



Parish news

September 2025

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

Church Services

Sun 7th Sept

9.30am	Holy Communion Service	St. Michael's, Stawley
11.15am	Sung Eucharist Service	All Saints', Rockwell Green
11.15am	BCP Communion Service	St. John the Baptist, Ashbittle

Sun 14th Sept

9.30am	Patronal Communion Service	Holy Cross, Sampford Arundel
11.15am	Sung Eucharist Service	All Saints', Rockwell Green

Sun 21st Sept

11.15am	Sung Eucharist Service	All Saints', Rockwell Green
12.30pm	Harvest Service	Rewe Farm, Thorne St. Margaret
5.30pm	Evensong	St. Nicholas', Kittisford

Thu 25th Sept

7.00pm	Church in the pub	The Globe Inn RSVP <i>welcome@westtone.org.uk</i>
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Fri 26th Sept

6.30pm	Harvest Evensong	Holy Cross, Sampford Arundel
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Sun 28th Sept

9.30am	Harvest Communion Service	St. Bartholomew's, Bathealton
11.15am	Harvest Eucharist Service	All Saints', Rockwell Green

Churchwardens and Clergy

Ashbittle with Greenham

Charles Doble, The Old Rectory, Ashbittle, TA21 0LQ	01823 672365
David Hanks, Manley House, Ashbittle, TA21 0LE	01823 672436

Bathealton Sarah Eustice, Oakwood, Spring Grove, TA4 1NL 01823 401248

Kittisford Annie Musgrove, Meadow Farm, Greenham, TA21 0JW 01823 672627

Stawley Penny Hare, Stawley Mill, Wellington, TA21 0HT 01823 672183
Colin Haddrell, Tucks Farm, Stawley, TA21 0HS 07974 804990

Priest-in-Charge

Reverend Andrew Barton, 2 White Oaks, Langford Budville, TA21 0RB
Contacts: Home/Office - Phone 01823 924007 or 07795 699737

Artists Wanted! Do you have a painting or photograph which could be used as a cover design for the Parish News? Seasonal and local images are particularly welcome. Please send hi-res images (300dpi) to Avril at AvrilSilk@aol.com Portrait format is ideal if possible.

Front cover - 'Bringing home the harvest' - Combining a crop of spring barley at Lower Cothay Farm, with Tim Vellacott in the driving seat. Photo - Maurice Stanbury

Thought for the Month

What does a fruitful day look like for you?

Each of us will have a different answer to that question, reflecting the different contexts of our lives. Some of us will be students, some in jobs, others retired and some may be out of work. Of those who work some will be doing so on farms, others at home, others again in buildings far away.

For those who work in agriculture, or who are keen gardeners, a fruitful day will come in the form of a harvest. Teachers and parents sow a different kind of seed, and their harvest may be a child's delighted face of understanding. A business person's investment of diligent work on a spreadsheet could yield wise decisions in a meeting.

So, what does a fruitful day look like for you? Spend some time with this question and we come to see what harvest means to us on a personal level. We are entering autumn and the harvest season, a time to celebrate and be thankful for all that we have seen grow in our fields, as well as in our lives and our local community more generally.

Grateful reflection

Your churches are looking forward to hosting harvest celebrations and offering space for grateful reflection on what we have each received. We will be thinking about how we are all invited to partner in the sowing and reaping, bearing fruit for a better version of our world.

Alongside gratitude for the harvest comes generosity. We have a choice when we receive, to either hoard or to share. It can be tempting to hold on to that which we have harvested, to ensure that we have enough. And after all that labour, whether in the fields, the home, or the classroom, we certainly deserve a share of the reward.

However, at some point we have enough, and the reward can be shared more widely. The path to a better version of our world, and our local part of it, is paved with generosity. A mindset of scarcity leads to an instinct of hoarding whereas a mindset of gratitude for what we have received, turns our instincts naturally towards giving and sharing.

Your local churches are keen to share with you this harvest time. We are keen to hear your thoughts on how we can all support one another better. What would you like to see your local church offering? If you have things to say then please do so at welcome@westone.org.uk or westone.org.uk/conversation.

Our monthly gathering at The Globe Inn also provides a space for airing your views. If you

would like to join us on Thursday evening 25th September then please email me. It would be great to meet over a drink and some food, hear what a fruitful community looks like to you, and harvest the best ideas for the future.

Revd Andy Barton

Harvest Festival Lunch at Stawley Mill

on
Sunday 5th October
Following our
Harvest Festival
11.00am at Stawley Church



£10.00 per head
(including a glass of wine)

Please contact Penny Hare on
01823 672183 to book
your place.

Rainfall Statistics (inches) for July 2025

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
3.66	0.55	4.25	3.03	0.98

Another very dry month, although it did not quite match May 2025 (0.83 inches). The first seven months in 2025 generated a little under 16 inches of rain. We could be looking at the driest year in twenty five years if we remain below the 2010 total of 29.95 inches.

Val Coots

Quaker Meeting for Worship

Spiceland Quaker Meeting Uffculme
EX15 3AZ

We Meet for Worship at Spiceland
every Sunday at 10.30am till 11.30am
also available on Zoom -

Meeting ID:865 5570 2735 Passcode:
498173

All are very welcome.

Spiceland is open for Heritage Day

on

Sunday 21st September 2025

2 - 5pm



**Burial Grounds and Meeting House
open to the public**

You are welcome to bring your own refreshments to enjoy in the peaceful surroundings of the grounds

**COME AND SEE US - ONLY 1.5 MILES FROM
UFFCULME AND SIGNPOSTED FROM THE
A38**

Lunch Club

Our July lunch was a little different as we gathered on the village green for a demonstration of the amazing abilities of trained springer spaniels. Maurice Stanbury brought along three of his springers, together with colleague Rosemary and her cocker spaniel who also played a part. We were treated to a demonstration of the abilities of spaniels in a game shooting situation.

This is thanks to their super sensitive noses and total obedience to the trainer, regardless of other distractions, like in our case, of the refuse lorry operating with its noisy reversing signals and flashing lights.

On returning to the hall we had an illustrated

talk, particularly focusing on the spaniels' extraordinary sense of smell and how that is used for a wide variety of purposes, including checking hotel and motel rooms for bed bugs!

Thank you Maurice for giving us a glimpse into this world which many of us knew nothing about and found quite fascinating.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 25th September, starting at 12.00 noon (sharp!). The speaker will be Avril Silk, who will be talking about her work with leaded glass. Avril will give a brief demonstration of the techniques involved and share images of the panels she has made, including work in many Somerset schools, often designed by the pupils.

If you would like to come please let me know by Monday 22nd Sept. My contact details are email harlingdelia@gmail.com or telephone 01823 672203.

Delia Harling

Bathealton's Parish Walk

14th September 2025

1.30 - 5.00 pm

Starting at Bathealton Village Hall -
finishing at Yeancott Farm

Come and join us for a fun afternoon walk, bring your two and four legged friends for a leisurely ramble over the beautiful Bathealton countryside.



"It's the word **MODERATE**
which scares me!"

Mobile Library

at Greenham Bridge

**Next visits: 23rd September
and 21st October**

9.50 - 10.10 a.m.

STAWLEY FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW 2025

Appley Pavilion
Sunday 7th September
from 2.30pm onwards

Join us for Pimms,
puddings and traditional
cream teas, while browsing
this year's entries and
enjoying the music of
Wivelele - Wiveliscombe's
very own ukulele band.



Kindly sponsored by
Tiverton Agricultural Society



Our Community Shop

Stawley has a village shop
That's stocked with many treats,
Like wine, smoked salmon, cheese and ham
And chocolates and sweets.
On the shelves are useful things,
Bleach, matches and shampoo
And bird food, cat food, plastic bags
And sellotape and glue.

Be tempted by our tasty cakes,
We do have gluten free!
Meet friends, enjoy a cheerful chat
With coffee or cups of tea.
On Wednesday we have fresh baked bread,
You need to order Mondays.
Pies and pasties, yummy quiches
We aim to please you, always.

Newspapers and magazines
Come in as day is dawning.
There's fruit and veg from Riverford;
Fresh eggs to greet the morning.
In the chiller there's butter, milk
And sausages and bacon
A choice of pies will meet your eyes
And sandwiches fresh makeden.

Of course there's tins of every kind
Of tuna, beans and sauces
And jars of honey, jams and fruit.
(We don't have hay for horses!)
Then biscuits, crisps and cereals -
Salt anchovies, cheese crackers
And green, or kalamata olives
For seriously peckish snackers.

Cold drinks, ciders, beers
And ice-creams for hot summers;
Ketchup, salad cream, olive oil,
Smoked mackerel, mustard, hummus.
Vinegar, treacle and Marmite,
Shoe polish and peanut butter,
Light bulbs and tissues... what a mixture
But handy, I hear you mutter!

Our shop is staffed by volunteers.
We work in half day shifts.
We run the till and stock the shelves
And try not to get too miffed.
If you would like to join us,
It really is quite fun
Just pop in for the lowdown
Before this month is done.

All volunteers are cherished.
The case is crystal clear
We need your help,
You want a shop... ***Just come and volunteer!***

Stawley Shop Volunteers Celebrate a Successful Year

On a lovely sunny and warm Saturday afternoon recently, the SCA committee members and Stawley Shop volunteers got together for a barbecue and social gathering to celebrate a very busy but successful year running our Village Shop and Tearoom.

The event was kindly hosted by Angela and Alec Medlycott, in their beautiful and secluded garden, where tables and chairs were dotted in the shade of fruit trees for relaxed sitting and chatting.

Nigel Paterson and family looked after cooking on the barbecue, and together with an amazing array of tasty salads and desserts brought along to share, produced a veritable feast!

A wonderful afternoon, with a group of people who have come together as volunteers now enjoying the company of those who have become friends, while giving ourselves a modest 'pat on the back' for another successful year (*see photo on back cover*).



'Smoke gets in your eyes' - but it didn't stop Nigel and Gordon from having fun cooking at the barbeque.

Many thanks to our hosts

A very big thank you to Angela and Alec for all the hard work involved in hosting the afternoon, and to Vikki Voysey for organising the rest of it! I think I can speak for all of us who were there; we had a great time.

And thanks once again to all volunteers involved in running the Shop and Tearoom, we couldn't do it without you.

Pauline Wood

Stawley Community Village Shop & Tea Room

Opening hours

Week day opening 8.00am to 5.00pm

except:

Wednesday 8.00am to 1.00pm

Saturday 8.00am to 12.00pm

Sunday 9.00am to 11.00am

The Tea Room will close 30 minutes before shop closure

The Post Office is here every Thursday 11.30am to 1.30pm

Contact us on 01823 674361 or shop@stawleyshop.com



Selling at Stawley Shop

Change of delivery day for bread!

From the beginning of September, Wednesday will now be the day for bread delivery as we have been swapped to the Wellington delivery route rather than via Wiveliscombe. It should arrive on Wednesday morning around 10.15am. Ideally, we will need your "one off" orders in by Monday last thing.

Cake suppliers

In the last month we have enjoyed trying out some new cake suppliers and we hope we will have someone local providing most of our cakes very soon. Why not come and try our coffee and cake, all at very reasonable prices.

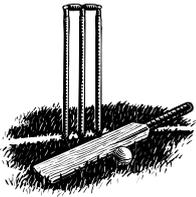
Other items

We sell sausages and bacon, ham and smoked trout and salmon but no specifically vegetarian products. We had a phone call earlier in the summer asking if we stocked any vegetarian burgers or sausages, we don't but would do, if there was a demand.

We tried some Brew Dog AF (alcohol free IPA) but had to sell a lot of it at half price as it didn't sell. Is there an alcohol-free drink that you would like to see on the shelves? We continue to stock a great range of wine, beer and cider and have a number of different spirits too.

We are very open to suggestions from our customers, do let us know what you think you might like to buy.

Look forward to seeing you soon at Stawley Community Shop and Tea Room



Ashbrittle, Stawley and Clayhanger Cricket Club

A month of mixed fortunes

It has been a difficult season for Ashbrittle, with the continued hardship of trying to field two teams of eleven players each week. The past month has seen us unfortunately cancel three of our 2nd XI Fixtures, which is something we never like to do. This has also left our 2nd Team in a sticky situation of battling relegation. We hope for better availability, and a turnaround in fortunes for the 2nd VI.

The 1st XI have had a mixed month for results. They unfortunately found themselves on the losing side of the West Somerset League Cup Final, narrowly missing out to a very strong Watchet side. We'd like to thank all of the supporters who came to the final and helped us all the way to the end. We'd also like to thank Stogumber Cricket Club for their hospitality and running of the day.

Regarding league fixtures, the 1st Team have had some brilliant results, and also some that were hard to swallow. The dramatic win over Bagborough was a huge highlight of the month, seeing everyone contribute to a really important win. Matt Nelson (19 not out) and Jake Sharland (53 not out) seeing us over the line in a run chase of 214. Skipper Luke Williams also top scored with 55.

The loss to bottom of the table Winsford was tough to take. A poor batting performance when only Wilf Embleton (37) and Callum White (40) were able to score anything notable. Winsford chased easily, other than the brilliant spell of bowling from Matt Nelson who took four wickets for forty seven runs preventing an even heavier defeat.

The 1st XI had a strong win over Brompton Ralph, after losing the toss and bowling first. Steve Grant's 3-20 and Callum White's 3-63 accounted for the bulk of the wickets. Ashbrittle calmly chased the score of 190, with plenty of overs to spare, thanks to Wilf Embleton's 51 and Luke Williams' 56 not out.

A great game

The 2nd XI were finally back playing, and marked it with a dramatic three run win. Ashbrittle set a score of 209, with Andy Hill top scoring with 63. It all looked like a guaranteed win when Stoodleigh were 155-8, however a late partnership took it to just three runs required. John Bark-

er stepped up and took the crucial final wicket, in what was a brilliant game of cricket.

A Caribbean evening for all

We'd also like to remind everyone that we are running a Caribbean themed evening at Ashbrittle on August 30th. There will be authentic music and food, and a guaranteed great night for all. The dress code is for colourful shirts, so we hope to see you all there!

Callum Hamer

News from the Parish News

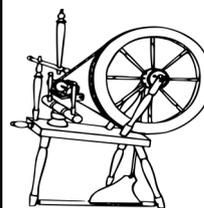
Following our very successful appeal for funds earlier this year, we have been able to adopt an improved printing process for the colour reproduction of the front and back pages - hope you like it!

Donations this month received from:

S Williams
Tilly Willis

Many thanks for your kind donations. Donations may be left at Stawley Shop or sent directly to the Treasurer. Details inside back cover.

Andrew, Avril and Maurice



Spinning and Woolcraft Group

A twice-monthly get-together at a member's house for textile crafting, chat and a cuppa

Perhaps you would like to learn to spin with us?
Or bring along your knitting, crochet or other needlework project

All welcome

If you would like to join us, please contact me and I will add you to the mailing list.

Next Sessions

Tuesdays: 2nd and 16th September
7th and 21st October
at 2.30pm

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



APPLE PRESSING DAY



SUNDAY 12TH OCTOBER 10.00 am – 3.00 pm

APPLEY PAVILION, TA21 0HH

FREE APPLE PRESSING, £5 FOR USE OF PASTEURISER

TEA & COFFEE SERVED FROM 10.00 am

BANGERS & MASH SERVED 12-2.00 pm

Proceeds from refreshments: Appley Pavilion

Equipment hire: Brendon Orchards, Wiveliscombe



VILLAGE LUNCH CLUB
ASHBRITTLE VILLAGE HALL

Thursday, September 25th at noon

AVRIL'S RAINBOW GLASS

Avril Silk will give a short demonstration of the techniques involved in making leaded windows. She will show images of the panels she has made, including many created for Somerset schools.



BOOKING ESSENTIAL
Delia Harling ~ 01823 672203
harlingdelia@gmail.com





News from Wivey Cares

We are really excited to announce that we are opening a second weekly-run group, called Hub & Grub, starting on 8th October 2025. It will run every Wednesday at Wivey Rugby Club from 10.30am – 2.30pm and anyone from 18 - 100+ years of age is welcome.

Make new friends, meet up with old ones, share your hobby with others - for example, play games, cards, knit together - and then enjoy a wholesome home-cooked lunch! The venue is fully accessible and offers free parking. If you can't make it there under your own steam, or use Wivey Link, then please let us know so we can organise transport.

The provisional schedule is as follows:

10.30 – Start with coffee/tea refreshments. Time for small group activities, chat or share your hobby with others - for example, knit, sew, play cards or games.

12.15 – Home-cooked wholesome lunch

13.15 – Large group activity (bingo, music, guest speakers, quizzes etc).

Please tell us what activities you would like us to offer. We are also looking for people to fill the post-lunch activity slot, giving a talk or demonstration, making music or leading a singalong. If you are a budding quiz master who can get the brain cells going, a bingo caller or a magician – get in touch. And of course, volunteers! If you would like to help at the group please get in touch with our coordinator.

And all for just £7.00. Booking is recommended and will help the catering team. Please email [Tamzin co-ordinator@wiveycares.net](mailto:Tamzin.co-ordinator@wiveycares.net) to book your place, or call her on 07508 331661 with any questions. We will post updates on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/WiveyCares> and on our website <https://wiveycares.net/hub-grub>.

If you know of someone who may like to attend let us know and we can contact them directly.

A new project

This is a new project which we have been able to undertake because of your generosity during our fundraising week. We will be creating a warm space over winter offering food and company. If it is well used, we plan to keep it going throughout the whole year.

Valeria Coots, Wivey Cares Trustee

Vintage Tractor Run

The fourth Waterrow Vintage Tractor Run was held on Sunday 10th August. The event attracted twenty one vintage tractors and drivers. The oldest tractor taking part was a 1949 Diesel TE20 (*perhaps better known as a Grey Fergie*), one of the very earliest diesel powered models. There was also a 1952 American Case, not often seen in the UK.

A circular route

Petton Cross was the starting point and event organiser Colin Heard took everyone on a circular route of about thirty miles taking in Luttrell Cross, Huish Champflower, Langley Marsh with a lunchtime stop at Croford. The afternoon route included Springrove, Bathealton, Kittisford, Appley, Stawley Mill and back to Petton Cross around 4.00 pm for welcome tea and cake, provided by Sarah Heard.



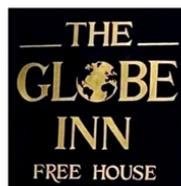
Event organiser, Colin Heard, with his David Brown 880, leads the way.

There were a few hiccups along the way, with a binding brake and a slow puncture, but with so many enthusiasts and experienced mechanics among the drivers, the problems were soon fixed.

The Run raised £300.00 for the charity MIND and a further £100.00 for Waterrow Village Hall.

as told by Colin Heard

Church in the Pub



Each month the local church gathers at Appley in The Globe Inn, to enjoy good company, food, and drink. Our chats span a range of subjects about life and faith, often providing more laughs than answers.

All are welcome 7.00pm last Thursday of the month, please help us prepare by telling us you are coming.

Email welcome@weststone.org.uk Call 07795 699737

10 Parishes Festival

6th - 14th September 11am - 5pm daily

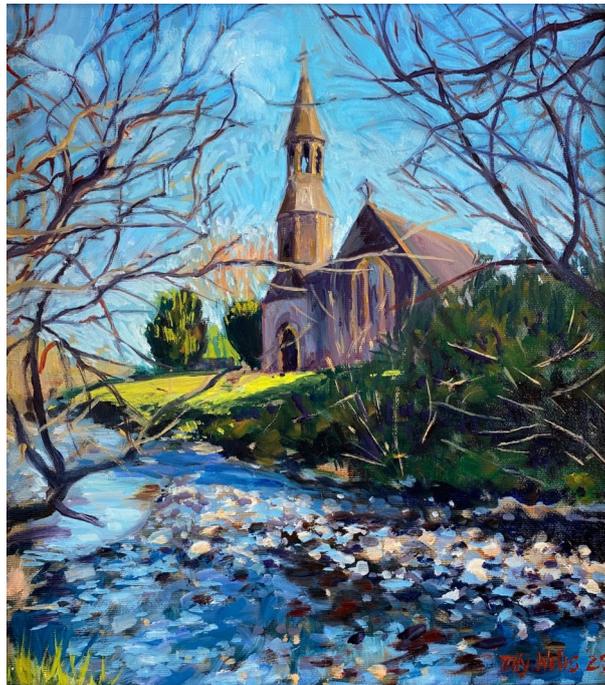
Venue 1

Tilly Willis Paintings, prints, cards

Tom Wood Garden Sculptures

at

Bicknells, Bathealton, TA42AN



Venue 2

Louise Waugh Paintings, prints, cards

Annie's Hand Made Cards, Crackers and Stocking Fillers

at

Bathealton Village Hall

Writing

Thoughts emerge like tiny seeds
Trying to germinate.
Pushing through, pushing through,
The moist crumbly soil
Reaching out of the silent darkness.

An idea, a notion, an image
The concept of something wanting to grow.
A story, a character, a plot,
A beginning, a name, a place.
A time, a season, an era
The mood is set.
Facts, fiction and intrigue.

Brain matter, sub consciousness,
Thought process on high alert.
Pushing through, pushing through.
The mundane repetitive job lists
And daily concerns that cause brain fog!

Time must be lost and forgotten
As words flow
Unleashing the pool of creativity
Don't hold back
Don't look back
Your words will make sense
Your story
Your poem
Your account
Your prose
Your book
They need to be read
They need to be shared
Write, write, write.

Joanna deValero

Wellington Choral Society

After a very successful programme last season, we are now looking forward to the start of our singing season for 2025/26. Our first concert will be on Saturday 29 November 2025 at 7.00pm at St John the Baptist Church Wellington when we will be singing Handel's Messiah Part 1 and Britten's St Nicolas. Both choral works suited to the festive season.

Rehearsals start on Wednesday 3rd September 2025. We are a friendly choir and would always love new singers to come and join us. There is no audition and our Musical Director Laurence Blyth helps new singers learn the music.

More information can be found on our website www.wellingtonchoralsociety.org.uk

Lucy Watson

Ashbrittle Village Hall

Ashbrittle Village Hall has a large amount of blue and white assorted China for sale if anyone is interested.

Our AGM will be held on Thursday, 20th November at 7.0 pm.

Contact Pat Gainey on 07713 276656 for further information.

Ashbrittle Parish Council

Could anyone who has concerns about potholes please report them to the Parish Council and we will immediately relay them to the County Council. They are dependent on local reports and usually respond quickly when notified.

Email ashbrittleparish@gmail.com or phone Paul Leyland on 07816413291.

Village Oil Group

The next oil delivery is due on

Wednesday 8th October

To place an order, please email:-

judy.milne@btinternet.com or contact

Judy or Michael Milne on 01823 672205 by the Monday before the Wednesday delivery

New members always welcome

**Community Radio for the
10Parishes and Beyond**



**Broadcasting 24 hours a day
on FM radio and the Internet.
For the people by the people.**

Contact The Presenter Live :

Email : studio@10radio.org Text : 07786202240

**Message the Presenter via 10radio.org
or via the 10Radio App**

Ashbrittle Art and Craft Group

Are giving it another go!

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

Painting and Drawing - Mosaics - Textiles Crafts - etc.

Come and meet some local art and craft enthusiasts, see what's going on and tell us about your favourite craft

We meet at a member's house. Arrangements will be confirmed in advance, via a monthly reminder email

Meetings will now be on the 2nd Thursday afternoon each month

11th September and 9th October 2.00 - 4.0 pm

If you are interested in joining us, contact me by email below to be added to the mailing list:

Pauline pjw200355@gmail.com

HOLYWELL ANTIQUES & LICENSED TEAROOMS

THE HOLLOWAY, HOLYWELL LAKE, WELLINGTON, TA21 0EJ

01823 976551/077 10265605

OPEN THURSDAY – SATURDAY

AND THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

9.00 – 4.30



We are a small Antiques Centre with a licensed Tearooms and a lovely garden for you to sit in and relax. We welcome dogs in the snug or garden and we have a large car park. We also do TakeAway Tea/Coffee and Cakes
Email nickyjane2435@yahoo.com



Local Environmental Group

BBQ - All Welcome!

On Sunday 21st September at 4.00 pm

In Long Alder Field, Kirtisford

(Parking in field 200m west of St Nicholas Church on the right)

W3W: starfish.deeper.darkness



With live music from local band,



"Vanessa and the Jamesons"

BBQ, drinks, marquees, stalls

Proceeds towards local environmental projects

For more info contact Nick: 07734 386243 email: nickbenge123@outlook.com

EXMOOR EXPLORED

10 PARISHES FESTIVAL

Venue 11

An exhibition of paintings, drawings and textiles inspired by the colours of Exmoor by Annie Musgrove, Innes Davis and Lindsay Shaw supporting the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity.



Saturday 6th to Sunday 14th September
10 - 4.30 pm

Parking and refreshments



Rainsbury House Studio, Upton
TA4 2HU
///clock.accordion.obey

STAWLEY MILL

JOIN US FOR



BOOKS & BISCUITS
COFFEE & CAKE

1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

3RD & 17TH SEPTEMBER
10AM—12.30PM

IN AID OF CHURCH RESTORATION FUND



St Nicholas Patronal Festival 2025

The weekend of 6 -7th December is the closest to St Nicholas' Day and at St Nicholas' Church, Kittisford, we are marking the occasion with a special festival of music and community. This has been made possible by a grant from the Choral Evensong Trust which supports churches in celebrating their patron saints.

St Nicholas was a 4th-century bishop from what is now Turkey. He gave away his wealth to help those in need, especially children. One famous story tells how he secretly dropped a bag of gold down a chimney to help three poor sisters. The bag landed in a stocking hung up to dry by the fire, giving rise to the Christmas tradition of stockings. In many European countries children still leave out their shoes on St Nicholas' Day, hoping to find sweets and small gifts inside.

Our celebration begins on **Saturday 6th December at 6.00 pm** with a choral concert by the **Bute Voices**, an up-and-coming choir from Cardiff comprised of students from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. On **Sunday 7th December at 12 noon** there will be a **community singing workshop** at Kittisford House Barn led by Alexander Douglas, a choral director and lecturer in the Music Department at King's College London. The music prepared in the workshop will be sung in the **Choral Evensong at 3:30 pm** in the church.

After the service, everyone is warmly invited to a reception back in the Barn. And — for the children — those who leave a shoe in the church porch may just discover a small surprise waiting for them by the end of the service!

We very much hope you will join us for this joyful weekend — whether for the Saturday concert, the Sunday workshop and service, or both.

Please do put the dates in your diary.

*Annie Musgrove, Churchwarden,
St Nicholas, Kittisford*

Ashbrittle Village Hall Harvest Supper

Friday 24th October
7.30 pm

£10 per head
BYO drinks

Contact to book:
Pat Gainey 07713276656
John Dawes 01823 672204

BOOKING IS
ESSENTIAL AS
ALL PIZZAS ARE
FRESHLY MADE
TO ORDER

THE
GLOBE INN
APPLEY

TO BOOK
CALL MANDY ON
07568 329686,
OR THE PUB
DIRECT ON
01823 673147.

JOIN US FOR OUR

PIZZA & KARAOKE NIGHT

on Saturday 13th September from 6-9pm

Only £15 for any 4 toppings*

Choose from:

- Pepperoni
- Chorizo
- Ham
- Pineapple
- Onions
- Peppers
- Chillies
- Mushrooms
- Tomatoes
- Blue cheese
- Mozzarella
- Jalapenos

Extra toppings £1 each

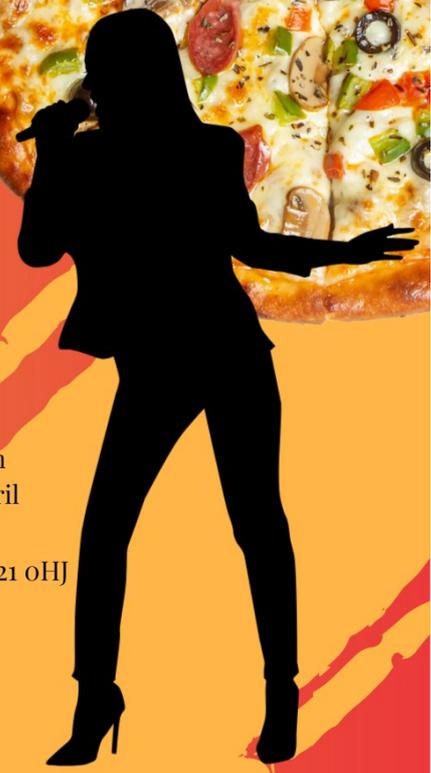
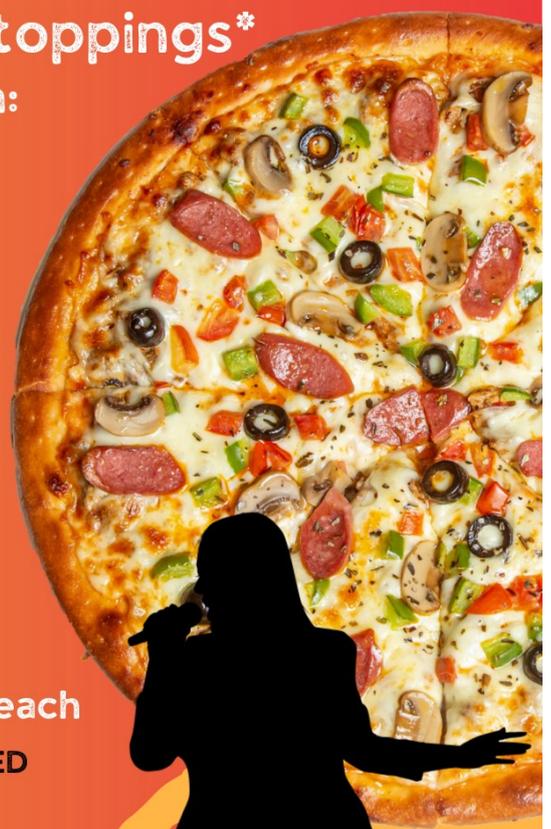
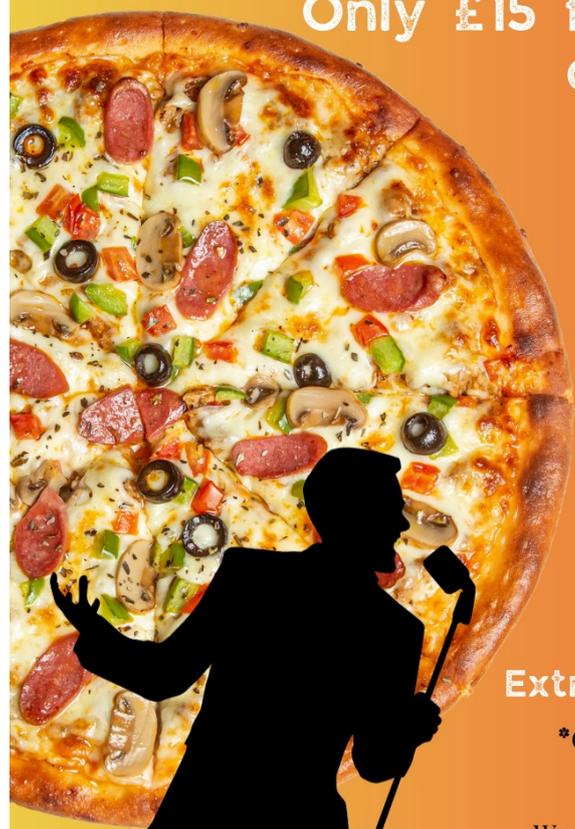
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 The Globe INN Appley

Nature notes from Ashbittle Churchyard

Ladybirds: Tiny Heroes in Polka-Dot Armour

The ladybird, with its stylish and cheerful polka-dot outfit, holds a special place in our hearts. Few other insects, apart from perhaps the butterfly, evoke as many positive emotions and superstitions as the ladybird. Many cultures believe that ladybirds are a symbol of good luck and new beginnings. In fact, the belief that ladybirds are associated with positive qualities is nearly universal – from Slavic, European, and Asian cultures to Native Americans.

There are forty six different species of ladybirds in the UK and about five thousand species worldwide. While some sport the classic red with black spots look, others come in shades of yellow, orange, or even black with red spots. All ladybirds are beetles and have a larval and adult form with the classic round and colourful ladybird being the adult whilst the larvae tend to be thin and black.

Many species of ladybird hatch from pupae in August or September so look out for a new generation of adults feeding up ready to overwinter. Ladybirds are voracious predators of aphids and other garden pests, serving as natural pest-control agents and helping to keep plants healthy. In fact, a single ladybird can devour up to 5,000 aphids and other plant-eating pests in its lifetime, making them invaluable allies to gardeners and farmers alike.

Threats to survival

Despite their diminutive size, ladybirds are not without their challenges. Predators, parasites, and even rival ladybirds pose threats to their survival. Birds, spiders, and other insects prey on them. They do have defences against predators however, their bright red colour is a warning that they don't taste nice and when attacked they give off a yellow liquid which is rich in toxic alkaloids.

Churchyards and cemeteries can be great for ladybirds as they tend to be free of insecticides and full of food. There are lots of places where ladybirds can find a safe place to spend the winter, often in large clusters where they remain inactive until about March when they emerge to feed and breed. Monuments including chest tombs, gaps made by tree roots, wood piles, spaces beneath flaking bark, leaf litter, tussocky grass and drystone walls are full of potential places to overwinter.

With their rounded bodies and distinctive markings, ladybirds are easily recognisable. If you see a ladybird, take a photo or count its spots and make a note of both spot and background col-

ours. The spot number indicates which species it is, not as some people believe, how old it is.

Contributed by Charles Doble from an article in 'Caring for God's Acre' - the conservation charity for Burial Grounds across the UK.



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Gardening Club

On Thursday 21st August a small group of six visited Bickham House at Kenn, near Exeter. Having met at a local pub for lunch, we then met the owner Mrs Julia Tremlett, who introduced herself, and gave a short history of the house which was built in 1690 and has remained in the same family until the present day.

Over the years many changes have been made to the architecture and the gardens have only been planted by the current family since the 1980s. At an earlier time the fields came right up to the windows of the house. She and her husband, plus a gardener for one day per week, maintain the whole area of six acres.

The house is set in a steep coombe and the main lawn was levelled in the 1920s to make two tennis courts and is like a billiard table. This is kept in trim by a robo mower which occasionally sends messages, "I'm lost, or I've fallen on my back"!

Looking up the coombe to the woods beyond, on the left and below is a lake, while on the right there is a woodland area with a large collection of Rhododendrons, Camellias and spring flowering trees.

A recent addition

The newest addition to the garden is a revamp of a formal lily pond in a courtyard at the back of the house. The pond has been drained and cleaned and now houses a very old olive tree surrounded by pebbles. The tree had to be craned in over the house and could only be moved with help of a digger.

The last part of the garden we visited is the one acre walled garden. This contains a large and productive vegetable plot, several green houses, home to different varieties of tomatoes, a beautifully kept cactus house with nearly a hundred different sorts and an arid poly tunnel. There is also a large flower plot which Mrs Tremlett calls her tasteless flower garden. We all thought it was glorious!

We finished our trip with tea and delicious cakes on the terrace amid general agreement that it had been a very worthwhile trip.

Freda Parkinson

The Flower Show

Schedules and entry forms accompany this edition of the Parish News and are available in the Stawley Village Shop. This has certainly not been the best growing year since the drought started but autumn planting of some veggies has paid off. Although the flowers might not be as spectacular as

usual I hope we can still put on a good show.

Staging is on Saturday 6th September from 6.00 – 8.00pm and also on Sunday from 8.00 – 10am. Only one entry per person per class. Gates open at 2.30 and the prize giving is at 4.00 followed by the auction of produce.

This year, thanks to the Pavilion Team, there will be a marquee so we shall be prepared for rain or shine and once again Wivelele, Wiveliscombe's Ukulele Band, will be playing while we can enjoy the Pimms and traditional cream teas provided by the Pavilion Team.

Be sure to come and join us!

Sue Jacoby

The Safari Supper was super!!!

What a beautiful evening for a walk around Bathealton, with friends and families from the surrounding villages, as well as our home village. We moved around to different venues for different courses.

We started at the village hall with canapes and homemade soup and then moved on for more homemade food with an Italian theme - a main course of roasted Italian veg with lasagne and garlic bread.



A pleasure to sit outside at Yeancott Farm on a lovely summer's evening to complete the meal.

We finished the safari supper at Yeancott Farm with a wide variety of homemade puddings such as profiteroles, bread and butter pudding, chocolate brownies, cheesecakes and fruit salad (plus much more) together with coffee and teas

The weather was amazing, the views fantastic, the food great and such lovely company.

Thank you so much to our hosts.

Adele Broad

Visit Le Lion d'Angers, France this Autumn(40th Anniversary)

The Twinning Association are planning a trip to visit Wiveliscombe's beautiful twin town this October.

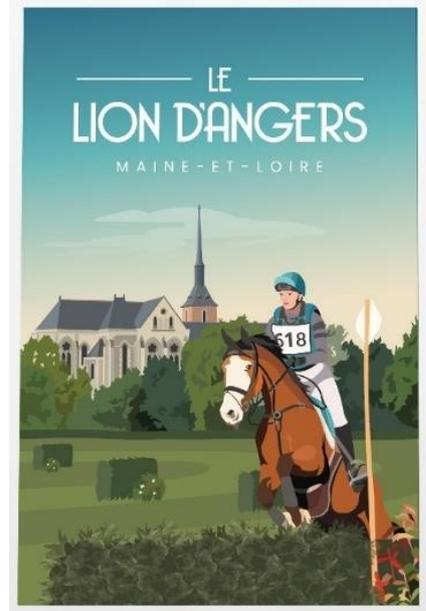
Coach/Ferry transport is provided from Wiveliscombe, numbers permitting (*cost of transport TBC*). Free accommodation will be arranged with a French hosting family.

This year we are seeking new families to join the adventure; young, old and anywhere in between! This is a great chance to experience French food, culture and hospitality in a truly unique way.

And this year we are all invited to *Le Mondial du Lion*, an international eventing competition held in the grounds of the renowned racecourse of Le Lion d'Angers.

The trip will take place from **Tuesday 14th – Sunday 19th October. 2025**

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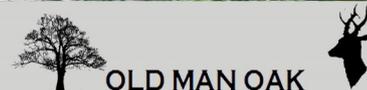
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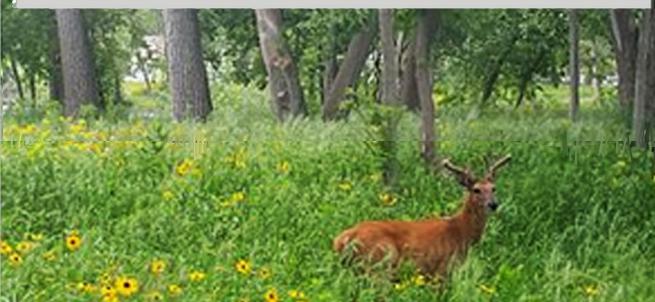
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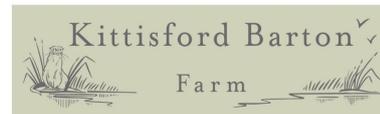
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blurts/flats/crouching

Bathealton Village Hall, on the outside wall.

relatives.widgets.rolled

Kittisford, New House Farm, on the wall opposite the church. *bonkers.regime.lyricist*

Stawley Village Shop, on the outside wall

messaging.servers.quaking

Each one can be removed and taken to where it is needed. **These are all accessible 24 hours a day and no access codes are required.**

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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

Police Beat Team PCSO Brianna Whelan
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Ashbrittle - Chairman Charles Doble 01823 672365 or 672618
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email: *stawleypc@stash.org.uk*

Somerset Councillors

Cllr Dave Mansell – 01984 623823 or email:
dave.mansell@somerset.gov.uk

Cllr Gwil Wren – 01823 400657 or email:
gwil.wren@somerset.gov.uk

Community Halls

Appley Pavilion and Recreation Field

– to book, call 01823 672266 or email:-
Lucy Williams *info@appleypavilion.co.uk* or book
online at *https://appleypavilion.co.uk*

Ashbrittle Village Hall

– to book, ring Pat Gainey on 01823 672760 or
07713 276656

Bathealton Village Hall

– to book, ring Tilly Willis on 07961 970743

Local Groups

Stawley under Fives at the Appley Pavilion.

Becky Alder Pre-schools Manager - Swallows,
Sampford Arundel 01823 672342 Mon/Tuesday.
Stawley Under Fives 07707 416871 Weds/Thurs/Fri

Parish News information

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. Please send items for publication by email *ashparishnews@gmail.com* preferably as attachments in Microsoft 'Word' format.

Advertising Our rates are £2.00 per month for a small box, £4.00 for a quarter page, £8.00 for a half page and £16.00 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

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Bank details: Account Name: The Parish News, Sort Code: 30-98-45. Acc. no. 01828373

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

September

1st	12 noon - 2.00 pm	Pop-Up Café in Bathealton Village Hall
3rd and 17th	10.00 - 12.30 pm	Books, Biscuits, Coffee and Cakes at Stawley Mill
7th	2.30 - 5.00 pm	Stawley Flower and Produce Show at Appley Pavilion
6th - 14th	11.00 - 5.00 pm	10 Parishes Festival - Bicknells and the Parish Hall, Bathealton. Also at Rainsbury House, Upton
11th	2.00 - 4.00 pm	Relaunch of the Ashbrittle Art and Craft Group
14th	1.30 - 5.00 pm	Bathealton's Parish Walk,
20th	10.00 - 12 noon	Coffee, Cake and Chat in Ashbrittle Village Hall
25th	12.00 noon	Ashbrittle Lunch Club in the Village Hall

October

9th	10.00 - 12.00 noon	Coffee morning at Church Cottage, Stawley
12th	10.00 - 3.00 pm	Apple Pressing Day at the Pavilion
24th		Ashbrittle Harvest Supper in the Village Hall

December

5th - 7th		Exhibition at Greenways Studio, Ashbrittle
6th and 7th		Festival weekend at St Nicholas Church, Kittisford
11th	7.00 pm	Kittisford Christmas Dinner at Kittisford House
18th	12 noon	Christmas Lunch Club in Ashbrittle Village Hall



The Stawley Shop Volunteers (or nearly all of them!) at their summer barbeque, hosted by Angela and Alec Medlycott, enjoyed a very relaxing afternoon with great food and super company (see full report on p. 6).

Next Deadline Date: Friday September 19th 2025

Editors: Maurice and Avril