have fewer votes than the party coming second. That's one obvious flaw.

I don't know about you, but I normally don't agree with everything my chosen party is proposing. Also, I normally like some things the other parties are proposing. But the FPTP system says "You win. Everyone else loses". So the population's overall priorities are not properly reflected, which cannot be right.

One alternative is "Proportional Representation" (PR) which attempts to better reflect what people need and want. 85 countries currently use PR and 23 use FPTP.

One objection is that often PR can lead to a coalition government. The knee jerk reaction is "Coalitions don't work". But they do in many countries around the world and indeed we had a coalition government from 2010-2015 which worked pretty well.

Changing the system would need to be carefully managed but I believe it would be worth it.

Yours sincerely

Nigel Grinsted

# D.D.I.Y

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

**killens.org.uk**

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somerton@killens.org.uk



## Charity Theatre Trips to Bristol Hippodrome

Chris Cox

**W**ith several sold-out trips to get 2023 off to a flying start it has been a busy time recently. We are now booking into 2024 but payment is rarely due until two months before the trip date and the earlier you book the better your seats.

New ones just reserved are Blood Brothers (in our top five musicals), Pretty Woman (mixed reviews), The Wizard of Oz (very well received) and a rare chance to see Benjamin Britten's opera 'Death in Venice' with the wonderful Welsh National Opera company.

The best way to keep up to date is at [www.charitytheatretrips.com](http://www.charitytheatretrips.com) where there are full details and a booking form.

### Programme

**Strictly Ballroom:**  
Tue 13 June 23

**42nd Street:**  
Thu 3 Aug 23

**Blood Brothers:**  
Tue 29 Aug 23

**Charlie & The Chocolate Factory:**  
Wed 27 Sep 23

**Pretty Woman:**  
Wed 1 Nov 23

**Peter Pan Pantomime:**  
Wed 6 Dec 23

**Life of Pi:**  
Wed 17 Jan 24

**Wicked:**  
Thu 22 Feb 24

**Everyone's Talking About Jamie:**  
Tues 27 Mar 24

**The Wizard of Oz:**  
Wed 3 Apr 24

**Death in Venice (Opera):**  
Sat 27 Apr 24

## Curry Rivel's brand-new exercise class with Age UK Somerset

**K**eeping active is vital for our health and wellbeing. Local charity, Age UK Somerset have launched a new Movement to Music exercise class in Curry Rivel, which is specially designed for people over 60.

Local Curry Rivel resident, Becky, leads the fun and lively class each week. The Movement to Music is held on Wednesdays in Curry Rivel Village Hall, 10am-11am, costing only £5. Be sure to pre-book your place to avoid disappointment.

Instructor Becky said,  
"My new Movement to Music class is a great way to improve your general fitness, have fun, and meet new people. Expect music, laughter, dance and joy! The class will feature a mixture of seated and standing exercises. I look forward to meeting you."

For more information call 01823 345624, email [ageingwell@ageuksomerset.org.uk](mailto:ageingwell@ageuksomerset.org.uk) or visit [ageuksomerset.org.uk/ageingwell](http://ageuksomerset.org.uk/ageingwell)



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## St. Andrew's Church

To find out more, please visit us at:  
[www.curryrivel.org.uk](http://www.curryrivel.org.uk) or  
[www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)



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

### May

#### Thursday 4th

10.00 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

#### Friday 5th

2.15 pm **CR** - 'Coronation Play' by CR School, church and community, together enacting

#### 'The Coronation'

Also Cream Teas.



#### Sunday 7th

10.00 **FH** - All Age Family and Friends Service + refreshments

11.00 **FH** - Said Communion CW

6.00 pm **CR** - Evening Prayer

#### Tuesday 9th

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

#### Sunday 14th

9.30 **SW** - Holy Communion BCP

11.00 **CR** - Parish Communion CW

+ Kids Church

#### Thursday 18th - Ascension Day

10.00 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

#### Saturday 20th

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

#### Sunday 21st - Rogation walk Sunday

(see also article on next page)

9.15 **FH** - Refreshments, introduction, start of walk to Swell

@ 10.45 arrive **SW** - Prayer, Praise, Communion, continue walk to Curry Rivel

@ 1.00 pm arrive **CR** - final prayer, closing hymn, bring & share lunch in the **OSR**

#### Sunday 28th - Pentecost

10.00 **SW** - United Benefice

All Age Communion

+ Kids Church (t.b.c.)

### Scott's spot



#### Defender of faith?

As this issue of *CRN* is delivered, the Coronation of Charles III will be in a matter of days. It will be a moment of great pageantry and symbolism, one not seen since 1953 when Elizabeth II was crowned Queen.

There will be much in the ceremony that will focus upon the Christian faith. The Orb with the cross on the top will be placed in the hands of King Charles, this representing the world under Christ's sovereign rule. The St. Edward's Crown, used when Charles is officially declared King, also bears the central Christian symbol of the cross front and centre. Oaths will be taken in the name of God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit; a Bible will be presented to Charles as a reminder of the authority under which he rules; and he will be anointed with holy oil and prayed for as he is formally set aside for the service God, our nation and the Commonwealth.

But there will also likely be changes. King Charles will want to put his own stamp on proceedings, and I suspect the most obvious will be his often voiced desire to be 'the defender of faith' rather than 'the defender of the faith'.

What do you think about this change? Well maybe like me you are in two minds. On the one hand as a Christian and church leader I'm uneasy. I wonder whether our new king actually holds to the often repeated position that 'all religions lead to the same god'. Despite this being an idea that dissolves quickly when you explore the world religions at even the most superficial level, I wonder if Charles has leanings in this direction. I'm not sure.

#### From St. Andrew's Registers Funerals

*May God grant them eternal rest.*

30th March - Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Mr John Whitehead († 19th March) followed by burial in the churchyard

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

### Scott's Spot ctd. . .

What I am sure about is that the God of the Bible has plenty to say about our worship being focused upon him alone, and that the worship of anyone or anything else matters to him. It matters so much that Commandments 1 and 2 of the Ten are all about this (see Exodus 20). So I'm uneasy about the position as 'defender of faith' because even if King Charles is personally committed to the Christ of Christianity, his position could easily be misinterpreted.

On the other hand, we do live in a multi-cultural society that includes many different faith groups. So despite my reservations I find myself grateful that someone with such a high profile is prepared to stand in the defence of faith, including my own. For our King to effectively champion the freedom of religious expression at a time when the 'tolerance' of some is becoming tolerant only of those who agree with them, is timely and valuable.

The need for many 'defenders of faith' is a lesson of history. Martin Niemöller was a pastor in the German Confessing Church who spent seven years in a Nazi concentration camp. He wrote: *'First they came for the communists, and I did not speak out because I was not a communist. Then they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak out for me.'*

So I think I see where King Charles is coming from and I am grateful for his public stance. I am also conscious that no one was more concerned for the defence of the powerless and marginalised than Christ the King of kings. Your Majesty...may He guide and defend you, as you seek to defend us.

Rev'd Scott.

#### St. Andrew's Rotas May

**Brass** - Sue Blackwell

#### Flowers

3rd - Coronation flowers  
 12th & 19th - Adrienne Holmes  
 26th - Diana Talbot-Williams

#### Cleaning

6th - Carolyn Paton  
 13th - Nicky Barker  
 20th - Liz Rendell  
 27th - Lynne Comley



*Please join us for a  
Curry Night  
on Saturday 13th May 7.00pm  
in the Old School Room*

This will be a fun night in aid of the repairs of St. Andrew's North Chapel windows and will cost £12 pp.

There will be a vegetarian option (please state beforehand), a dessert, a bar and a raffle. Why not make up a table?

For tickets, please contact Dave or Sally on 01458 - 253431 or email [curryrivelsta@gmail.com](mailto:curryrivelsta@gmail.com)



**St. Andrew's Flower Guild  
Annual Meeting** will be on  
**Tuesday 16th May at 10.30am**  
in the Old School Room  
And on

**Tuesday, 20th June 9.30am - 12.30pm**  
there will be a Guild Workshop in the OSR about 'going Oasis-free in flower arrangements'. More in June CR News.

**Rogation Sunday and  
'Beating the Bounds'  
Sunday 21st May**

An invitation to everyone to join our three Benefice church families for this Rogation Sunday celebration. Starting at 9.15 at St. Martin's Church in Fivehead for bacon butties and a short opening service; then a 'beating the bounds' walk (incl. toilet stop) to Swell for a short Communion Service, before continuing on to Curry Rivel for a final hymn & prayer followed by a bring & share lunch in the OSR.

Dogs on leads are welcome.

See the diary on opposite page for approximate timings, so that any non-walkers can meet us at various points.

The Church has traditionally offered prayer for God's blessing on the fruits of the earth and the labours of those who produce food. Rogation days (the 3 days before Ascension Day) were a period of fasting and abstinence, beseeching God's blessing on the crops for a bountiful harvest, starting on the preceding Sunday.

'Beating the boundary' goes back to medieval times, when a 'beating party' walked the boundary of a parish, checking the boundary markers and beating them with long sticks, also praying for the protection of the land.

## United Reformed Church



### May

**Services at 10.30 in our Chapel  
building and  
simultaneously via Zoom**

If you wish to join with us via Zoom please email [sbenedy6@gmail.com](mailto:sbenedy6@gmail.com) with a request to be included in the Zoom link invitation list.

**Sunday 7th** - to be arranged

**Sunday 14th** - Rev Rowena Francis

**Sunday 21st** - Rev Evelyn Ridout  
(incl. Holy Communion)

**Sunday 28th** - Rev Tim Richards

**URC Minister:**

**Rev. Tim Richards 01458 252799**

### Dear Friends,

In the church calendar we move from Advent through to Christmas, a short stop at Epiphany, straight into Lent and into Easter, and then embark on a number of 'Easter Sundays', which include Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday – all in the space of about 6 months - phew! Then the church has what are called either 'Proper Sundays' or 'Ordinary Sundays'.

This got me thinking – part of the psychological effect of working through set periods within our Christian year is that there is a tendency to look at the 'ordinary' Sundays as marking a time when you can breathe just that little bit easier, catch up with all those tasks and potential projects that inevitably get pushed to the bottom of the pile during the busier times.

Does that somehow devalue them? Does opting to re-organise the office or catch up on minutes from various committee's carry less weight than preparing for a Lent course?

We are an inclusive, outward looking group of people and we welcome all: wherever you are on your 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.

### Dear Friends ctd . . .

And what is so ordinary about 'Ordinary Sundays'? What does it mean: a time to wash the car, mow the lawn?

It might well be all of the above; plus, perhaps meeting up with family and friends, time for hobbies for some and work for others.

I love the times that mark the major Christian festivals: religious or not they are also times that are firmly entrenched within the calendar of our nation's year, but equally important are the ordinary times, times to stop for a while, to reflect, to simply 'be'.

For most of us being 'ordinary' is our experience, not famous, not celebrated, not feted, but individuals within various sized groupings of family and friends that make up community. It is those same ordinary things which we take for granted which are notable in their absence in places torn apart by natural disasters or in times of war.

Less taken for granted, we should appreciate and celebrate the ordinary things, those very ordinary things, those extra-ordinary things that make our lives so extraordinary.

Let me end with this quote from the Rev Awdry (who you may know as the author of Thomas the Tank Engine);

*'I should like my epitaph to say: 'He helped people see God in the ordinary things of life'.*

Rev. Tim.





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## ...In May

### Regular Events

#### MONDAY

10.00	Art Club	Village Hall
10.00	Table Tennis (kevlo@outlook.com)	Village Hall
6.00	Pilates	Primary School
6.45	Explorer Scouts	Scout Hall, Langport

#### TUESDAY

10.00	Craft & Coffee (2nd only)	Old School Room
10.00	Keep Fit (nicky.barker1@btinternet.com)	Village Hall
2.30	Forget-Me-Not-Café	Village Hall
4.30	Rainbows/Brownies	Drayton Village Hall
5.45	Pilates	Primary School
6.00	Cub Pack	Scout Hall, Langport
6.30	Rangers	URC Hall
6.30	Langport Youth Club	Ridge way Hall
7.00	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
7.30	Sedgemoor Garden Club (2nd only)	All Saints Hall L'port

#### WEDNESDAY

10.30	Sparklers Toddler Group	Old School Room
5.30	Beavers	Scout Hall, Langport
6.30	Cycling Club	Bridge Cafe
6.45	Scouts	Scout Hall, Langport
7.30	Bell Ringing	St. Andrews
7.30	Parish Council (1st only)	Village Hall

#### THURSDAY

10.00	WI (2nd only)	Village Hall
2.00	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
6.30	Yoga	Village Hall

#### FRIDAY

9.30	Pilates	Village Hall
9.30-2	Friday Club	Village Hall
7.30	Movie Night (3rd only)	Village Hall

#### SATURDAY

9.00	Cycling Club	Bridge Cafe
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### Some Useful Telephone Numbers

#### Youth Organisations

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorer Scouts	(gslthelevelsscouts@gmail.com)
Rainbows	01823 698940
Brownies	251953
Rangers	075 07214 791
Langport Youth Club	0793 899 338

#### Sports Clubs

Short Mat Bowls Club	251616
Cricket Club	01823 698849 & 01458 252791
Yoga	07789 862548
Pilates	07769 351984

#### Social

Flower Show	250311
Out & About	0788 737 7942
Royal British Legion	01460 281115
Twinning Association	01460 281905
Women's Institute	253078
Rotary Club of Langport & Somerton	252813
Sedgemoor Garden Club	250091
Heale Lane Allotment Association	741880
Curry Rivel in Bloom	762296
Friday Club	252791
Health Walks	250725
Mother and Baby	07732 197030
Forget-Me-Not-Café	252710 & 396123

#### Arts

Entertainers	250311
Music Club	250863
Art Club	253126

#### Community Facilities

Food Bank (help@curryrivel.org.uk)	0771 6792760
Village Hall (crvhbookings@gmail.com)	07789 661288
Old School Room Bookings (crosrbookings@gmail.com)	250655/253856
United Reformed Church Hall - Bookings etc.	259391

#### Community Services

Doctors	250464
Police	101
Yarlington Housing	01935 404500
Footpath & Litter Warden	johncasebourne@sky.com

#### Education

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

#### Local Authorities

Parish Council (Clerk) clerk@curryrivel.org.uk	07534 318840
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	07483 120 603
URC Minister	252799
Messy Church	01458 762523

#### Pick up your Prescription from the Post Office

Do you pick up repeat prescriptions from Langport surgery? If so you can request your medicine to be delivered to Curry Rivel Post Office in the BP petrol station. When you reorder, simply ask for delivery to Curry Rivel PO (including reorders on the surgery website). The surgery delivers to the Post Office every Tuesday and Friday. And while you're in the Post Office you can pick up a cappuccino too!



### Deadlines for June 2023 Edition

<b>Advertising:</b>	5pm Thursday 4th May
<b>Send to:</b>	crn.nigel@outlook.com
<b>Comments &amp; Articles:</b>	5pm Monday 8th May
<b>Send to:</b>	curryrivelnews@gmail.com

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# Curry Woods Conservation Trust

*Peter Goodenough*

These are some of the wild flowers that could be seen on and around the Trust land in late March/early April. By the time you read this in May there will be a much wider range of plants visible. In particular, have a look at our three trial plots, which are enclosed by posts with string between them. Each plot is divided into three soil treatments - arranged so each treatment is in turn to the west, in the middle and to the east of the plot, thus eliminating bias to a certain position. They were all seeded with a wild flower mix at the same time in January. It is going to be very interesting to see how the seeds develop in the different soil treatments and how the plots compare to the rest of the land around them, which already supports a variety of plants.

We would be very interested to hear your comments on this and anything else about what is happening on the Trust land - do keep visiting but please remember to keep to the paths and keep dogs on leads to avoid disturbing the wildlife that is now calling the long grass between the trees home!

Email us at [cwctrust@aol.com](mailto:cwctrust@aol.com) or leave a message on our website at [currywoodsconservationtrust.com](http://currywoodsconservationtrust.com)



*wood anemone*



*primroses*



*wood anemone*



*celandine*



*violets and primroses*

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**FOOD BANK**

*If anybody needs help with food please telephone in complete confidence:-*

**01458 250997**  
OR  
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**St Andrews Church, Curry Rivel**  
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*Donations, either monetary or food can be dropped off during these times*