

ASHBRITTLE

GREENHAM

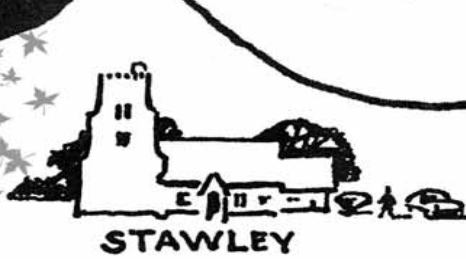
STAWLEY

BATHEALTON

KITTISFORD



Parish news



DIANA



December 2020/January 2021

For the Parishes of ASHBRIITLE with GREENHAM, BATHEALTON, STAWLEY and KITTISFORD

Church Services

As you will be aware, public worship in our churches has been forbidden since the 5th of November. Thankfully, we were permitted to have an outdoor service at Ashbrittle on Remembrance Sunday, which was well attended and greatly appreciated.

The schedule of services below is contingent on any new government restrictions, following the end of lockdown on December 2nd. We have tried to put together a plan and hope that we may be able to execute it. We have worked on the assumption that carol singing is more likely outside than in, and social distancing requirements will remain in place.

Sunday December 6th 9.30 a.m.	<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> Parish Communion	STAWLEY
Sunday December 13th 9.30 a.m.	<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> Parish Communion	ASHBRITTLE
Saturday December 19th 3.00 p.m.	Outdoor Carol singing at Stawley Mill (followed by seasonal refreshments)	
Sunday December 20th 4.00 p.m.	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> Patronal Festival Communion	KITTISFORD
Wednesday December 23rd 3.00 p.m.	Carols with the Angels (outdoors, please come appropriately dressed!)	GREENHAM
Thursday December 24th 10.00 p.m. (Midnight in Bethlehem) Mass	<i>Christmas Eve*</i>	BATHEALTON
Friday December 25th 10.00 a.m.	<i>Christmas Day*</i> Parish Communion	STAWLEY
Sunday December 27th 9.30 a.m.	<i>The First Sunday of Christmas</i> Parish Communion	ASHBRITTLE

Everyone is welcome to join us for these services and many thanks for all your support and understanding in these difficult times.

*Due to social distancing, there will, unfortunately, be limited space for these two Christmas services. If you are planning to attend, please let either me (01823 400127) or Paul Musgrove (01823 672627) know in advance. We would not want to have to disappoint those unable to attend due to lack of space.

Sunday January 3rd 9.30 a.m.	<i>Second Sunday of Christmas</i> Parish Communion	STAWLEY
Sunday January 10th 9.30 a.m.	<i>The Baptism of Christ</i> Parish Communion	ASHBRITTLE
Sunday January 17th 9.30 a.m.	<i>Second Sunday of Epiphany</i> Parish Communion	KITTISFORD
Sunday January 24th 9.30 a.m.	<i>Third Sunday of Epiphany</i> Parish Communion	BATHEALTON

Associate Priest Revd Martin Beaumont, Hilltop, Milverton TA4 1JR 01823 400127

Lay Minister Elaine McNicholas, School House, Bathealton, TA4 2AN 01984 624428

Thought for the Month

I am indebted to Ronald Blythe for this extract from Percy Dearmer's essay in the Oxford Book of Carols, which he edited with Ralph Vaughn Williams and Martin Shaw in 1928.

"Perhaps nothing is just now of such importance as to increase the element of JOY in religion: people crowd in our churches at the Christmas, Easter and Harvest Festivals, largely because the hymns for those occasions are full of a sound hilarity".

Dearmer was, of course, writing during the aftermath of the First World War, when he speaks of there being nothing, 'just now' of such importance as joy in religion.

But there are also many reasons why that reflection may be true in our own times. It may not be possible this Christmas for us to 'crowd in our churches'. Nor may it be possible for us to join together indoors in the singing of familiar carols.

However, the importance of joy in the Christian faith must never be forgotten or undervalued. Indeed, I am given to understand that when Pope Pius the XII was being considered for sainthood, it was decided against on the grounds that during his earthly life, he had not sufficiently 'radiated joy'!

So many of our Christmas carols speak of joy,

*"Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies".
(Hark the herald-angels sing)*

*"with them the joyful tidings first begun
of God incarnate and the Virgin's son".
(Christians awake! salute the happy morn)*

*"glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind".
(While shepherds watched their flocks by night)*

Those lines echo the verses from the gospel for Christmas Day (Luke 2 v8-20),

*"The Angel said to them, 'do not be afraid; for see,
I am bringing you good news of great joy for all
the people'"*

The news of the birth of Christ was then, two thousand years ago and is still to-day, a message of profound joy; a joy that banishes fear. It is a message of God's love and His willingness to live amongst us and share our human existence.

It is a message of hope and reassurance in

His everlasting care and concern for our welfare, which began before we were conceived and continues beyond our death.

It is a message of forgiveness; nothing can separate us from His love, neither our faith or lack of it, or our failures at attempting to love Him or others.

It will, inevitably, be true that this Christmas will be very different. There will be many things that we have shared in the past that will not be possible in 2020.

However, the joy of those angels and the joy of the Christmas message will never leave us.

I hope and pray that we all may find a little of that joy in our Christmas celebrations; however limited they might be..... it is there for us to find.

With my best wishes for Christmas,

Martin Beaumont



Quaker Meeting for Worship Spiceland Quaker Meeting Uffculme

We hope to be Meeting for Worship at Spiceland Meeting House after lockdown until then we are on Zoom at 10.30am every Sunday.

Howard Thurman: A Christmas Poem

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.*

*~Howard Thurman, cited in "Black Fire:
African American Quakers on Spirituality and
Human Rights"*

for more information phone John Bell on 07580 958275 or use the "contact us" form on our website: [http://](http://www.spicelanduffculmequakers.com/)

www.spicelanduffculmequakers.com/

There are also instructions on the website of how to find us.

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
<https://www.quaker.org/>

News from Stawley School

This term has absolutely flown by! The autumn term is one of the longest terms in the school year, but it seems to have gone by in the blink of an eye.

Stawley School is still not quite back to normal. Each class is still a separate bubble, with separate areas of the playground and field to use; lunches are still in classrooms rather than together in the dining hall; the older children still can't help the younger children out in the playground and staff are still having to social distance in the staff room (or maybe they're just keeping their distance from me!) In the current climate though, I wouldn't swap it. I, personally, believe that our children benefit so much more from being in school; working and socialising in their bubbles; continuing with their education in the classroom. School is a safe place for our children and I, along with my colleagues, am glad to be back in school teaching.

It will be a bit different this year, for instance there will be no Christmas Play at the pavilion. Usually a highlight of the school calendar, but unfortunately there will be no angels giggling, no shepherds smiling, no kings singing and no grumpy camels. Don't worry though, as ever, we will find a way to make this Christmas at Stawley School just as special as all the rest.

Wishing you all a safe and happy Christmas, from all at Stawley Primary School.

David Stirzaker

Pavilion News Autumn 2020

November 2020, Lockdown Mark II and a little normality as the Pavilion continues to host Stawley Under 5's. Since June, Under 5's have agreed a termly hire agreement, taking account of Covid 19 requirements (risk assessment & health and safety).

Throughout lockdown and the subsequent Tier system, the Pavilion Committee has been in regular contact with the Community Council for Somerset (CCS), our insurers Allied Westminster and followed Action with Rural Communities in England (ACRE) Covid 19 guidance. Many thanks for all of the support, help and advice. CCS have provided regular updates by email, Zoom, webinars and set up a Facebook group for Somerset Village Halls.

Over the summer months it was great that the Cricket Club could organise and play a few friendly matches. Sport England helped with guidance about Covid 19 safety and it was good that the younger players had the opportunity to play against other local clubs.

The playing field has been 'open all hours' and has hosted a few small gatherings of local folk, following Government restrictions, of course. The need to comply with requirements for indoor activities (2 metre social distancing, windows/doors open, additional cleaning etc) has made it difficult for our other users, we look forward to welcoming them back as soon as we can.

Autumn review

We held a committee meeting on 24th September (socially distanced on the veranda) to approve 2019/20 accounts & annual report. Many thanks to Andrew Millard for auditing the accounts and Kath Rose for managing the Pavilion's financial records. And much appreciation to Suzette Williams for managing the bookings diary, keeping track of user agreements, deposits, fees and keys and keeping us on track.

Suzette and Kath organised and managed last year's general maintenance and repairs, many thanks to them and to Carl Westcott (tree felling), Colin Prescott (re-decoration of the whole building & general repairs) and Simon Willey (cob hut thatch).

As ever, especial thanks to the Cricket Club for keeping the ground looking superb and to Under 5's for maintaining the play area.

Although Pavilion events planned for 2020 had to be cancelled (Flower Show, Harvest Dance, Apple Day) it was possible to carry out a few repairs including car park pot holes and a layer of gravel to improve the surface. Most welcome now we are into a wet & soggy autumn.

Plans for 2021 include; installing more efficient light fixtures and fittings, updating the kitchen plumbing and of course, welcoming everyone back to Pavilion events and celebrations.

The Pavilion Committee:

Community Representatives:

Rachel Oliver – Chair,

Suzette Williams – Bookings,

Sally Scott – Secretary,

Co-opted: Kath Rose – Treasurer

User Group Representatives: Dan Rathbone –

Stawley Under 5's; Jon Dawes – Ashbrittle,

Stawley and Clayhanger Cricket Club; Charlotte

Westcott – Stawley School and Paul Musgrove –

Stawley Parish Council.

Sally Scott

Parish News Donations

Donations may be left at the Village Shop

or sent directly to the treasurer:

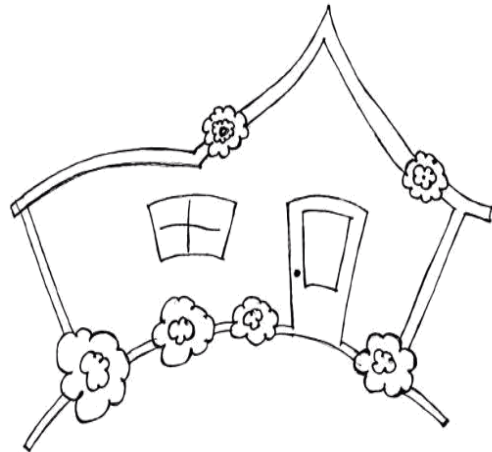
Andrew Millard

Barton Barn, Kittisford, Wellington TA21 0RZ

Stawley Village Shop & Tea Room

Phone us on 01823 674361 or
email shop@stawleyshop.com

Find us at Appley Cross, next
door to Stawley Primary School



**On behalf of all the shop workers, newspaper deliverers, and
others behind the scenes, we would like to wish you a peaceful
Christmas and a hopeful New Year!**

We are Open: Monday to Friday 8 am to 5.30 pm
Saturdays 8 am to 2 pm
Sundays 9 am to 11 am

Post Office services available every Thursday 11.30 am to 1.30 pm

Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve Open as normal until 5.30

Sunday 27 December Open as normal 9am to 11am

Monday 28 December (Bank Holiday) Open 8am to 12 midday

Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day CLOSED



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Taunton TA4 2AR

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T: 07860 863880

Village Oil Group

To place your order please email
judy.milne@btopenworld.com or contact
Judy or Michael Milne on 01823 672205.

Orders by the Sunday evening, before the next
delivery day please, which will be

Wednesday 9th December

New members always welcome

Country matters

The Rainy Day

*The day is cold and dark and dreary,
It rains and the wind is never weary;
The vine still clings to the mouldering wall,
But at every gust the dead leaves fall,
And the day is dark and dreary.*

Henry W. Longfellow (1842)

Late October; Some of the hedges surrounding fields and roads have been cut and thereby flailing off the year's growth, including all the ripe fruit and berries. A rich harvest is lost, one which could have fed a thousand small mammals together with everything that eats them, as well as all the countless over-wintering birds. The redwings and fieldfares are returning from their Scandinavian and Russian breeding grounds, and their arrival heralds winter. They are known as winter thrushes.

I've noticed, with the abundance of apples this year, that blue tits have a new trick. An entrepreneurial tit starts pecking at an unpicked apple and soon all the local gregarious populations are at it. Tits have also developed a taste for window putty which is nutritious with linseed and fish oil, but double glazing has stopped their fun.

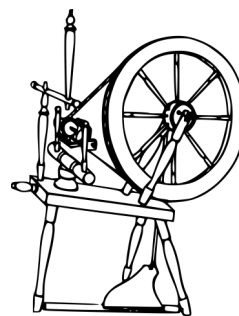
Early November: Goldcrests are our smallest winter visitor, weighing no more than a 20p piece. For such a small bird to fly from Scandinavia to Britain to reap the milder winter of the Gulf Stream is incredible. Old adages had it that they hitched a lift on the backs of migrating woodcock.

Magpies are more obvious now that most of the leaves have fallen. They are a member of the crow family and have a sinister reputation, although it is now thought that they are not responsible for the decline of song birds. But they were responsible for the decline in my hens' eggs, popping into the coop to eat them!

I expect you have all heard the tawny owls calling, but never heard their wings beating as they fly overhead. Their wing feathers have a fluted or comb-like margin, which breaks up the passage of air as it travels over the wing, reducing turbulence and giving them almost silent flight. This enables them to hunt by sleuth and helps them to hear their prey. Other birds of prey have wing feathers with a clean sharp edge.

Happy Christmas.

Sally Merrett



Spinning and Woolcraft Group

With the COVID-19 restrictions and the now cooler weather, we are planning to continue the fortnightly meetings, but on Zoom.

As you know, this method of communication is very popular, and is working well for the Spinning and Woolcraft Group. So if you would like to join in, please contact me, and I will add you to the list.

And we still have plenty of lovely Shetland fleeces available for free!

Next Sessions

Tuesdays 1st and 15th December 2020
5th and 19th January 2021
at 2.30pm

Contact Pauline: pjw200355@gmail.com

Donations to SCA

As the Stawley Community Association's (SCA) current financial year draws to a close, I can report that through donations for seeds and plants, books and DVDs, and other miscellaneous items, the SCA has received a total of £526 towards its funds.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all contributors. We also thank Sally and Martin for allowing us to 'operate' from the Shop, and to all of you who generously made donations for these items.

All donations made to the SCA go to support the infrastructure of the Shop, helping Sally and Martin maintain the wonderful service they give to the community.

Pauline Wood, Treasurer

Rainfall figures for October (ins)

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1.48	1.94	2.89	6.86	6.45

Val Coots

Crafts and Gifts



just in time for



Christmas

Paintings, Prints,
Greetings Cards,
Ceramics, Glass, Plants



Hoping to open on
Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th December
and also on December 19th to
coincide with the Carol Service
(safely of course)



10am until 4pm



Stawley Mill Happenings

We are donating 20% of all monies received to Stawley Church restoration fund

Angel Trail



The Church of St Michael and All Angels in Stawley and Greenham church will be featuring in a new angel trail that is being designed in and around Wellington.

This year instead of the usual offering of Christingle services, carol services and school nativities, Rev Selina and her new curate Rev Richard are offering an angel adventure!

There will be angels of hope in the Stawley and Greenham churchyard with a QR code that will link to a Christmas message, film, story or poem. A trail of where to find one hundred angels in and around Wellington will be available at wellingtonteamchurches.org.uk

Here are some ways readers of the Parish News may like to join in:

Making angels Finding and celebrating angels

Making angels

Could you make a recycled angel to hang in the trees in the churchyards of Stawley or Greenham or paint a pebble angel and bring that to one of the churchyards?

If you have ideas for the churchyard angel displays contact Annie for Greenham or Rev Selina for Stawley.

Could you make and display angels in your garden, cars or windows?

It would be great if angels popped up in various places across the villages to bring a message of hope and joy this Christmas!

Could you join in making angel gifts of hope?

Knitted angels, lavender bag angels and other crafted angels are needed along with angel Christmas cards as we would like to give an angel to everyone in the residential care homes in and around Wellington to remind them they are in our thoughts and prayers. We have just appointed a new chaplain for the elderly to help us to show love and care to the people in residential care and she will be putting together hundreds of angel bags to share. Email Rev Selina or Annie Musgrove if you would like to see the various angel knitting patterns people are sharing - but all designs are welcome!

Collecting homemade angels of hope

Please drop off your angels or homemade angel cards in the Stawley shop angel box for Annie to pick up on Fridays.

Finding and celebrating angels

Each day during advent Rev Selina will give a gift to nominated everyday angels in the church and community.

Can you think of someone who has been your angel, inspiring you, caring for you and bringing hope in the last year?

Please send in your suggestions of people you think deserve a BIG thank you and why to Rev Selina at: everydayangels2020@gmail.com

The people chosen will be given a special certificate and an angel and with permission some of these stories will be shared more widely on radio, Facebook and in local churches and across the diocese.

Contacts

Rev Selina call on 01823 662227 or email at: everydayangels2020@gmail.com

Annie Musgrove email: amusgrove@cantab.net

Fundraisers for the Exmoor Pony Centre

During our very short 2020 season many visitors came and supported us but we are nowhere near achieving our 'normal' annual income. This year's goals are beginning to arrive – and they are hungry!!

Please support us by considering the following fundraisers.

- The Moorland Mousie Trust (Exmoor Pony Centre) has been selected for the The Big Give, running from 1 – 8 December only. Any sum we raise gets doubled! <https://donate.thebiggive.org.uk/campaign/a051r00001fFt9jAAC>
- Or vote for us at https://mygivingcircle.org/charity/the-moorland-mousie-trust/?r=2c07036e&sv=2_110134&action=join&charity_id=110134 to enable us to share in £100,000 of grants. Voting is FREE!

If you could share the fundraisers with friends that would be great too.

Thank you so much for all your help!

Val Coots

Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS)

As a temporary measure in the light of the current situation, the Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS) has been converted to a helpline. If, for any reason, you require local assistance, you can ring the appropriate number for your area shown below and, if someone is available, a local volunteer will respond.

There are ten local volunteers on each number and the first one who is available will respond to your call. If you are self-isolating and alone in your home, or whatever the circumstances, volunteers are out there to help you so please make use of this helpline. You may need some supplies, your medication or perhaps you have a concern or anxiety which you just need to talk through with someone... the community is here to help you.

The numbers are:

ASHBRITTLE & STAWLEY: 01823 244104

BATHEALTON: 01984 322919

**KITTISFORD, TRACEBRIDGE & APLEY:
01823 245101**

The VETS numbers remain available as emergency lines should you need help to access a Defibrillator. Remember, in the event of a possible cardiac arrest in your household.

**ALWAYS DIAL 999 FIRST IN AN
EMERGENCY AND, IF A CHANCE
ARISES THEN DIAL THE VETS
NUMBER SPECIFYING THAT YOU
NEED A DEFIB RATHER THAN
GENERAL HELP**

Stawley Homecoming Fete 1946

Someone unknown filmed the Homecoming Fete of 1946. It has been converted twice from the original, first of all to a VHS and now on to DVD.

There is no commentary but the film is accompanied by music of the era. The DVD, which lasts for about 17 minutes, is now available for a bargain price of £5 which will go to Kittisford Church. If you would like a copy please let me know and I will make one especially for you!

Video Copying

I now have the kit to copy VHS videos to DVDs as a result of transferring the Stawley Fete VHS. If you have a VHS that you would like copied I am happy to do so for a donation of £5 to Kittisford Church. I don't have a smart box for the DVD so they will be delivered in an old envelope!

Paul Musgrove – email: musy@cantab.net or call 01823 672627

Defibrillators

Would you know what to do if someone in your household collapsed, had a heart attack and needed help? Within this community, we have four DEFIBRILLATORS which are available to anyone and they are easy to use by anyone. Quick access to a defibrillator really can save a life.

Where are they?

Ashbrittle Village Hall, on outside wall
blurts.flats.crouching

Bathealton Village Hall, on outside wall
relatives.widgets.rolled

Kittisford New House Farm,
on barn wall, opposite Church
bonkers.regime.lyricist

Stawley Shop, on outside wall
messaging.servers.quaking

These defibrillators are accessible 24 hours a day and no access codes are required

Carol Singing



As we are all aware, we can't really make firm plans for Christmas and we will have to adapt arrangements depending on the rules in force at the time. We hope that small groups of carollers will be able to sing in different villages on:

Monday 21st December
(or, if it too wet that night, Tuesday 22nd).

If you are interested please email:
village.festival.choir@gmail.com
to be put into a group to sing in your local area. This is not just for the Village Choir, everyone is welcome.

Julia Swan

December quiz

- 1 Located in Essex, which is the UK's oldest recorded town?
- 2 Which late actor, star of Last of the Summer Wine, provided the voice for Wallace, of 'Wallace and Grommit' fame?
- 3 In what year was the first iPhone released?
- 4 Who is the only woman to win the Academy Award for Best Director (in 2009) with The Hurt Locker?
- 5 Which desert covers parts of Northern China and Southern Mongolia?
- 6 What is Boris Johnson's full name?
- 7 Which was the first English football team to win the European Cup when they beat Benfica at Wembley in 1968?
- 8 Which American 'rocker', now 71, has recently achieved his 12th UK number one album, with 'Letter to you' ?
- 9 Which is the largest planet in our solar system?
- 10 Which Essex seaside resort has the longest leisure pier in the world?
- 11 What does HSBC stand for in the financial world?
- 12 Who replaced Richard Harris as Dumbledore in the Harry Potter films?
- 13 What is another more common name for an Alligator Pear?
- 14 Which English county contains St Albans, Hemel Hempstead, and Stevenage?
- 15 From what is couscous made?
- 16 In what year was 'Strictly Come Dancing' first broadcast? First winner??
- 17 Who plays DCI Vera Stanhope in the ITV detective series?
- 18 Alphabetically, which are the first and last American states?
- 19 Which passenger airliner flew from New York to London in 2 hours 52 minutes in February 1996?
- 20 A 'Flying Fox' is a member of which animal family?
- 21 Who has just been awarded a Guinness World Record for being the world's longest serving TV soap Star?
- 22 In which fictional coastal town was the sitcom 'Dad's Army' set?
- 23 Name the first iron steamer to cross the

Atlantic Ocean, setting out from Bristol in 1845 and taking 14 days.

24 Who has recently become the first female artist to have a number one album in the UK across five consecutive decades?

25 Eighty per cent of all almonds grown come from which US state?

With thanks to Alan Rose. Answers on the back page

Open all Hours

Lieben und Arbeiten

"Sprechen sie Deutsch?" How's your German? Ja? Nein? Don't ask me – I know nothing 'dans l'allemande'! (Just showing off!)

But apparently – if you don't know already – *lieben* means love and *arbeiten* means work. By love, it can mean, I assume, any sort of love, depending on circumstances or the nature of the relationship. The work may well mean where you go each day to earn your pay, or maybe helping loved ones, or working at the love in a relationship. The meaning and practice of both seem very broad.

But the two go together.....apparently. Sigmund Freud once defined happiness as "Lieben und arbeiten", love and work. That may answer the question "How can I be happy?" or "How can I make someone happy?"

That second question – might it have been one that our Heavenly Father asked, in his own way? Hence the events of the birth of Jesus?

A Christmas hymn has these words:

*Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign*

Love eternal – imperishable – forgiving and healing – unchanging – the source of all we are and have, and could be. The Divine Presence expressing himself in a man, Jesus Christ his Son! That love and all it brings offered to each one of us.....hoping that we will accept it, so we can know him, love him and serve him in return.

Service hints at the work part. The preparation for Jesus' birth. The long slow journey to Bethlehem. Then, to change the work word, the labour of child birth. Their caring for the child and his development.....and so on.....

Love and work is at the centre of the Christmas story and at the centre of those who welcome him into their lives for who He is. God's Love, God's work for us, and the combination of love and work leads to human happiness, according to Mr. Freud.

Martin at the Shop

Gardening Club



Christmas Workshop



Home made decorations for Christmas
Friday 18th or Saturday 19th December,
10 am - 4 pm at The Croft, Appley
Please note - change of date

In the hope that the regulations will be more relaxed later in December, I am planning workshops of 1½ hours for a maximum of 3 people (and me). We will be socially distanced and using our own secateurs.
Booking essential.

If there are more people wanting to attend I may be able to open another session,
so please book early.

If you would prefer to collect a box of materials from me and then learn what to do on Zoom
please let me know.

Refreshments

*Materials £6, plus donations to
UNICEF, Stawley Church and our local food banks*

For further details and to book call Julia Swan on 672102 or_email: julia.swan@icloud.com

Christmas Trees from Meadow Farm

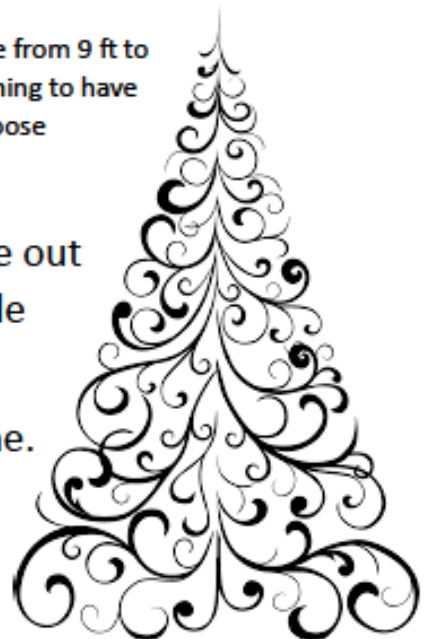
Our Norway Spruce and Nordmann trees have grown and we are ready to harvest them for Christmas for donations to Kittisford Church.

The Nordmanns range from 4 ft to 12 foot and the Norway Spruce from 9 ft to 14 ft, but of course you can always trim them down. We are planning to have them dug out from Tuesday 1st December. If you would like to choose your tree and put your name on it, please let us know.

Be prepared to bring a spade and dig the tree out yourself. Children and strong young people very welcome.

Please ring before you come to arrange a time.

Annie and Paul Musgrove, Meadow Farm Greenham
musy@cantab.net 01823 672627 or 07530310795



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A Farming Diary

I had a lucky escape recently when the tractor that I use to scrape the slurry out from the milking cows shed, caught fire just as the engine started up. Fortunately a hose pipe was near by to put out the flames. The starter motor had burned out, and so I called my mechanic and luckily he had a replacement in stock. He came out immediately and fitted the new one. After a couple of hours the tractor was up and running again.

The tractor is an old Massey Ferguson 135, popular with dairy farmers because they are small enough get around the passageways in the cubicle sheds. Its retired to just scraping duties now, twice a day all year around, but for only 20 minutes at a time. Being only 45 horse power compared with modern tractors which are at least 100hp and some 200hp plus, its hard to believe that years ago I used to haul silage trailers with it. With no cab it could get a bit draughty on occasion. Admittedly the trailers were only about 3 tons then against ones today of 14 tons or more.

I learned to drive on the tractor, which my father bought from new a long time ago now, way back in 1965, the same year I was born, The body work is a bit battered and rough, several parts are wearing and need replacing and struggle to get going on cold winter mornings, but the tractor is in much better condition.

Annual fun ride

The middle of October saw the annual horse fun ride event held at the Farm. A lovely dry warm Autumn day saw a record 143 Horses and riders of all ages entered, breaking the previous record of 120, which started in one of the fields at the end of the lane. To obey the Covid rules entries were taken in advance by email and a BACS payment system was used. Each rider was given a start time to keep to social distancing rules.

They could either do the 12 mile course or the 6 mile one with several jumps along the way over farm land of around the Waterrow area. A big thank you to Irish Tom and his team for organising and stewarding the event, which raises money for local charities.

The ground was nice and dry so no mess was made and no horse boxes had to be pulled in or out, unlike last year. After several weeks of rain the parking field was quite wet and I had to pull several lorries and horseboxes in with the large tractor, most I pulled in fairly easily but a horse box with only a small pony in it would not move until I realised that the lady driver had left the handbrake on. Another driver, this time a

gentleman, left his lorry wheels on full lock, which when towed by the tractor, ploughed a large furrow across the field.

Most of the field work is over for the year with all the hedges trimmed, except for some dung spreading when the ground is dry enough. A few older cattle are still out grazing, supplemented with hay, and seem quite content as it is still mild for the time of year. A lot of cows have recently calved, most calve on their own but one cow was taking a long time giving birth so the vet had to be called out at 11.0 at night. The head and front feet of the calf were looking the wrong way, so the vet gave the cow an injection to stop her pushing. He could then bring the head and feet to the correct position and we were able to pull the calf out without too much difficulty. The calf was fine and the cow re-joined the herd after a day or two, fit and healthy.

All the milking cows and in-calf heifers have had their tails clipped to keep them clean during the winter. While they were in the cattle crush they also had their annual vaccination to prevent any disease outbreaks. A practice which I, and other dairy farmers, have been doing for several years now. This vaccination idea could even catch on with humans, you never know.

Derek Greenway

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Create gorgeous bracelets, necklaces or earrings that make perfect Christmas gifts

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Woodland animal brooches

Make adorable fabric brooches that make great Christmas presents

Sunday 13th December 10am-1pm £35

Natural Christmas tree decorations

Use natural materials and woodland finds to make beautiful festive ornaments

Wednesday 16th December 10am-1pm £35

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Saturday 19th December

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Woodland animal brooches

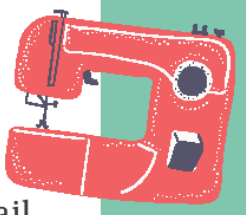
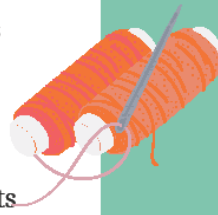
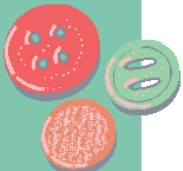
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The Wivey Food Project

COVID-19, life under lockdown and other restrictions have been difficult for all of us. New redundancies, businesses struggling, rising unemployment, as well as isolation and quarantine has left people struggling, deepened fear, social isolation and mental health issues. **More than ever we need kindness, connection and tasty food!**

We are the Wivey Food Project from **Wivey Cares**. We are cooking delicious and nutritious meals for our community; all made using surplus, top quality food from Fareshare and local growers. Once a week, our teams of volunteers are busy in the kitchen, cooking up delicious hearty soups and hundreds of batches of frozen meals, before heading out to deliver around the community.

All for free or on a “pay as you feel” basis.

The response to the project has been overwhelming. We already have over forty local volunteer cooks and drivers. Its only week two and yet last Thursday nine volunteers cooked 296 meals, 175 of them have already been delivered to those who need it, with 50 meals provided to the homeless in Taunton. Wow! Wivey is just amazing!

To collect some food and get involved, here's how:

Let us know if you or someone you know would appreciate some food:

With your/their permission email name and address to us at foodproject@wiveycares.net, so we know to cook for them each week.

To collect food for someone:

Contact your neighbour/friend/relative who may appreciate some food. Call them first to see if they need/want it, as they may have already had food delivered from someone else.

Come to St Andrew's Church kitchen between 9am-4.30pm or contact Stawley Village Shop who will help arrange delivery.

Log how many and which meals you've taken in the book, so we know how much to cook each week.

To get involved as a volunteer, grower or to donate food – email foodproject@wiveycares.net

Thank you for all your support. Let's feed our community!

Another year of the Parish News

Many thanks to all our contributors throughout 2020 who have helped create another year of the 'Parish News'. What a year it has been with so many completely unexpected constraints on how we live and socialise. When we look back on last year's diary dates for December there were ten different social events taking place plus meetings of the Art and Walking groups. This year there will be none.

However, the community has shown it's strength by ensuring that shopping has been done and delivered, together with essential medicines and other supplies for those who have been shielding or had difficulty in servicing their own needs.

We have also had a number of new ideas for the magazine which have been most welcome, please keep them coming, we aren't yet out of the woods.

We also thank our advertisers, who together with your donations, fund the costs of the publication.

Thanks also to our willing band of helpers, led by David Sweet who distribute the magazine directly and promptly to every household each month.

The distribution team:

Ashbrittle Andrew and Liz Burt, Gail Britton and Lena Massey

Bathealton Morag Berthon, Fiona McVicar, Nick Bunn, Sara Bloxham, Fiona Holmes, Patricia Hall and Michael Tarr

Greenham Lyn Colebrooke

Kittisford Penny Stanbury, Adanna Ranson; John and Christine Brinkman

Stawley Pat Sweet, Mike and Freda Parkinson

Tracebridge Dominic Tinckner

Some copies are posted out to people who have left the area from the Village Shop. Martin and Sally also deliver copies by hand to those now living in Wellington who still want to keep in touch.

Finally, we would like to say a special thank you to Matt Venn of Sharper Print who has always been most helpful and has provided us with a first class service.

The magazine is also available on the Stawley website www.stash.org.uk

Julia, Maurice and Andrew

Don't forget our contact address is:

ashparishnews@gmail.com

The Parish News Faces Quiz



With thanks to Alan Rose. Answers on back page

Minutes of the Stawley Parish Council

Held on line at 7:30 pm on the 2nd November 2020

Parish Councillors present:

Chairman, Paul Musgrove (PM), Pat Sweet (PS) and Clive Wall (CW)

Others present: None

These are edited parts of the draft minutes. Full copies are available on the website at www.stash.org.uk, in the Shop and in the Telephone Box by The Globe.

Finance

i) Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

PS and PM have been through the past planning applications that might cause CIL to be payable. There are a number of payments that might have been made to the District Council but the Parish has not received its share. The Clerk will investigate why this is the case.

ii) It was agreed that the costs of the new website should be shared with Ashbrittle Parish Council as the site is a legal requirement for both Councils. The total cost for the next three years (to date) was £195.84. There may be a further payment required for regular backups on an annual basis of about £5 per annum.

iii) The current bank balance is £12,537.94

iv) The meeting agreed that the Parish Precept for 2021/22 should remain the same as this year.

Planning

• **35/20/0005** – Prior approval for proposed change of use from agricultural building to dwelling house (Class C3) and associated building operations at The Packing Shed, (barn opposite Tracebridge Quarry), Wellington
Decision of Prior Approval - Refusal was made on 24/09/2020

• **35/20/0006** – Prior approval for proposed change of use from agricultural building to dwelling house (Use Class C3) at Tremlett Farm to 5 residential units
Decision of Prior Approval - Approved (Conditional) was made on 28/09/2020.

• **35/20/0008** - Application for prior notification for the erection of a roof between two agricultural buildings at Lower Cothay Farm, Cothay Manor Road, Greenham, Wellington

The Parish Council agreed to make no comment.

• **35/20/0009** - Change of use of land from horticultural to residential garden on land to the south of Lutley Bridge, Cockland Hill, Kittisford
The Parish Council agreed to make no comment.

Defibrillator

CW informed the meeting that the spare pads in the defibrillator outside the shop had been changed, paid for by the Rural Community Initiative (RCI). The Council thanked the RCI for their assistance in this matter.

Stawley Celebration Film

PM informed the Council that he had converted the VHS titled “Welcome Home Fete Stawley 1946” to an .mp4 format. PS suggested that a number of DVDs should be produced, if possible, to share with parishioners that may have been present at the Fete.

Reports from Members

i) Roads – SB had forwarded an email with details of progress made in getting the finger post signs refurbished. This was discussed at the meeting. PS suggested an alternative contractor who might be able to carry out the works as our original contractor was not able to provide a quote and an alternative quote, already obtained, was very expensive. SB had also contacted Somerset Highways about the damage to salt bins. Investigations are on-going.

ii) Footpaths – No action.

iii) Website – The new website has been completed. PM was thanked for the work that has gone into this move to a format which is more sustainable than the previous site.

Any Other Business

The Council has been approached by Wellington Town Council to ascertain whether Stawley Parish Council would wish to join a loose federation of local councils should the proposed move to a unitary authority within Somerset occur. After discussion it was agreed that advice would be sought from our District Councillor and possibly others before a decision would be made.

Paul Musgrove (Clerk)

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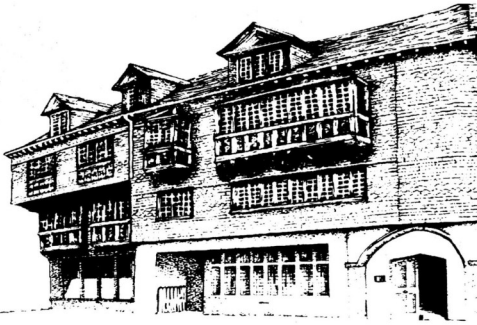
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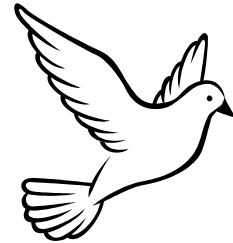
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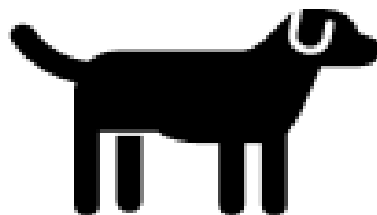
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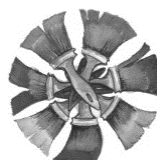
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Appley	Rachel Chesterton	01823 673063
Ashbrittle	Charles Doble	01823 672365
Kittisford	Roger Bradford	01823 672350
Stawley	Pat Sweet	01823 672380
Wellisford	William Thomas	01823 673143
Bathealton & Poleshill	Terry McNicholas	01984 624428
Outer Bathealton	Carol Weir	01984 623565
Springrove	Doreen Orton	01823 400731

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Joanne.jeffery@avonandsomerset.police.uk

PCSO Louise Fyne 6945 Tel:07889 659476

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Parish Councils

Ashbrittle Chairman Charles Doble 01823 672365 / 672618

Email *charles.doble@ukgateway.net*

Bathealton Chairman Charles Eustice 01823 401248

Stawley Chairman Paul Musgrove 01823 672627

email: *stawleypc@yahoo.co.uk* *www.stash.org.uk*

Community Halls

Appley Pavilion and Recreation Field

– to book, ring Suzette Williams on 01823 672266 or

email: *williamspsfa@outlook.com*

Ashbrittle Village Hall

– to book, ring Pat Gainey on 01823 672760

Bathealton Village Hall

– to book, ring Tilly Willis on 01984 624459

Local Groups

Stawley under Fives at the Appley Pavilion.

Becky Alder Pre-schools Manager

Swallows, Sampford Arundel 01823 672342 Mon/Tues

Stawley Under Fives 07753 552736 Weds/Thurs/Fri

Wiveliscombe Young Farmers Club meets weekly. Phone

Becky Hurd on 01984 623006 to find out more.

Rural Community Initiative (RCI) is a local charity set up in 1999 to support the way of life of the people of this rural community. For further information please contact the chair of the committee; Mike Parkinson *m_f.parkinson@btinternet.com*

PARISH NEWS DETAILS

The Editors and the next issue deadline date are on the back cover. Please send items for publication to the Editors in good time to ensure publication. There is only a short time between the deadline and the printing of the Parish News and late items may not be included. We are pleased to receive items in any form (typed, in long hand, on disk or by e-mail). Naturally, we prefer items by e-mail *ashparishnews@gmail.com* when they should be in Microsoft 'Word' format, as this saves a great deal of typing!

Advertising Our rates are £1.40 per month for a small box, £3.00 for a quarter page, £6.00 for a half page and £12.00 for a whole page. Advertising for community events, charity and church fundraising events in our area are normally carried free of charge. Occasional one-off adverts from residents in our area seeking to sell or buy an article or seeking to acquire or offer a service are also carried free of charge. In all cases the style, layout and size allocated to an advert is at the discretion of the Editors.

Editors: Maurice Stanbury 01823 672216 and Julia Swan 01823 672102 e-mail address: *ashparishnews@gmail.com*

Treasurer: Andrew Millard

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December

- 12, 13th and 19th 10.00 am - 4.00 pm Crafts and Gifts, just in time for Christmas, at Stawley Mill
- 18th and 19th 10.00 am - 4.00 pm Gardening Club Christmas Workshop in Appley
- 21st Carol Singing around the villages

Quiz - Answers

December Quiz

- 1 Colchester
2 Peter Sallis
3 2007
4 Kathryn Bigelow
5 Gobi Desert
6 Alexander Boris de Pfeffel Johnson
7 Manchester United
8 Bruce Springsteen
9 Jupiter
10 Southend-on -Sea
11 Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation
12 Michael Gambon
13 Avocado
14 Hertfordshire
15 Semolina
16 2004, May 15. Natasha Kaplinsky
17 Brenda Blethyn
18 Alabama and Wyoming
19 Concorde
20 Bats
21 William Roache as Ken Barlow

- 22 Walmington-on-Sea
23 S S Great Britain
24 Kylie Minogue
25 California

Famous faces

- 1 Trevor Eve
2 Claudia Winkleman
3 Martin Clunes
4 Pru Leith
5 John Lennon
6 Debbie McGee
7 Fred Sirieix
8 Holliday Grainger
9 Clive Myrie
10 Alison Hammond
11 Chris Harris
12 Catherine Tate
13 Russel Howard
14 Caroline Aherne
15 Bobby Ball
16 Oti Mabuse
17 Stefanos Tsitsipas
18 Angel Strawbridge

Next Deadline Date: Friday 22nd January 2021

Editors: Julia and Maurice