

December 2022 - January 2023

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

Church Services

Sunday December 4th 9.30 a.m.	Advent 2 Parish Communion	STAWLEY
Sunday December 11th 9.30 a.m.	Advent 3 Parish Communion	ASHBRITTLE
Sunday December 18th 3.00 p.m.	Advent 4 Carol Service	KITTISFORD
Saturday December 24th 3.00 p.m. 10.00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Family Carols First Mass of Christmas	GREENHAM STAWLEY
Sunday December 25th 10.00 a.m.	Christmas Day Parish Communion	GREENHAM
Sunday January 1st 9.30 a.m.	Christmas 1 Parish Communion	STAWLEY
Sunday January 8th 9.30 a.m.	<i>The Epiphany</i> Parish Communion	ASHBRITTLE

We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us for one or more of our Christmas Services. The 3.00 p.m. Carol Service at KITTISFORD on **December 18th** is planned to encourage the attendance of young families and children. The Village Festival Choir and their conductor, John Young, will be with us for this occasion.

The 3.00 p.m. Family Carols at GREENHAM on **December 24th** (Christmas Eve) will also be at a time when we hope that children and their parents may be able to join us celebrating the coming of the Christ Child.

Churchwardens and Clergy

Ashbrittle with Greenham			
	Charles Doble, The Old Rectory, Ashbrittle, TA21 0LQ	01823 672365	
	David Hanks, Manley House, Ashbrittle, TA21 0LE	01823 672436	
Bathealton	Andrew Lyle, Road Hill House, Bathealton, TA4 2AW Sarah Eustice, Oakwood, Spring Grove, TA4 1NL	01984 629013 01823 401248	
Kittisford	Annie Musgrove, Meadow Farm, Greenham, TA21 0JW	01823 672627	
Stawley	Penny Hare, Stawley Mill, Wellington, TA21 0HT Graham Henson, Court Place Farm, Stawley, TA21 0HP	01823 672183 01823 672496	
Associate Priest Revd Martin Beaumont, Hilltop, Milverton TA4 1JR		01823 400127	
Team Rector (interim) Revd Martin Kirkbride		07746 519311	

Thought for the Month

"How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given".

("O little town of Bethlehem", Phillip Brooks)

Although we have very definitely watched our first Christmas produce advert on the TV, I have yet to be assailed by the sound of carols in shops or on the radio. It is a cause for regret that by the time we celebrate Christmas Day and the subsequent twelve days, we have sometimes become bored with the sound of carols and the message they bring.

Carol singing and playing seems to begin earlier and earlier each year. The first Christmas of my retirement, I made a conscious effort NOT to sing a carol before Christmas Day and succeeded, but only by rushing out of shops when they began to be played!

I say that boredom with carols is a "regret" for two reasons. The first is that their message is one of joy and thanksgiving and boredom with such a sense of celebration must always be avoided. But, the second is that Christmas always brings with it the sense that we are once again on familiar territory. Christmas may have lost its sense of surprise; the birth of the Christ child is now so long expected that we no longer feel the same sense of excitement that we experienced as young children.

A sense of amazement

One of the most often used words in our Christmas carols is "Wonder" and I hope that we may be able to rediscover this sense of amazement, astonishment and surprise at the story of the events of that first Nativity. The birth of the Christ child, when God became man, is truly wonderful and it should cause us to enter into the Christmas story with a sense of awe.

Christmas should never be over-familiar or our celebrations so well managed that all possibility of surprise has been eradicated by our successful retail management!

The presents that we exchange at Christmas contain within them this element of surprise. I hope that we may be able to retain a child-like sense of amazement and gratitude. To give thanks for a gift is not simply good manners, it is fundamental to our human nature and reflects our attitude to both other human beings and God Himself. Let us, perhaps keep in mind the words of that rather neglected carol, "Christians awake and salute the happy morn".

" O may we keep and ponder in our mind, God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind".

With my very best wishes for a happy, surprising and wonderful Christmas.

Martin Beaumont



Quaker Meeting for Worship at Spiceland

We Meet for Worship at Spiceland, every Sunday at 10.30am till 11.30am

Also available on Zoom ID:865 5570 2735 Passcode: 498173 All are very welcome.

A Christmas Poem by Howard Thurman, cited in "Black Fire: African American Quakers on Spirituality and Human Rights"

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.

Coffee Morning at Church Cottage

A coffee morning was held at Church Cottage on the October 20th to raise funds for the restoration of the church tower.

Despite a rather miserable day about eighteen people came and brought delicious home -made cakes, jams, books and other goodies. Several people who were unable to join us gave generous donations and we would like to thank all those who helped to raise a total of £341.

Martin and Sue Jacoby

Minutes of Bathealton Parish Council

Meeting held on 10th November 2022

Present: Stephen Cottrell (SC) Jess Bunn (JB) Joanne Greenway (JG) Phil Broad (PB).

We welcomed Mr Dave Mansell, who is the councillor for Wiveliscombe.

Apologies: Nerys Gibbs (NG)

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed by the chairman (PB)

Planning

The Parish Council conducted a site visit at Mr Habberfield's Barn at TA4 2AH, following a planning application for an extension to the existing barn. The Parish Council noted that the landscaping requirements for the previous application had not been completed, including the planting of an orchard adjacent to the barn and that most of the screening trees were either dead or dying.

The Parish Council also recommended that the entrance to the site be made slightly wider to assist with large haulage vehicles gaining easier access and egress. The Parish Council also noted the requirement stated in the previous application, for the closure of the entrance near the driveway to Woodlands Farm.

Planning Consent was granted on October 14th for all three phases, with no plans to enlarge the new entrance.

The Parish Council received a letter from a parishioner who had noticed a glamping pod appear in a field near to Surridge Farm, Hagley Bridge. They wanted to know if the Parish Council had received a planning notification. It was noted that it had not, and after contacting Somerset West planning department intend to investigate and carry out a site visit.

Finger Post Signs

PB attended a Council run course to ensure that he is covered by their insurance to maintain the parish finger post signs. The course covered all aspects of safety and correct procedures to follow.

There are a couple of signs that are missing or broken and need to be replaced. Replacing with cast metal is unfortunately too expensive, therefore plastic alternatives will be sourced.

Precept

SC and PB will have a separate meeting to discuss the Parish Precept, and how much money is required in line with inflation.

Any Other Business

The Parish Council has received a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payment of £1132 for a new build within the village. It was decided to donate £500 to Bathealton Church, so that the porch can have some much-needed repair work, along with £500 to the Village Hall so that the window at the back of the hall can be repaired. JB proposed the above plans and SC was happy to second.

A charity Christmas donation was discussed, and it was decided to send a cheque for £100 to Open Door Taunton, a Taunton based charity that helps the homeless. They provide hot meals showers, clothes and advice/help when needed; everyone thought this was a worthy local charity to support.

Several other cheques were written and are as follows:

£200 for Village Hall Hire.

£325 for the church, to cover the grass cutting of the church yard.

£17.98 for paint for the finger signs

There have been a few reports about potholes and road maintenance issues within the Parish. The Parish Council recommends that any issues are reported to the Somerset West Website, under "report a problem on the road". There is a quick and easy form to fill out to undertake any repairs. Other parishes have used this website and had satisfactory results with issues such as potholes and blocked drains.

Broad band quality was discussed, and Cllr Dave Mansell is going to write a separate article for the Parish Magazine, updating us with the installation of fibre optic broadband.

The Parish councillors completed the documentation from the bank, pertaining to the change of Chairperson, and requested that the Chair visits the Branch in Tiverton to complete the process.

The Parish Council would like to thank Cllr Dave Mansell for his time and advice.

The next meeting will be on February 23rd
7.30 pm in Bathealton Village Hall.
Everyone is Welcome.

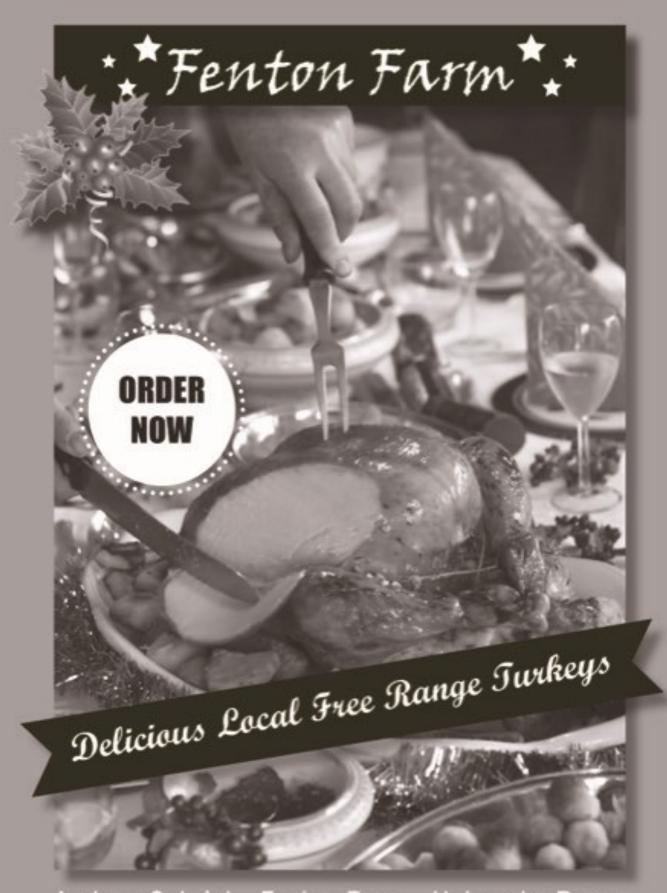
Mobile Library

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Greenham Bridge

Next visits

Tuesday 6th December and 17th January 2023 From 9.30 - 9.50 am.



Andrew Gabriel Fenton Farm Holcombe Rogus www.fentonpoultry.co.uk Tel: 01823 672075

Ashbrittle, Stawley & Clayhanger Cricket Club

End Of Season Presentation and Awards Evening

Friday 9th December 2022

Appley Pavilion
7.30pm
Tickets £10 to include Food

Book on 07890 261387

Memories from the Past

People with dementia who are being cared for at Musgrove Park Hospital are getting a little extra help to find happy memories from their past. It's all thanks to a kind donation by the Musgrove League of Friends for the hospital's new dementia and delirium team to buy a set of interactive games and puzzles designed to unlock memories.

Donna Moore, an occupational therapist and dementia education facilitator at the NHS trust, said many patients with dementia respond well to music as it brings back old memories.

"We bought a musical bingo game with the League of Friends' donation, which plays music and sounds," she said. "It's very much like a game of bingo, but you can change the difficulty setting so it works with the different levels of functioning we see with this patient group. Music is for everybody though and we can make a connection with someone with any level of dementia so, even if they don't take part in the bingo game itself, the music may be of comfort to them."

One of the other activities that came as part of the League of Friends' donation was a set of 'home sweet home' scents where patients can smell a little pot of scented polish, fruitcake or similar memories from their past so they could identify with a past memory. It gives them something to talk about for as long or as little as they are able to – for some people, it takes them back to that safe space and comfort of home.

Another patient used to be a baker, so we brought him a magnetic food display where we picked up each piece of food, drink or kitchen equipment, talked about it together, and then helped him to identify where on the board it needed to go. It had old style packaging too so our elderly patients could identify more with them.

"A huge thank you to the League of Friends at Musgrove Park and its donors for their continued support.

Donations such as this range of interactive activities can make a huge difference to the experience of our patients."

Somerset Foundation Trust

A Winter Warmer

On November 6th some of the Bathealton residents managed to get together for a chilli supper with a bonfire and some fireworks.



This was an impromptu get together, and although it was a cold rather damp evening, a good time was had all.



It was so nice to get together and see people in a relaxed atmosphere. The moon was bright, the evening a little damp but a great time, and hopefully we can do something again soon.

Adele Broad



BATHEALTON CHRISTMAS FAIR

(in aid of Bathealton Church)



on

Saturday 3rd December at 2.30pm

BATHEALTON VILLAGE HALL

Cakes and Goodies
Craft and Gifts
Bric-a-Brac
Produce
Bumper Raffle
Teas



Kittisford Christmas Meal

at Kittisford House by kind permission of Perdita and Davide Fraser Taliente
Open to everyone
in aid of St. Nicholas Church, Kittisford
Thursday 15th December at 7.00 pm

Roast Turkey with all the trimmings, Christmas pudding, mince pies, a glass of wine, and festive village fun!

(special dietary requirements on request)

Tickets £18

Giant Raffle in aid of Taunton Foodbank

Our tickets include an optional 10% donation which supports the charitable work we do, and also enables us to claim Gift Aid on the full value of your ticket.

Available from Stawley Village Shop (01823 674361) or from amusgrove@cantab.net, lizranson1@gmail.com or sarahburnscox@btinternet.com

Gardening Club

Following the very enjoyable visit to National Trust, Killerton in October, Club members decided that, rather than go into the usual winter lull in activities, the Club would aim to meet once each month.

As a result, a visit to Otter Garden Centre, Ottery St Mary, was arranged for November. On a glorious autumn day, nine members met in the cafe for coffee.



Club members enjoyed a happy time at Otter Nurseries

After a lot of chat and laughter, it was decided to browse and fill baskets with Christmas gifts. Brenda Hollick bought a huge Amaryllis bulb, the size of a large swede. One of the shop assistants told her that these bulbs had been known to produce around seventeen flowers through each growing period and many customers kept coming back to buy another one. Watch this space!!!

We then had a good lunch, spent even more money and came home happy.

Further activities during the winter months

It is hoped that the Club will have a Christmas Tea in mid-December at one of the local Garden Centres, to get in the festive mood and do some last-minute shopping.

Looking ahead to 2023, a Bring and Share Supper and planning session for the season is to be hosted by one of the Club's members in mid-late February. Plans are also being made to enjoy a seasonal Snowdrop Event, probably at East Lambrook Manor Gardens, South Petherton.

The meeting there this year provided a perfect introduction to the Garden and to the special collection of snowdrops (and other plants!) it holds.

Val Wall and Di Roberts

An Echo from the Past

You do remember last month's Parish News, don't you? Of course you do! I wrote in it about a concert that Sally and I were appearing in; it was called "Cliff". Well, it duly happened, and was lively, despite odd wrong notes, forgotten words and out of time dance-type moves. But people came and said they enjoyed it. We enjoyed it too, worth all the stress of rehearsal time.

Then again, there was an ad for the Ashbrittle lunch at which a play of mine was to have its first reading. It was called "From Gold into Straw". By the time you are seeing this, that too will have happened. I hope those who came liked it, and didn't get indigestion – from the play not the delicious lunch. I never thought that I would have had a play of mine treated in this way. For most of my writing life, I've kept it largely under wraps – apart from an occasional poetic publication in a newspaper or magazine, and sketches put together for a family or youth service in church.

The latter were created out of necessity and no longer exist, having served their purpose. As for treading the boards, that happened in my much younger days in amateur dramatics, or as an occasional singer with a band. Now, you may say that I was doing much the same when taking a service, or preaching the Word. Indeed, after a better-than-normal sermon, some have said "You should have been an actor."

A missed opportunity

I did once get application forms for the Bristol Old Vic School, but the parents put an end to that. Am I therefore living out my disappointments through preaching? Might be a possibility. Or am I using a latent ability both as a tool in serving the Lord and also as a teacher in Christian ideas and understanding? Am I being an actor when I get up to speak? That's a difficult question. If that is what I'm doing, then I am really serving me, not God and his people. What I do would, therefore, not be as authentic and sincere as it should be. Only I (and the Lord) can know the answer. In the final analysis, it comes down to what is in the heart, its impulses, its reasons and its motives.

One measure of that comes out in the results. People enjoyed "Cliff". I hope people enjoyed "From Gold into Straw". Do people gain from what is said and done in church? If so, do I bask in my pride and satisfaction — or am I, in my heart, glad for them, and hope that the Lord has been honoured in the whole activity?

Martin Perry



Ashbrittle Parish Council

Minutes of the regular meeting held on Friday 21st October 2022 at 6.30pm.

Councillors Present: Jeremy Robbins, Helena Massie, J. Pip Wilson, Vicky Hughes Apologies: Charles Doble

Minutes of previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record and signed by the acting Chairman, JR.

Matters Arising: HM is progressing the refurbishment of all the fingerposts in our parish.

Correspondence Received:

i) PCSO Louise Fyne sent her regular report about crime and other policing matters within our area; ii) A planning application had been received for a tree to be felled and another tree pruned at Ivy Cottage, Ashbrittle Road (no objections).

iii) a second application had been made to remove the agricultural tie on Burrow View Bungalow which has been on the market. Concerns were raised about the removal of agricultural ties.

Reports from Councillors:

Highways There have been no reports about damage or proposed works to the highways.

Finance (Helena Massie) HM presented the accounts to date. The churchyard burial grant had been received and will be forwarded to the PCC. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) had been received to spend on a local parish project.

Much discussion was had around possible projects including a suggestion from JR for the PC to explore and fund an energy efficient and income-generating project, such as the installation of a wind turbine or solar array in the parish. The PC agreed to contribute to the refurbishment of the church bell tower and HM is progressing this project.

JPW offered to co-manage with HM the finance and accounts with a view to taking over the financial officer role. This was gratefully received and agreed upon by all present.

Community JR has been in discussion with the Chair of Stawley PC to consider any joint projects and work closely together. JR informed the PC about the new One Somerset structure which is now a unitary authority with seventeen local hubs.

Footpaths Comments were made about the condition of the footpath across the stream at Marcombe Lake. Due to tree falls, the path has been diverted

and is quite slippery in places. HM suggested log steps. JR will also discuss with the landowner if a section at the side of Bull's Field could be fenced (with funding from the PC) to provide separation between the footpath and stock in the field.

Any Other Business:

JPW offered to invite other parishioners to join the PC and to consider projects within the community; this was welcomed.

Date of next meeting: to be arranged

The meeting concluded at 7.15pm

Additional Note

Subsequent to the meeting, VH informed fellow councillors of her decision to step down from the Parish Council after nearly a decade.

"Thank you to all the councillors for their kind messages. It has been a pleasure to work alongside colleagues who are so knowledgeable about local issues and fully committed to serving the community. Any parishioners who would like to join the council can be assured of a warm welcome, interesting meetings and much friendly debate!"

Vicky Hughes (Clerk)

Ashbrittle Art and Craft Group

We hold a monthly get-together as a self-directed group to do whatever 'arty' or 'crafty' project takes your fancy

> Painting and drawing Clay work and Textile Crafts

Ashbrittle Village Hall At 2.00 pm

Next meetings

Wednesday 7th December 2022

Wednesdays 4th January and

1st February 2023

Some more mosaics sessions will be held in the New Year

Come and meet some local enthusiasts, and tell us about your favourite craft

For more information, contact Pauline pjw200355@gmail.com



The Holly and the Ivy



Ilex aquifolium (Holly) and Hedera Helix (Ivy) are both native, evergreen woody plants found commonly throughout our woodlands, hedgerows and gardens. Both are pioneer species making use of forest edge, spinney and clear-felled areas where they can absorb the light made available when deciduous trees around them lose their leaves. They are highly adaptable to both wet and dry sites, sheltered and exposed. The Holly is dioecious (trees are either male or female) and produces its signature red berries (technically, a 'drupe' or stone fruit) during the autumn with them lasting up to (but often frustratingly disappearing just before) Christmas.

Though considered relatively short-lived, Holly can be coppiced and in medieval times was managed in this fashion to produce winter fodder for cattle. It is often assumed that less spiny-leaved forms were deliberately sought out and selected for coppicing as it was easier to handle when harvesting. Some of those coppiced, multistemmed Holly trees are known to live up to four hundred years (there is one famously in the gardens at Greencombe, West Porlock).

There are two native sub-species of Ivy; Hedera helix subsp. helix and Hedera helix subsp. hibernica. Ssp helix is a self-attaching climber which uses small hair-like adventitious roots to grip onto surfaces and can reach up to 30m in height. Subsp. hibernica spreads along the soil surface to form a dense mat of thick ground-cover and does not climb. Both forms have juvenile and adult foliage which starts with what is considered classic ivy shape, three to five lobes, glossy, often conspicuously veined, but when the plant matures and starts to flower the leaves become oval or heart-shaped and distinctly un-lobed, often lighter green in colour. Ivy flowers from September to November followed by the characteristic blackgreen fruit held in clusters that are such welcome pickings for the birds through the winter. Contrary to popular belief, Ivy does not strangle trees - it can make dying and weak trees more prone to storm damage by the 'sail' effect producing more wind resistance. Ivy can become completely selfsupporting when dead wood structures finally rot and fall away and it is an extremely important habitat, food and shelter provider for numerous species of birds, small mammals, insects and other invertebrates.

Both Holly and Ivy are strongly connected with the (pre-Christian) Roman winter festival of Saturnalia and their gathering and bringing in to the home probably stems from these times. Their glossy evergreen foliage and the berries they bear (for decoration and as food for birds) remind us of their sturdy nature and tenacious grip on life during the dark months with the hope of new life and the return of Spring.

Finally, there are numerous excellent garden cultivars of both Holly and Ivy available, many with RHS Award of Garden Merit, that have variegated, golden or marbled foliage, softer more rounded or indeed more prickly foliage and even different colour fruit (in the case of Holly). These will add extra colour to your winter garden but also variation and vibrance to your indoor winter festival decorations too.

Evergreen thoughts and Seasons greetings to you all!

John and Julie Ridgley

Village Oil Group

The next oil delivery is due on

Wednesday 14th December

To place an order, please email: judy.milne@btopenworld.com or contact

Judy or Michael Milne on 01823 672205 by the

Monday before the Wednesday delivery

New members always welcome

Donations for the Parish News

Donations received from:

The organisers of the Bathealton Fun Ride Graham and Nancy Henson Janet Morris Kim White Beryl Hooper

AG & AJ Hill Ms J L Wicks

Mrs J A Maunder

Thanks again, for your kind support. Donations may be left at Stawley Shop or sent directly to the Treasurer. Details inside back cover.

Andrew Millard, Treasurer



The botanist and herbalist have always had an affinity with nature's foliage, plants, shrubs and trees, For culinary and medicinal purposes, for perfumes and for religious rituals, rites and ceremonies. Egyptians embalmed their dead using myrrh, cassia, anise and cumin before laying them in tombs, The Incas chewed cocoa leaves to relieve pain and used quinine for infections, fevers and wounds. The Tibetan monks burnt amber, agar wood, hibiscus, cedar, and saffron made into incense sticks, India's Ayurvedic practises use sandalwood, cardamom, fenugreek, liquorice root, ho leaf and turmeric.

The gardener will harvest rhizomes and corms, nuts, kernels, stems, stalks and sepals, Selecting lichen and fungi, moss, grasses, neat florets and soft delicate petals.

Gathering woody barks, sprigs and twigs, bulbs, tubers and knotty tangled roots, Picking hips and haws, sweet juicy berries, zesty tangy peel and bitter sour fruits. Plucking young buds and scented blossom, aromatic herbs and succulent leaves, Collecting resin, gum, sap, sharp pine needles, pods, cereals and tiny little seeds.

And so the processes begin once all is gathered in; carefully collected for compressing, Macerating, soaking, distilling, grinding and binding, pressing and expressing, Dividing and diluting, adding and extracting, making oils, liquids and lotions, Creating salves and creams, granules, powders, pastes and potions.

Juicing and reducing, purifying and drying, and intense condensing, Measuring and treasuring each and every drop before dispensing.

The aromatherapist uses oils to cleanse like eucalyptus, juniper, tea tree, sage, fennel and thyme,
And oils for energizing such as orange, ginger, clove, cinnamon, basil, and lime.

Whereas grapefruit, jasmine and rosemary raise the spirits, clear the mind and gently de stress,
But for balancing and equilibrium use cedar wood, geranium, rose and woody cypress.

And floral oils such as patchouli, neroli and ylang ylang; are sensual, heady and create calm,
There are oils for deep relaxation like frankincense, bergamot, lavender and lemon balm.

There are oils for massage to soothe those aching and painful muscles and joints, Oils to ease stiffness, immobility and tightness, tension and tender points.

And oils for headaches, migraines, tiredness, weariness and feeling flat and down, Oils to boost, lift, rejuvenated and restore to bring energy, vitality and life abound. And massaging oils for skin with scars, lumps and bumps, lines and wrinkles, Oils for sensitive and delicate skin, and for young children and babes with dimples.

And essential oils that gently slide and glide smoothly up and down and over the skin,
Those with intoxicating aroma like sandalwood, jasmine, citronella, and mandarin.
Oils with a delicate, gentle light smell like rose absolute, nutmeg and immortelle,
Oils with a strong and powerful scent like peppermint, marjoram and bay laurel
So beneficial and precious are these oils that promote good health and wellbeing,
With their special properties and ingredients that work their magic for harmony and healing.

Joanna deValero

The Parish News

Many thanks to all our contributors and advertisers who have helped create another year of the 'Parish News', and of course, those of you who have so generously donated to the funds.

We have been delighted to advertisements and reports for the many events held in our parishes during the year. Our social life has returned to pre-Covid levels - and may it long continue.

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

The distribution team:

Ashbrittle Andrew and Liz Burt, Gail Britton and Lena Massev

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

Greenham Lin Colebrooke

Kittisford Penny Stanbury, Adanna Ranson; John and Christine Brinkman

Stawley Pat Sweet, Mike and Freda Parkinson Wiveliscombe Sue Webber

A few copies are posted out to people who have left the area from the Village Shop. Martin and Sally Perry continue to 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 Mattt 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

Avril Silk, Maurice Stanbury and Andrew Millard

Bring-&-Buy Book Bazaar*

When the Parochial Church Council first appealed for books to sell in aid of the Church Fabric Fund, we were overwhelmed by the number and quality of the books generously donated. We decided to specialise in non-fiction and, since subject matter is often the first quality a non-fiction book-buyer considers, we have arranged them accordingly. Rather than count them, we have measured the length of shelf each subject occupies. For your guidance, they are:

40 cm, Biography: 290 Art: cm, Children's: 240 cm, Cookerv: 100 Dictionaries: 80 cm, DIY & Projects: 80 cm, Field Sports: 40 cm, Gardening: 50 cm, History: 250 cm, Life-Style: 70 cm, Literature & Classics:

50 cm, misc: 150 cm, Natural History: 120 cm, Religion: 180 cm, Sports: 30 cm, Travel: 150 cm. These lengths add up to about 19 of the available 24 metres of shelves.

Hidden in these dry statistics are treasures like the three books on salmon flies. You will find their exotic names, illustrations and how to tie them under Field Sports rather than Natural History. Diverse subjects provide material for the section labelled Biography, and the slight emphasis on heroes and villains of the Second World War fits with those devoted to that conflict in History, and suggests a donor who had a special interest in it. The DIY collection is particularly attractive to anyone of practical bent. Not to mention the money saved by stopping that dripping tap and so avoiding call-out fees of around £100.

The condition of the books themselves is important to most readers, and a high proportion of donations are like new but without that slightly discouraging brittle feeling of never having been opened. Some of the donations are worn but are on our shelves because they are classics, or their subject matter is relevant to lines of thought pursued elsewhere in the collection.

Although good writing is the main quality in Literature & Classics, it can be found in most of our categories, often with an attractive freshness. If pressed to name one good writer, I would suggest A N Wilson who 'writes like an angel', as one critic put it.

The Christmas season is upon us and, by visiting *Bring-&-Buy Book-Bazaar, you can make two gifts at once: one to our crumbling Parish Church and the other to a puzzled teenager weary of the small screen or a retiree, both of them wondering what to do with suddenly unstructured time. What better present than a book *about* something?

Martin Jacoby

*Bring-&-Buy Book-Bazaar is at Stawley Mill and will be open for 'Stawley Mill Happenings'. The next one is 11 am to 4 pm on Saturday 10th December. The Book-Bazaar can also be by arrangement. Ask martincjacoby@gmail.com or 07783 161187 or Penny Hare on 01823 672183.

Silk Painting

Regretfully the Bathealton Silk Painting group has decided to call it a day. As a result we have a collection of equipment and some very nice books looking for a new home.

If anyone is interested please get in touch with Morag Berthon on 01984 623563.

ASHBRITTLE ARTS

presents



An Evening of Music, Dance and Goulash Zeffe

A Klezmer Band

December 3rd 7.30pm

Doors open at 7pm

ASHBRITTLE VILLAGE HALL

£15 includes a bowl of goulash
Wine will be available to purchase
To pre-book tickets please email
ashbrittle-arts@hotmail.com

Learning the Ropes

Jill and Mike Hansford, from the Taunton Branch of Bellringers, visited Stawley Church on a recent Thursday evening to meet a number of people who had expressed an interest in learning to ring church bells.



Everyone attending had the opportunity to climb the tower to see the bells and to ring a bell under the close supervision of Jill and Mike. All were enthused and as a result a training course will begin in early January for that group and anyone else who has an interest.

If you would like to join them please contact Lena on *leni.m@btinternet.com* or me on 01823 672216.

Maurice Stanbury

Wivey Welcomes Refugees - an Update

Since the last newsletter in September, a lot has happened.

Somerset Supports Ukraine, a new charity set up by the (now) previous Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset, Annie Maw, welcomed bids from projects that had failed to get County Council funding, and our bid to them received a very positive response. They did not have the funds to pay for everything we asked for but they gave us enough to ensure we can carry out our core functions for the next six months.

Next we received a discreet phone call asking how we'd feel about having a Royal visitor? We said yes, of course, and then learned quite how much planning and organisation was required...!

Our Royal Visitor

So it came about that on November 9th, St Andrew's Church in Wiveliscombe hosted the most

wonderful tea party. In addition to about one hundred Ukrainian guests, hosts and active supporters, Wivey welcomed the present and previous Lord-Lieutenants of Somerset, the High Sheriff, the Chairs of the County and District Councils, the Heads of our local schools and community organisations plus, of course, Her Royal Highness Sophie, the Countess of Wessex.

Everyone who spoke to the Countess found her to be warm, well informed, and a joy to meet: she was very affirming of what we have all been doing. The whole occasion showed the Wivey area at its best, and will be remembered for a long time to come. The hospitality team at St Andrew's pulled out all the stops and offered delicious Ukrainian and British refreshments, all beautifully presented, and the *In Ecclesia* choir sang the very moving *Ukrainian Prayer*.

As well as the affirmation of such a visit it was a great opportunity to communicate the joys and challenges of life in a rural area such as ours to all the civic guests. We hope that some tangible outcomes result from this as well.

Sixty eight Ukrainians have now arrived in the Wivey area through the Homes for Ukraine scheme, though one family of three has returned to Ukraine. Three families have moved into rented accommodation, leaving twenty one families or individuals with hosts. Although the war on the ground has been going well for Ukraine, particularly with the liberation of Kherson, life for civilians remains difficult as power supplies and other infrastructure targets are targeted by missiles, leaving many homes without heat or electricity for long periods of time. Some families are reaching the end of the six months they committed to: there is an ongoing need for accommodation to rent and for new UK hosts to accommodate new arrivals from Ukraine and those having to move on from their current hosts. If you are in a position to help, please do get in touch.

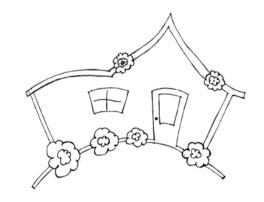
Meanwhile the English lessons and welcome hub remain well attended and highly valued by all who attend. Looking ahead, Christmas will be an especially poignant time for our guests, and we are looking into a Christmas party and bilingual carol service. There is always lots to do, so if you can help in any way please do send us an email or come along to the Thursday cafe.

Let's give the last words to the Countess of Wessex; we were moved to hear her say:

'Had the shoe been on the other foot, we would all be looking to friendly countries like Ukraine to take us in. You are providing something beyond any monetary value and I thank you'.

Ann-Marie Paterson

Stawley Village Shop & Tea Room



Opening hours

Monday to Friday 8.00 to 5.30 Saturday 8.00 to 2.00 Sunday 9.00 to 11.00 The Post Office is here every Thursday 11.30am to 1.30pm

As Autumn sets in and Winter awaits, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our wonderful customers and volunteers for their support, dedication and loyalty over the summer months, you have made us feel incredibly welcome, so thank you all so much.

It's been a short year for myself and my girls in the Shop, but we've loved every minute of getting to know you all and we have had many laughs along the way already. Thank you all so much for welcoming us to the shop, but most of all, into your community. You all feel like family.

We're looking forward to many more years to come with you all and we have exciting plans to make your local Shop even more varied, helpful and a warm and fun place to be...so watch this space.

We are hosting a Christmas event here, outside the Shop on **Friday December 16th** from 5pm onwards and we very much hope you will join us. (see separate poster).

Also....please don't forget that we now stock gifts for all ages and occasions in our new 'Gift Stop.' We offer quality gifts at very reasonable prices....in fact, every gift at the 'Gift Stop' is priced at under £20...with many under £10! Pop in and have a browse...we have lots of fantastic Christmas gift ideas!

Finally, we would like to wish each and every one of you a very Happy Christmas and our very best wishes for the New Year. Cheers!!

Christmas and New Year Opening Hours

Christmas Eve Saturday 24th December 8.00am - 11.00am Christmas Day Sunday 25th December CLOSED Boxing Day Monday 26th December CLOSED Tuesday 27th December (Bank Holiday) 8.00am - 12.00pm

New year's Eve Saturday 31st December 8.00am - 11.00am New year's Day Sunday 1st January CLOSED Monday 2nd January (Bank Holiday) 8.00am - 12.00pm

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

Wondering about the Weather

The unusual weather we've been having this year has set us to wondering about the seasons and the reliability of weather patterns. Historically, people would mark the changing of the seasons by changes in plants, animals and the weather around them. The first buds signalled that spring was here and it was autumn when the leaves turned colour and the weather became chilly once again. We also know that some people looked at the position of the sun (equinoxes and solstices) to divide the year into seasons. Now we mostly use calendar dates.

Seasons marked by calendar month (meteorological), the position of the sun (astrological) and the behaviour of plants and animals (phenological) were all aligned for the most part and were thought of as unchanging and dependable. Temperature and rainfall fluctuated within predictable boundaries over the year driving the appearance of snowdrops in spring, the summer nesting of swallows, autumn harvests and winter snows.

Now the seasons seem to be blurring and the weather no longer seems to be 'normal' for a given time of year in a particular place. We know from decades of information gathered by naturalists and scientists that this perceived difference in weather patterns and wildlife behaviour is not imagined. According to Woodland Trust data, Spring (based on animal and plant behaviour) is starting about a week earlier than it was two decades ago. We have warmer winters and hotter summers. Plants are blooming earlier; mountain snows are melting earlier; bird migration patterns are shifting; and our growing season is about a month longer.

This year started with the warmest New Year's Day on record for the UK, followed by one of the driest Januarys in some areas and unseasonably bad storms in others. Then there was the long, hot summer drought. Temperature records were broken at more than half of the UK weather stations, some of which had remained unbroken for decades. For the first time temperatures in the UK exceeded 40 °C. The information we have on weather and climate suggests that weather patterns are drifting away from the expected 'norms' and will become more unpredictable with time.

There are so many instances each year when we as a society rely on a calendar date as a proxy for weather conditions or the behaviour of wildlife or the growth of plants. We use dates to plan when to plant and harvest crops, trim hedges and mow fields, forage for certain foods, go wildlife watching, camping or skiing. Now that calendar months no longer align as well with the natural world around us does this affect the usefulness of these dates? In some cases following these dates may

lead to a disappointing holiday but in others may have more dire consequences for the wildlife around us. Are we at that point where these dates, based on decades, (in some cases centuries) of traditional knowledge and historical data, will soon lead us astray?

Frazer Higgins and Alësha Naranjit

Rainfall Statistics (ins) for October

2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2.89 6.86 6.45 6.06 4.88

Still a lot of rain to come if we are to reach the 2021 total.

Val Coots

Hedge Laying At The Pavilion Autumn 2022

Many thanks to Robert Pike for laying the hedge on the SW boundary of the playing field. He did a great job that will improve conditions for the cricket pitch and the play area. The lower hedge will give much better light and more sunshine for the afternoon and evening sessions.



Also, many thanks to Sam Owen, for giving access to the hedge from his field and allowing the cuttings to 'fall' his side.

Another item ticked off the Pavilion's 'To Do' list.

Sally Scott

Looking forward to a busy New Year

Please Save the Date - 1st July 2023 Appley Pavilion Summer Ball



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Lunch Club

Lunch Club in October gave us a chance to chat to each other and for anyone wishing to tax themselves there was a locally based quiz, which proved to be popular. As ever Jackie White provided us with a delicious lunch.

Christmas Lunch

Our Christmas Lunch is on Thursday December 22nd. We are limiting numbers, so please let me know early if you would like to come. There will be entertainment provided by stalwart locals. The title of the Musical Drama is 'A Local Time Travelogue'. The content is a mystery known only to some of the participants!

A traditional Christmas Lunch will follow and then as an extra treat the Village Choir will join us for seasonal singing and coffee.

Advance notice.

The January Lunch Club will be on Thursday January 26th 2023. Our speaker will be John Ridgley ('local boy made good'). He currently works at Knightshayes and was a senior gardener at Highgrove House, now the country residence of King Charles III. John will be giving an illustrated talk about the Highgrove Garden with particular reference to His Majesty's ethos on organics and sustainability.

If you would like to come to either event please let me know by emailing harlingdelia@gmail.com or call me on 01823 672203.

Delia Harling

Can Anyone Help?

I am appealing to all readers of the Parish News to ask if any of you can remember seeing nine large (Children's size) scrapbooks, which record the restoration of Bathealton Village Hall and other notable events. They were started in about 1996 by Jill Ratsey of Cobhay Farm and continued until just before the first Lockdown.

Bathealton has recently been very lucky in our "new" residents who are not only talented but keen and willing to re-restore the Hall, and indeed have already made great progress in that direction. Both they, and the "old originals," would love to see again the original work and events and to add photographs to keep the history of the Hall up to date.

Please help us if you can.

Patricia Hall and Friends



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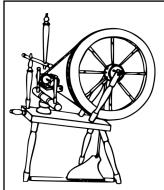
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Spinning and Woolcraft Group

The group have been holding some meetings at members' houses where a large and well ventilated indoor space is available, but there may still be the need to have a Zoom meeting from time to time.

Meeting arrangements will be confirmed in advance when the reminder email is sent out.

If you would like to join us please contact me and I will add you to the mailing list. Perhaps you would like to come along and learn to spin with us?

Or bring along your knitting, crochet or other needlecraft project. All welcome.

Next Sessions

Tuesday 6th and 20th December 2022 Tuesday 3rd and 17th January 2023 Tuesday 7th and 21st February 2023 at 2.30pm

Contact Pauline: on 01823 672222 or email pjw200355@gmail.com



Large Christmas Trees

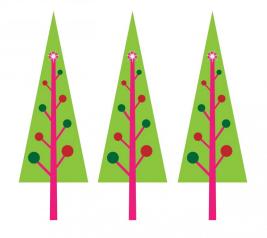
A small number of large Christmas Trees are available for you to dig out from 1st December.

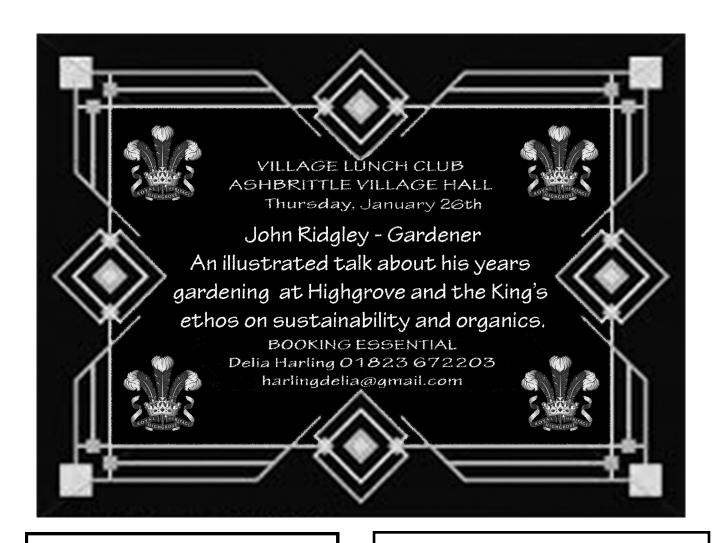
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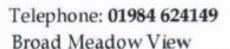
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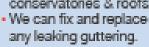
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The VETS numbers are available should you need assistance in an emergency or help to access a defibrillator. Remember, in the event of a possible cardiac arrest in your household: ALWAYS DIAL 999 FIRST IN AN EMERGENCY AND, IF A CHANCE ARISES, THEN DIAL THE VETS NUMBER, SPECIFYING THAT YOU NEED A DEFIBRILLATOR RATHER THAN GENERAL HELP

There are four local **defibrillators** which are easy to use and available to anyone. They are permanently located at these places and can be found using the //What3words codes below.

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

Kittisford New House Farm, on wall, opposite church *bonkers.regime.lyricist* **Stawley Shop**, on outside wall

messaging.servers.quaking
These are all accessible 24 hours a day and
no access codes are required.

Editorial Policy

Please note that the views expressed in this magazine are the responsibility of the individual author(s) and are not necessarily the views held by the editors of the Parish News.

Local Information

Neighbourhood Watch Contact Numbers

Greenham & Tracebridge Caro Ayre 01823 672603 Rachel Chesterton 01823 673063 Appley Ashbrittle Charles Doble 01823 672365 Stawley Pat Sweet 01823 672380 William Thomas Wellisford 01823 673143 Springrove Doreen Orton 01823 400731

Police-non-emergency number 101

Police Beat Team

PC Rachel Lang 2347 Tel: 07889 655887

Rachel.Lang@avonandsomerset.police.uk
PCSO Louise Fyne 6945 Tel:07889 659476

Louise.fyne@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Parish Councils

Ashbrittle Chairman Charles Doble 01823 672365 / 67261 Email: charles.doble@ukgateway.net Bathealton Chairman Philip Broad 07584 657106

Email: philip.broad1@outlook.com

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: williamspfa@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 Allder Pre-schools Manager Swallows, Sampford Arundel 01823 672342 Mon/Tues Stawley Under Fives 07753 552736 Weds/Thurs/Fri

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 mike.parky3@gmail.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, or by email). Naturally, we prefer items by email <code>ashparishnews@gmail.com</code> 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 Avril Silk 01823 672131 e-mail address: ashparishnews@gmail.com

Treasurer: Andrew Millard, Barton Barn, Kittisford, Wellington TA21 0RZ

Bank details: Account Name: The Parish News,

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December

3rd 2.30 pm Christmas Fayre, Bathealton Village Hall

3rd 7.30 pm Ashbrittle Arts - Zeffe - in Ashbrittle Village Hall

9th 7.30 pm Cricket Club Awards and Presentations in Appley Pavilion

10th 11.00 - 4.00 pm Stawley Mill Happenings

14th 12 noon and Christmas Party at The Globe Inn

onwards

15th 7.30 pm Kittisford Christmas Dinner at Kittisford House

16th 5.00 pm onwards Christmas at the Stawley Village Shop

22nd Noon Christmas Lunch Club at Ashbrittle Village Hall

January 2023

5th 8.00 pm Ashbrittle, Stawley & Clayhanger Cricket Club AGM

26th Noon Lunch Club in Ashbrittle Village Hall

February

25th Annual Quiz Night at Appley Pavilion

July 1st

Summer Ball at Appley Pavilion

Wivey Link Going places......

Wivey Link offers a community run transport service for those of any age with out easy access to a car. We can take people to health and medical appointments as well as social trips, shopping, hairdressers etc.



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Next Deadline Date: Friday 20th January 2023

Editors: Maurice and Avril