

**BISHOP'S HULL PARISH MAGAZINE
JANUARY 2025**



**A THRIVING VILLAGE COMMUNITY
IN THE HEART OF SOMERSET**

EDITOR

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MAGAZINE SUPPORT TEAM

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Magazine Cover:

Photographs by
Bob & Penny Coombs & Bob Winn

Articles relating to all aspects of our village and community
are always welcome.

Final date for acceptance: Mid-day on 12th of the month.

Please help to make the magazine interesting by contributing material.

**When reading your free online copy or one of the the hard copies
available in church please remember to support the few remaining
advertisers whenever possible**

*It is emphasised that the views expressed in this magazine are not
necessarily those of the magazine editorial team, unless attributed,
or those sent in by identifiable contributors.*

**IDENTIFYING OUR LOCAL BIRDS
some photos by BOB WINN**



Cover - Please identify this bird



**AWARD WINNING
FAMILY RUN BUSINESS**

Shop and Post Office

Open Monday – Friday 6.45am – 6pm

Saturday 8am – 6pm

Sunday 8am – 12pm

Tel – 01823 279168

Butchers

Open Tuesday – Friday 8.00am – 3pm

Saturday 7.00am – 2pm

Sunday and Monday Closed

Tel – 01823 337497

BISHOP'S HULL CAR BOOT SALES

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE



Start Time 7a.m. Bishop's Hull Playing Field
TA1 5EB [///rocket.force.monday](http://rocket.force.monday)

Bank Holiday Sellers' Rates: Cars £6, Vans £8, Trailers £1

Sunday Sellers' Rates: Cars £5, Vans £6, Trailers £1

Buyer Parking £1 Large Vehicles by negotiation

Sellers responsible for removing their own rubbish

Toilets Available

Dogs allowed on a lead

All events subject to cancellation without notice at organisers discretion. All net proceeds to the Bishop's Hull Village Hall and Playing Fields Trust, a non-profit making registered charity.

The Frank Bond Centre

84 Mountway Road, Bishop's Hull.

A place for the over 50s to meet new friends

Contact Carolyn 01823 283941 /Nadia 07958 246046

Come along to Frank's cafe on a Friday morning 10:00-12:00
and discover what activities could lie in store for you.

The cafe is open to members and non-members.

The centre is centrally heated and open 10:00-16:00
Monday-Friday

Weekly Activities:

**Monday - The Painting Group 10:00-12:00,
Whist Club 1:30-4:00
Bridge Club 1.30-4:00**

Wednesday – Flexercise & Tai Chi 10:00-12:00

**Thursday - Bridge club 10:00-12:00-Beginners welcome,
Croquet 2:00-4:00**

Friday - Pétanque 10:00-12:00,

Friday - Frank's Cafe 10:00-12:00

Monthly Activities:

1st Monday in month Family History 2:00-4:00

2nd Tuesday in month Parchment 10:00-3:30

3rd Wednesday in month Games 2.00-4.00

4th Wednesday in month Music Appreciation 2.00-4.00

2nd & 4th Thursday in month Mahjong 2:00-4:00

**3rd Thursday in month Monthly lunch-pse write name on
list in foyer**

Annual membership £25 Find us on Facebook (& 'Like' us)

There are many more exciting activities...

Table tennis, cards, books, puzzles

A variety of social events take place throughout the year.

Vicar: Reverend Philip Hughes , The Vicarage, Bishop's Hull Hill, Bishop's Hull, TA1 5EB 01823-336102	Tim Venn (Church Warden) John Perry (Church Warden)
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In spite of all the ‘unintended bad consequences’ laden upon us over the past year (some of our own making and some outside of our control) I hope we can all look forward to a new year in which life will get better for us all.

At this time of year tradition inspires us to make either a fresh start or to write down all those things we hope will be a good guide for the next twelve months. I may be wrong but in a very short space of time few of us will actually be following our lists. Maybe it is a trait amongst humans to live in hope rather than dwell in despair. I am however fairly sure that for some actually handling their ‘current problem’ will continue to take up much of their time and energy.

Looking back into our social history we can see how society has recognised the hardships of an evolving nation and has taken steps to help alleviate this. Unfortunately the Law of Unintended Consequences is always lurking in the shadows and in some areas life becomes more complicated or even worse. In an educated, forward looking and compassionate society the ‘unintended’ are carefully scrutinised and lessons can be learned. Progress never stands still and for every new generation new ideas abound and old ones are represented again and again as ‘original’ thought. (Who once said, ‘You can’t put an old head on young shoulders’?)

Without entering into politics too deeply, I sometimes feel that successive governments (with the best of intentions of course) constantly meddle in our lives and have taken away some of that important daily ‘struggle’ of solving problems for ourselves. For those of us who grew up during the last world war with all its hardships and lack of governmental support families did survive and learnt ‘the hard way’. And we are all the better for it! Times were hard but I am not suggesting life should move backwards - I want my children and grandchildren to have all those things I never knew, at the time I didn’t have.

In this age of mass communication the whole world knows, at every level of society, who have the better lives and who do not. Maybe, just maybe, we shouldn’t be making too many lists but try to stand back a moment and consider our lives in a much wider context. For many of us that will be a hard challenge.

A Happy and Contented New Year to one and all.

The Vicar writes

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ,

What do you remember from school? Someone shared with me that they were surprised to hear the words of an old school favourite 'He's got the whole world in His hands' on the radio. British singer Craig David has released a new song that samples lyrics from the collective worship classic, a reflection on his younger self personally and spiritually, linking his own 'Worship, Mission and Discipleship. In a statement he said, "In Your Hands is such an important song for me as I wanted to shine a light on how truly special we all are, especially when we allow our inner child to play, that part of us that holds the true meaning and joy to life..."

The interview with Vibe.com continued: "When we tune into our inner child and we tune into the reason we got into anything, it brings back that sort of sense of joy and magic and aspirations and inspirations... And the world is quite dreamy. I feel like those inner child moments are really important to tap back into. Even in the hard times, just find a moment to play. Do something that you used to do that sweetens your spirit."

We are truly special, beyond our own inner child. In the Bible we read of Jesus blessing children, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Mark chapter 10 verse 14) In the Bible's book of Genesis we read that people are made in God's own image, imago Dei, every individual, everyone a child of God, is truly special. Valuing everyone is one reason why the Church of England was pioneering in providing free education for all children.

Let's praise God for the care we show and the lives we shape, connecting the 'Worship, Mission and Discipleship' into everyday.

*Your Brother in Christ
Rev Phil Hughes
Vicar and Chaplain*



St Peter's & St Paul's Church Bridge Coffee Mornings

The Bridge is what we have called the Welcome Area.

The Church has opened the Bridge for the return of the Monthly Coffee Mornings to be held on the last Saturday of each month and running now through the rest of 2024. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all at the next coffee morning on **Saturday 25th JANUARY**. Come along to have a Coffee/Tea and cakes, with a friendly chat. From 10am till 12noon.



Bell Ringing

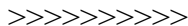
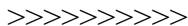
We are very proud of our Bell Ringing team and our bells! There are 6 bells in the tower and ringing is done from ground level. The Bell Tower is accessed on the North Side of the church.

Ringling happens for the main service on Sunday (usually ringing starts at 09.15am and rings until the service starts at 10am). Practice night is Wednesday at 7.30pm.

Quarter peals (50 minutes) may be attempted up to twice a month at 11.30am, usually on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Our Tower Captain is Giles Morley and he can be contacted on 01823 430710





Editor Bob

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THIS PAGE IS RESERVED FOR YOU!

A little bird told me that the Editor still has a considerable`supply of British Organically grown Cooked, Sliced & Bottled Beetroot for sale.

Parish Council news

At the Parish Council meeting on 7th November the following resolutions were made:

- ' The Clerk to write to Highways again regarding weeds in drains on Shutewater
- - Members agreed to proceed with the land transfer of the open spaces, attenuation ponds and play areas at the area formerly known as Kinglake from Persimmon and will receive the commuted sum of £352,000 for its future maintenance. The contract will not be signed until Persimmon have made the repairs to the play area and had a pass ROSPA report and the repairs to the exposed manhole have been completed.
- ~ The Clerk to obtain quotes from contractors for the future maintenance of the areas listed above
- ~ Quotes will be obtained for a skirt on the allotment gates to prevent badgers entering the site
- ~ A meeting was held with Somerset Highways, to discuss the Parish Councils request to reduce the speed limit on the A38 from 50mph – 40mph from the Worlds End to Orchard Grove and reduce the speed from 40mph to 30mph from Orchard Grove to Topps Tiles roundabout. The works will cost approximately £10,000. The Clerk will contact CIL officer to see if CIL funds can be used and Taunton Town Council will be approached to fund part of the project.
- - A grant of £1000 from CIL funds was approved for the gardening club to purchase a shed to store tools ~
- ~ A budget of £1000 was set for leaf clearance in the Parish

The next January meeting is scheduled for Thursday 16h January, 7.00pm at The Bishop's Hull HUB. The draft budget will be looked at this meeting and confirmed in January 2025.

Bishop's Hull is seeking three new residents to join the Parish Council.

With the many changes occurring within our parish, you have the opportunity to maintain and further develop our Village Community spirit with new ideas and initiatives for the future. Learning information of our village history and development from a different perspective while listening to the residents concerns and bringing them to meetings for discussion and resolution.

Apart from an aging Chairman !! you will become part of a young and vibrant team influencing what happens in your village. I have previously written to you all on the topic of devolution of certain assets from Somerset Council and myself and your fellow councillors would welcome new Members in order to assist steering the village through these important changes into the future.

Feel free to pop into a couple of Parish Council meetings to see for yourself how things are done and of course meet current councillors. We actively encourage and welcome questions after a meeting by approaching the clerk and/or any current members attending. So come along to a meeting and judge for yourself if you think you can make a difference for our village.

The next meeting is on Thursday 5th December at 7pm in Bishop's Hull Hub. Please feel free to contact myself or the Clerk on the details below.

Kindest regards,

Tony Taylor, Chairman — Cllr.tony.taylor@

bishopshullparishcouncil.gov.uk

Or clerk@bishopshullparishcouncil.gov.uk

Bishop's Hull HUB

Saturday 11th January— 10am - 12 noon is an Unwanted Christmas Present Swap Day - bring any unwanted presents and swap them for something else, along with our usual teas, coffees and cakes.

Youth Club

For secondary school age children from Bishop's Hull and their friends.

Dates for 2025

January 18, February 15, March 15 and April 19.

Bishop's Hull Hub 100 Club

November 2024 winners

£36.80 — Sheena Bown-Porter, £18.40 — Grant & Janet Reed
and £9.20 — Sam & Dilys Millard

Tickets are £2 per month, email bhhub100club@gmail.com for further details.

LATE NEWS

Tone Big Band News

Tone Big Band will be having an open rehearsal which all are welcome to attend. Come and listen to a variety of big band jazz numbers, meet the band and enjoy some refreshments afterwards. Monday 16th December 8.00 - 9.30pm at Bishop's Hull Hub. No cost apart from donation for refreshments. We look forward to seeing you there.

We meet on alternate Mondays at 7:30pm – 9:30pm

Contact Jill Amos on jhamos61@gmail.com or 07570505922

Tone Big Band are a group of amateur enthusiasts who meet fortnightly during term time to play a variety of jazz music arrangements. We usually play a couple of gigs during the year. If you are interested in playing with us please contact us. In particular we would love to hear from trumpeters and trombonists.

Are there potholes on the roads near your home?

If you don't report them to the Council, then it can use 'not knowing' as an excuse for not having to pay compensation to drivers whose vehicles are damaged.



And increasingly, Councils are doing just that. Recent RAC research has found that local authorities used the excuse to

reject seven out of every 10 compensation claims in 2023.

This has prompted the RAC to urge drivers to report every pothole that they see, "either via the RAC's website or using the free Stan app which collects data on the state of UK roads," said Simon Williams, the motoring organisation's head of policy.

What is a pothole? A hole that must be at least 40mm deep, about the height of two 20p coins. They most commonly cause punctured tyres, damaged suspension and damaged tracking, according to [Confused.com](https://www.confused.com).

Bobbies on the beat are vanishing



When did you last see a Bobbie on your beat?

More than half of us have never seen any police foot patrol in our area. That's according to recent data from the Office for National Statistics Crime Survey for England and Wales.

So, it is no wonder that "shop theft is at a record high, street theft is up 40 per cent in a year. Town centres are too often blighted with persistent antisocial behaviour, leaving residents feeling unsafe. Criminals – often organised gangs – are just getting away with it."

So says the Home Secretary, Yvette Cooper. "The impact good neighbourhood policing has on local community confidence and business confidence should never be underestimated."

She has recently pledged that neighbourhood policing would be centre of the Government's crime plans.

BISHOP'S HULL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Bishop's Hull WI is a group of friendly women with meetings held normally on the **4th Thursday of the month** (except August) at 7.30pm at the Bishop's Hull HUB.



- These monthly meetings have a speaker or other activity together with business items.
- Topics for future meetings will be published here each month.
- Lunches and coffee/ brunches are organised monthly.
- Additionally there is a walking group arranged fortnightly(except mid winter and August) and a Scrabble group meets on a monthly basis.
- A day trip usually takes place in August.
- Why not come along to one of our meetings where you will be warmly welcomed. The cost is £4.00 (up to three meetings) deducted from the annual subscription upon joining.
- Further information may be obtained from Heather Blackmore the group's secretary Tel: 01823 283884/07963834365.

New members are very welcome. Why not come along at 7.30pm to the Bishop's Hull Hub and find out more about us?

New members are always welcome, just come along and see for yourselves what a friendly group of ladies we are!

Meetings are held normally on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Bishops Hull Hub. PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGED START TIME OF 7.30 pm..

Guests are more than welcome to come along to one of our meetings .

Following on from our first poppy wreath last year, members again knitted and or crocheted poppies which were made into a wreath and laid on the war memorial in the village on Remembrance Sunday November 10th.

Several members met for lunch at Blackdown Garden Centre, this venue also offering them an opportunity to do some Christmas shopping. The monthly coffee/ brunch morning was held at Willowbrook Garden Centre...yet again also a shopping opportunity.

The speaker at our November meeting provided a humorous insight to her career as a police officer.... " Why is my truncheon smaller?"

We had our annual Christmas lunch on December 4th at the Quantock Restaurant at Bridgwater and Taunton College. We brought our 2024 monthly meetings to a close on Thursday 12th when we welcomed *The Barnacle Buoys* who entertained us.

We wish you all a joyful New Year.

Neighbourhood Beat Team



PCSO Lyndsay Smith 07802 874297

lyndsay.smith@avonandsomerset.police.uk



PCSO Marshall Bernhard 07849 305815

marshall.bernhard@avonandsomerset.polic



Police Community Support
Officer
PCSO 7182
Simon PARRY

Avon and Somerset Police
SERVE. PROTECT. RESPECT.

BISHOPS HULL NEIGHBOURHOOD BEAT TEAM (from village WEB site)

PCSO Lyndsay Smith - 07802 874297

lyndsay.smith@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk

PCSO Tony Wearmouth 8413 - 07889 655312

tony.wearmouth@avonandsomerset.police.uk

PCSO Catharine Richards - 07710 026191

catherine.richards@avonandsomerset.police.uk

PCSO Catharine Richards - 07710 026191

A home was burgled in Stonegallows, Bishop's Hull, between 5:50pm and 6:50pm on the 19th. The offender forced entry by smashing a rear bedroom window, where inside multiple rooms were searched. Several silver & gold cufflinks were stolen together with commemorative coins. Exit from the property was as per the entry.

Any information, CCTV images, please contact the Police on 101 quoting reference number: 5224305334 stating NHW. Or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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If a friend reaches out on social media, our natural reaction is to help. But is it a friend? Or a criminal, who has compromised your friend's account and now wants to access your social media or email account - and your valuable data?

If you agree to help, you'll likely be sent a link to help the friend 'recover' their account. This will take you to a cloned social media page controlled by the criminal – so when you log in, you're giving your login details to them.

Once they have your login, they can hack into your account using your credentials – giving them access to your personal photos and messages, contact details of your friends and family and private information.

This can be used to extort money, send malicious links to your contacts or trick your family and friends into sending them money.

Action Fraud, the National Fraud and Cyber Crime Reporting Centre, has good advice on how to keep hackers out of your email and social media accounts, how to act fast if your account is hacked and how to report:

<http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/secureyouraccounts>

Information relating to Crypto currency fraud can be found here - [*cryptocurrency-investment-fraud-updated-version.pdf*](#)

CRIME STATISTICS - October 2024

(Latest information available to the public online)

Category Crimes Recorded

Anti-social behaviour	124
Bicycle Theft	6
Burglary (Including Commercial Burglary)	33
Criminal Damage & Arson	49
Drugs	5
Other theft	49
Possession of weapons	4
Public Order	95
Robbery	7
Shoplifting	110
Theft from the person	2
Vehicle Crime	13
Violent Crime	368
Other Crime	15

STREET SAFE

StreetSafe is an online tool that can be used by anyone to anonymously tell us about public places where they have felt or feel unsafe.

You might have felt unsafe in your local area due to anti-social behaviour or environmental factors, such as a lack of street lighting. We encourage you to share your experience using the StreetSafe tool.

The information you provide will be considered alongside evidence already gathered by police forces and will be used to inform policing and local authority safety activities within your community.

Link to Website to report:

StreetSafe | Police.uk
(www.police.uk)

KEEP UP TO DATE

Facebook is a great way to keep up to date with your local Neighbourhood Policing team. Follow us on:
Facebook: West Somerset and Taunton Neighbourhood Policing

GET IN TOUCH

In an emergency always call 999
For non-emergency matters call us on 101 or report online via

www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/
report

Contact the Neighbourhood Team directly:

SomWestNPTTaunton@avonandsomerset.police.uk

To report a crime anonymously, contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or visit

www.crimestoppers-uk.org



“To recognise always that the test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, and not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with them.”

BISHOP'S HULL IN TIMES PAST

100 years ago



The annual meeting of the Bishop's Hull Cricket Club was held at the Constitution Club. Mr C Leslie Fox presided and amongst those present were Mr Blatchford (hon treasurer) and Captains Hornsby and Mallalieu. Letters of regret for non-attendance were received from Messrs GU Farrant and WR Smerdon. After a brief discussion on club fortunes during the past year, it was unanimously decided to run the club again in the coming season. The Chairman remarked that he hoped the young blood present would do their best to spread enthusiasm amongst the other young men of the village. The election of officers and Committee followed and a hearty vote of thanks was tendered for Captains Hornsby and Mallalieu for their invaluable work with the team. The hon secretary (Mr WJ Goddard) earnestly appealed to all sportsmen in the Bishop's Hull district to join the club and to make it a real 'live wire' in the village.

50 years ago

Mrs Anne Curtis of Lowlands Terrace died at Musgrove Park Hospital aged 71. The funeral service at Bishop's Hull Chapel as conducted by the Rev Brian Kirk and followed by cremation at Taunton Deane Crematorium. The arrangements were by the Co-operative Funeral Service of Priorswood Road, Taunton.

Members of the Village Hall and Playing Fields Association met to discuss money-raising efforts for 1975. It was agreed to hold the village fete in June, another cheese and wine party in February and a jumble sale in March. The Trull Memorial Hall had also been booked for a dance in March.

Mrs Sybil Gwyther, district councillor for Bishop's Hull since 1965 was prominent in a long struggle to build a new village hall and buy land for playing fields, but without success so far. What was considered possible was that a new school that was to be built to serve a massive planned housing estate would have playing fields that could be used generally by the community and a room reserved for village functions even during the day when classes are on. At that time there was an old people's club called the

Good Companions, a flourishing Women's Institute, a Constitutional Club, a Labour Party movement and also a Conservative movement. A youth centre, the Trident, served Galmington and Bishop's Hull youngsters, but as it was on the other side of the A38 road from the village, it did not attract as many as it might from Bishop's Hull. Though the new development promised a community centre, it was a project that was causing concern among residents. They feared for the atmosphere of their village and some have even more strong objections. They felt that the new road that would run through the village (what became Silk Mills Road) when the estates were complete would mean that some of their homes would have to be demolished.

Mrs Bellringer presided at the Conservative Association Women's Section's monthly meeting a Meryan House Hotel. Miss Kerr of the British Red Cross spoke of her work of many years, both with the Red Cross and jointly with the St John Ambulance. A collection was given to Miss Kerr for Red Cross Funds. She was thanked by Mrs Bellringer. Tea was followed by a raffle.

John Hamer



THE 'NEW INN', BISHOP'S HULL (date unknown)

JANUARY 2025



January is the start of an exciting new year in the garden. The weather may be cold, but if you look, you can see the first signs of spring outdoors, with bulbs poking up out of the ground and the days growing ever so slightly longer. Indoors there are seeds to sow, and January is also an ideal month to plant bare-root shrubs and trees. It's time to get ready for a great year of gardening.

Your monthly gardening checklists

Flowers

- Plant bare-root roses, shrubs, hedging and ornamental trees, as long as the ground isn't frozen;
- Take root cuttings of fleshy-rooted perennials such as oriental poppies, acanthus and verbascums;
- Establish new colonies of snowdrops and hellebores by buying plants in flower, so you can choose the prettiest blooms;
- Clear away soggy, collapsed stems of perennials and compost them;
- Take hardwood cuttings from deciduous shrubs, such as forsythia, willow and viburnum;
- Remove and bin hellebore foliage marked with black blotches, to limit the spread of leaf spot disease;
- Press mistletoe berries into the bark of apple trees to establish your own mistletoe plants;
- Check that small alpines don't become smothered by fallen leaves and other wind-blown debris;
- Deadhead winter pansies and other bedding regularly, and remove any foliage affected by downy mildew;
- Move deciduous shrubs that are in the wrong place to more suitable sites
- Check for rot on stored bulbs and tubers, and ensure dahlia and canna tubers haven't totally dried out;
- Continue pruning climbing roses, while they are dormant.

Fruit and vegetables

- Winter-prune apple and pear trees to remove any dead, damaged, congested and diseased branches;

- Sort out your seeds, throwing away empty or out-of-date packets and noting down any to buy for the coming season;
- Plan this year's crop rotation to ensure you grow each type of crop in a different bed to previous years;
- Prune gooseberries and redcurrants, cutting sideshoots back to three buds from their base;
- Clear old crops and weeds from the veg plot, then dig over the soil, mixing in compost as you go;
- Regularly inspect stored crops, discarding any showing signs of rot or deterioration;
- Plant bare-root fruit trees and bushes into enriched soil, as long as the ground isn't frozen;
- Ensure netting is in place over brassicas, such as kale, Brussels sprouts and cabbages, to protect from pigeons;
- Cover rhubarb plants with a bucket or terracotta pot to force an early crop of tender long stems;
- Feed spring cabbages with high-nitrogen feed to encourage leafy growth;
- Prune blackcurrants, if you haven't done so already, removing about a quarter of the old stems;
- Order seed potatoes, onions, shallots and garlic bulbs for planting in spring
- Now is the time to prune side shoots from Apple and Pear trees.

Greenhouse

- Sow winter salads in a greenhouse, conservatory or on a sunny windowsill, for harvests within a few weeks;
- Tidy up the greenhouse, getting rid of any broken pots, old compost or debris that could hide unwanted visitors;
- Move potted strawberry plants under cover to encourage early fruiting;
- Check overwintering plants regularly for aphids, mealy bugs and other pests, and take action where necessary;
- Bring potted peaches into the greenhouse to avoid leaf curl disease;
- Plant hippeastrum (amaryllis) in pots and place on a warm windowsill;
- Keep the greenhouse frost-free by installing a thermostatically-controlled electric fan heater;
- Bring potted camellias into an unheated porch or greenhouse to encourage early flowering;
- Take root cuttings of perennials such as phlox and Japanese anemones, and plant in free-draining compost;
- Start sowing seeds of hardy annuals, such as cornflowers, cerinthe and ammi, in modular trays for early flowers;
- Prepare your greenhouse for spring by improving the ventilation, shading and heating;
- Ventilate the greenhouse on sunny days to prevent humidity building up.

CMS MISSIONARIES VISITED OUR CHURCH ON SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER

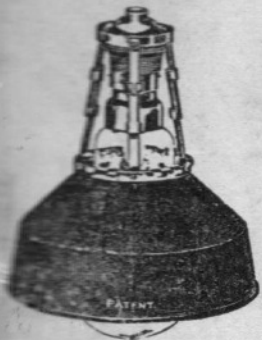
News from Church Mission Society

Our new CMS link missionaries are called **Marcio Ciechanovicz and Noemi Celeti.** They moved to Brazil in 2023 and are working in local communities to build bridges with local churches. Their work is based approximately 100 miles West of Rio de Janeiro

It is hoped to have a full report of their visit in the February magazine.



You can cut down your Electric Light Bill!



The ASTRO Reflector does for the electric light what the mantle did for the dim gas jet.

It enables housewives to substitute bulbs of smaller power for those in present use, and thus halve their electric light bills. Yet the light received is greater than before.

Price 4/4 Without Tripod, 3/6

With artistic perforated border, and complete with tripod,

4/6

Beautiful modern silk shade, in wide variety of colours, extra,

4/6

The Astro is unbreakable, and goes on saving money for years.

FARADAY HOUSE, the National Electrical Institution, states that the Astro *increases the light under a bulb by 33 times*. Hundreds of factories, shops and offices have installed the Astro in order to economise.

Do not Burn Money in the Home!

Ask your Electrician, or write to ASTRO ELECTRIC, LTD., 46 Carlton House, Lower Regent Street, London, S.W.

The ASTRO

INTENSIFIER



EAT WELL FOR LESS DURING JANUARY

CHICKEN IN BATTER



1 chicken. 1 teacupful flour.
2 eggs. Cupful cold
water.
1 tablespoonful salad oil.
1 onion. A little gravy.
3 sprigs of parsley.
2 tomatoes. Salt.

PARBOIL the chicken, sprinkle with salt, and let it cool a little.

Beat the yolks of 2 eggs with a pinch of salt. Stir in the salad oil and the gravy. Mix in the flour, then pour in the water.

Stand this on one side to set.

Take the onion, parsley, tomatoes, chop them finely and stir into the batter.

Add the whipped whites of 2 eggs.

Cut the chicken into neat pieces.

Dredge with flour. Dip in batter and fry. Serve with rolls of fried bacon.

From *Miss A. E. Parry*, Flintshire.

CAULIFLOWER FRITTERS

1 cauliflower. Batter .

Fat for frying. Grated cheese.

CLEAN and boil the cauliflower until tender. When cold, divide into sprigs, dip each one in batter then fry in boiling fat.

Drain and sprinkle with grated cheese and serve.

From *Mrs E. Holland*, Chester.

SAUSAGES IN POTATO CASES



1/2 lb. Sausages. 2 lbs. potatoes.
1/4 pint milk. , Pepper and salt.
A little margarine.

BOIL the potatoes, then mash while warm, add milk {which has been heated), also salt, pepper and margarine. Beat until very light.

Prick the sausages with a fork, then simmer them in a little water for 20 minutes.

Take a spoonful of potatoes and place a piece of sausage upon it, cover with more potatoes, rough up the surface with a fork. Add a toothpick to each.

Put all the cases on a greased baking-tin and bake for 20 minutes or until lightly browned.

Serve with tomato sauce.

From *Mrs. Lingard*, Lincolnshire.

LIVER IN BATTER

LIVER cooked in this way becomes as tender as chicken.

Take about 1/2 lb. liver, cut it in small portions. Make a batter of 2 tablespoonfuls of self-raising flour, a pinch of salt and cold water.

Have ready a pan of boiling fat. Dip each piece of liver in the batter, and fry till a nice golden brown.

Serve hot with vegetables.

From *Miss W. Palmer*, Norfolk.

BREAD AND MIXED FRUIT PUDDING



STALE bread, of course, need never be wasted; there are endless ways in which it can be used up. One of the best ways is in a bread pudding, and here is a recipe I can recommend.

Cut some bread into neat dice, put them in a greased piedish, and pour sufficient milk over just to cover. Leave till soft, then add more cold milk, to which has been added 1 or 2 eggs according to the size of the pudding; some sultanas, currants, raisins or stoned dates and sugar to taste.

Stir the mixture very carefully with a fork, being careful not to break the dice: put a few pieces of butter here and there and bake in a moderate oven until a golden brown.

Mrs *H. Handy* Leicestershire.

LEMON CURD DUMPLINGS



THESE dumplings are better made in small individual moulds to prevent any water getting in to spoil lemon curd centres.

Well grease some small moulds and line with thinly-rolled suet paste made with 4 ozs. shredded suet, 8 ozs. flour, salt, and mixed with cold water.

Make a curd-filling by well beating 2 eggs and adding 1 teacupful castor sugar, juice and grated rind of 1 large, or 2 small lemons, and 2 ozs. fresh melted butter. Whip all together and nearly fill each dumpling.

Cover tops with a lid of paste. Squeeze the edges together well. Tie over with greased paper and steam for 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ hours.

Turn out carefully and sift with a little fine sugar and serve hot.

From *Mrs. R. Cruse*, Worcestershire.

THREE-DECKER RHUBARB TART

LINE a pie-dish with short pastry, made from $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. flour, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. lard and 2 ozs. of butter; salted to taste and mixed with water.



Put in layer of sliced young rhubarb, sprinkle liberally with sugar and cover with a piece of pastry. Repeat this until there are three layers of rhubarb. Covering the top with pastry, cut 3 slits in the centre.

Bake in a moderate oven for 1 hour. The secret in making this tart lies in using plenty of sugar, so that there is an abundance of sweet syrup when the pie is opened. No water must be added. **Any fruit can be used.**

From *Mrs. Vincent*, Devonshire

LOOKING AT YOU

How to make the most of your New Year resolutions

What are your New Year resolutions for 2025? Sadly, one in four of us will give ours up by Epiphany, on 6th January.

Why so soon? According to behavioural scientists at University College London, we make our goals both too big and too vague. So, instead of resolving to 'lose a lot of weight', decide to 'lose three pounds in the next month'. With 'success' not far off, you will be motivated to keep going.

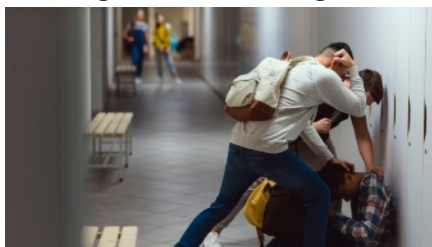
Another way to keep your New Year's Resolution is to involve a friend to aim for the same thing. As one scientist puts it: "the involvement of a partner has a sustained effect."

As for the time involved in reaching your New Year's Resolution, new habits are hard to build. Behavioural scientists say that on average, it takes 66 days to form and imbed a new healthy habit into your life. So be patient, keep going, and look for some success in mid-March.

Remember what one scientist says: "Your vision is your destination, and small, manageable goals are the motor that will get you there."

**

Teenagers face increasing violence



The number of teenage victims of violence is increasing.

One in five teenagers said they had been victims of violence in the past 12 months, according to a recent study of 13 to 17-year-olds by the Youth Endowment Fund, a government-backed charity.

More than half of the incidents (61 per cent) of violence resulted in physical injury. That equates to 440,000 teenagers in England and Wales.

Meanwhile, knife crime in London has hit a record high. And across England and Wales, the number of annual offences has now passed 50,000 for only the second time since records began. Children as young as 11 were found to be carrying knives because they felt unsafe, a separate report found.

Jon Yates, the chief executive of the Youth Endowment Fund, said: "Too many young lives are lost or scarred by violence..."

**

Monty Don, Chelsea Flower Show and dogs



This coming Spring Monty Don is going to design a garden for dogs for the Chelsea Flower Show.

Monty Don's garden will include a well-kept lawn for doggie comfort, and a large tree for shade. For the dog's human friends, there will be spring-flowering bulbs.

The garden is the result of a collaboration of Radio 2 and the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS). It will also include a brick path inscribed with the names of the dogs belonging to the Queen (Jack Russell terriers Beth and Bluebell), the channel's presenters, RHS ambassadors and Monty Don's retriever, Ned.

Mr Don says: "This is an irresistible opportunity to join with the RHS and Radio 2 to share my love of gardens and dogs at the world's greatest horticultural event."

**

Deaths by accident are on the rise



Are too many of us becoming clumsy or careless? Whatever the reason, accident-related deaths have soared by 42 per cent in the last decade.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) warns that we are "substantially more likely" to suffer a serious accident than we were 20 years ago. Data from England,

Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland shows that more than 20,000 people are killed each year.

Accidental deaths are the top cause of preventable death for people under 40, and more than half of all fatal accidents take place in our own homes.

More than half of accidental deaths are the results of falling. A quarter are from accidental poisoning, and 7 per cent are due to a road-traffic or transport-related accident.

Accidents cost the UK almost £12 billion every year – £6 billion in NHS care and £5.9 billion in lost working days. The statistics are awesome:

More than 740,000 people were admitted to hospital after an accident in 2022/23.

More than 4.4 million bed days were used to treat patients with accident-related injuries in England alone last year, costing the NHS an estimated £4.6 billion.

Accidents led to about seven million A&E visits in the UK last year, costing a further £613 million

All in all, accidents cost the NHS about £6 billion each year.

Becky Hickman, the chief executive of RoSPA, says: "The UK is facing an accident crisis.

Increasing numbers of accidents are choking the UK economy and engulfing the NHS.

"We must take action now to stop further preventable deaths and serious injuries – accidents are avoidable and do not need to happen."

RoSPA has called on the Government to implement a National Accident Prevention Strategy to “save lives, boost the economy and free up capacity in the NHS”.

**

A study suggests Morning and Evening stroll could cut bowel cancer risk.



Here is a New Year’s Resolution well worth making: go for a stroll in the morning and again in the evening.

For an “intriguing” finding in a recent medical study seems to point to a link between the time of day that you exercise, and the avoidance of bowel cancer.

The study, led by experts at Regensburg University in Germany, found two daily peaks in activity, at around 8am and 6pm, were “associated with reduced colorectal cancer risk, beyond the benefits of overall physical activity”.

Bowel cancer - also known as colorectal cancer - can develop anywhere in the large bowel. It is the fourth most common cancer in the UK. Roughly 44,000 people each year - or about 120 a day - are diagnosed with the disease.

**

Boys’ interest in reading plummets



Boys are not reading. In fact, their interest in books has just plummeted to the lowest level on record. This year only 20 per cent of boys aged 8 to 18 said they enjoy reading in their free time, compared to 28 per cent in 2023.

A study by the National Literary Trust has found that this steep decline in boys’ literacy has lowered the overall childhood reading level to its lowest point since the charity began its annual survey about 20 years ago.

It means that two-thirds of all children now prioritise other hobbies, sparking fears over a “crisis” in childhood reading.

**

Hot water bottle injuries soar

You might think that there is nothing more comforting than a hot water bottle. You would be wrong.

For with hot water bottles, the potential for burns and scalding seems unlimited. As the cost-of-living crisis has driven more people to use them for warmth, so have the number of accidental burns and scalds soared, especially among pensioners. There



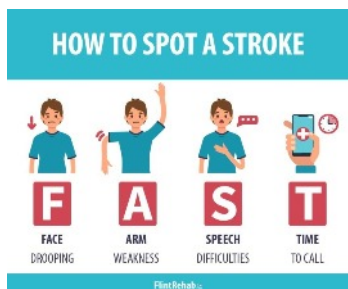
are an estimated 10 million hot water bottles in use in the UK, and they are a frequent cause of burns.

During the winter of 2022-23, more than 420 people in the UK ended up in hospital with burns, according to research by doctors at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital and Southmead Hospital, in Bristol. This was up from 295 in the winter of 2021-22 – an overall increase of 40 per cent.

The hospital data found nine in 10 cases required surgery, and almost one in five needed skin grafts. Researchers have said there is a need for “targeted public awareness campaigns to ensure a safe and proper use of these devices.”

**

Call 999 if you see just one symptom of a stroke



The NHS has launched the first major update to its ‘Act FAST’ campaign in 15 years.

It is concerned that too many people are waiting on average 90 minutes to ring for help when a stroke happens. That is far too long, doctors say, and the delay can mean the difference between life and death.

Health officials strongly urge the public to call 999 if they see just one symptom of a stroke, such as struggling to smile (Face), raising an arm (Arm), or slurring their words (Speech).

Love Matters



New resources developed for dioceses, schools and youth groups

The Archbishops’ Commission on Families and Households has developed resources for use locally in parishes, deaneries and dioceses. It has also collaborated with schools to produce resources for children and young people.

Two videos and lesson plans for children and young people are now available to help them learn about loving relationships: in the family; in singleness; children and young people; forgiveness and kindness; and diversity. An eight-page booklet is also available, and is already proving popular. The initiative follows the success of the Love Matters report of April 2023

#####

All in the month of January

Ninety years ago, on 8th Jan 1935 that Elvis Presley ('The King') was born. An American rock and roll singer, guitarist and actor, he died in 1977.

80 years ago, on 16th Jan 1945 that Adolf Hitler took up residence in the Fuhrerbunker, a subterranean bunker complex in the garden of the Reich Chancellery in Berlin. It became the headquarters of the Nazi regime, and he remained there for the rest of his life. He committed suicide there in April 1945.

Also 80 years ago, on 27th Jan 1945 that the Soviet Red Army liberated Auschwitz Concentration Camp in southern Poland. It was the largest Nazi concentration camp and at least 1.1 million prisoners died there.

75 years ago, on 6th Jan 1950 that the UK officially recognised the Republic of China and established diplomatic relations.

Also 75 years ago, on 23rd Jan 1950 that Israel declared Jerusalem was its capital city. Palestine also claims it as its capital.

70 years ago, US President Dwight D Eisenhower gave the first televised presidential news conference. It was filmed in the morning and broadcast that evening. The first live conference was given by John F Kennedy in Jan 1961.

60 years ago, on 4th Jan 1965 that T S Eliot, American-born British poet, playwright, literary critic and editor died. He won the 1948 Nobel Prize for Literature.

Also 60 years ago, on 24th Jan 1965 that Winston Churchill died. He was Prime Minister 1940-45 and again in 1955, and one of the greatest wartime leaders of the 20th century. He was named as 'the greatest Briton of all time.' He won the 1953 Nobel Prize for Literature "for his mastery of historical and biographical description as well as for brilliant oratory in defending exalted human values."

40 years ago, on 1st Jan 1985 that the first mobile phone call in the UK was made by comedian Ernie Wise. He rang Vodafone's head office in Newbury from St Katherine's Docks in London.

Also 40 years ago, on 23rd Jan 1985 that a debate from the House of Lords was televised live for the first time.

Remember the 'Millennium Bug'?

It was 25 years ago, on 1st January 2000, that the calendar switched over to the year 2000, with no major computer problems from the Y2K "Millennium Bug".

The Y2K bug was a computer flaw involving software and hardware that might have caused problems when dealing with dates beyond 31st December, 1999. This was because, for storage reasons, there had been a practice of using two figures for dates – for instance 78 instead of 1978. It was therefore feared that 00 for 2000 might be interpreted as 1900, with chaos resulting in the power industry, transportation or anywhere that computers were critical.

When this potential problem was recognised – surprisingly late, in the mid-1990s – a great deal of money was poured into preventing it from happening, particularly by countries like the USA and Australia, as well as the UK.

Other countries, such as Russia, South Korea and Italy, spent almost nothing on the problem. Ironically, they suffered no more in the end than those who invested many millions, because it turned out that there were very few difficulties.

A nuclear energy facility in Japan experienced failure in its radiation equipment, but backup facilities ensured there was no danger. Missile launches were detected in Russia and attributed to the Y2K bug, but the launches had been planned as part of Russia's conflict in Chechnya. Because of the lack of disastrous outcomes, many people dismissed the Y2K bug as a hoax or an end-of-the-world cult. A small number of fundamentalist Christians had been interpreting the whole issue as apocalyptic, involving the breakdown of society, the Last Days and the subsequent Second Coming.

Similar computer problems had been predicted for other years, for similar but obviously not identical reasons. They include 1975, 1999, 2010, 2022 and – wait for it – 2038. ##

Buckingham Palace opens its front gates to tourists

Next time you are in London, you can pop into Buckingham Palace. And for the first time, starting this month (January) tourists visiting the iconic building will be welcomed to walk in through the front gates and then proceed across the famous forecourt.



It is part of the King's vision to give people greater access to Buckingham Palace. You can also now book a 90-minute guided tour, from January to May, to have a more in-depth look at the history of the rooms in the East Wing.

For more information go to:

<https://www.buckinghampalace.co.uk/buckingham-palace-tours.php>

**G M TREVELYAN's - English Social History -
A SURVEY OF SIX CENTURIES Chaucer to Queen Victoria**

A part from the tenants of the monastic lands, who cannot be positively said to have either gained or lost by the Dissolution, there was also a great army of servants, more numerous than the monks themselves, who were employed in the domestic service of the abbeys. It had been the custom to denounce them as 'idle abbeylubbers; apt to do nothing but only to eat and drink'? They were probably no better and no worse than the great households of serving-men that noblemen and gentle-men loved to keep up, after Henry VII had disarmed their military retainers. 'Serving-men' were not admired, even in Shakespeare's day. These monastic dependants were many of them taken over by the new proprietors, especially by such as converted the abbey buildings into a manor-house. But no doubt a certain proportion lost their places and swelled the ranks of the 'sturdy beggars'; which the monks themselves had no need to do owing to their pensions.

In Many of the abbey 'servants' had been young gentlemen of the squire class attached to the monastery, 'wearing its livery, administering its estates, presiding over its manorial courts, acting as stewards, bailiffs, gentlemen farmers'. Besides these gentlemen servants, paid officers of the monks, there were wealthy guests and corrodians living in the abbey at its charges. And there were noblemen and gentlemen who, as patrons or founders' kin, exerted great influence over the administration of the House. The lay upper class had got its fingers deep in the monastic pie long before the Dissolution. In some aspects, the secularization of the monastic lands was a gradual process, and the Dissolution only a last step.

But there were always the poor at the gate. They duly received broken meats and a dole of money. The custom represented an ancient tradition and doctrine of Christian duty which was of priceless value. But in practice, according to the historian of our Poor Law, the monastic charity being 'unorganized and indiscriminate' did 'nearly as much to increase beggars as to relieve them'? Presumably the cessation of the dole at the abbey gate did something in the first instance to increase the number of beggars elsewhere, but there is no evidence that the problem which mendicancy presented was seriously worse after the Dissolution than it had been before. It was certainly less bad at the end of the reign of Elizabeth. How far, when the new order of things was well established, did the heirs of those who had purchased the abbey lands carry on the work of charity? Did the lord and lady of the manor in Elizabethan times give more or less of their incomes to the poor than the monks before them? It is impossible to say; probably some gave more and others less. " Early in the Stuart era the care of the village was a duty recognized by many a squire's wife, sometimes even by a peeress, like Letice, Lady Falkland, who used to visit the sick, dose them, and read to them. The 'Lady Bountiful' of the manor-house and her lord often did as much for the poor as had been done by the later monasteries.

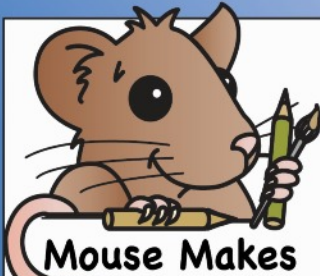
How far the poor positively lost by the dissolution of the monasteries remains obscure, but it is plain as noonday that the great chance was missed of endowing the poor, as well as education and learning. This was realized by many at the time, especially by the reforming clergy, like Latimer and Crowley.

About 1550 Crowley wrote:

*As I walked alone, and mused on things
That have in my time been done by great Kings,
I bethought me of the Abbeyes that sometimes I saw,
Which are now suppressed all by a" Law.
O Lord (thought I then) what occasion was here
To provide for learning and make poverty cheer!
The lands and the jewels" that hereby were had
Would have found godly preachers which might well
had led
The people aright that now go astray,
And have fed the poor that famish every day.*

Instead of that, a further impetus had been given to a tendency already strong enough, the rise to dominance of the class of landowning gentry, whose power replaced that of the great nobles and ecclesiastics of the feudal ages and whose word was to be law in the English countryside for centuries to come.

The bands of 'sturdy beggars' who alarmed society in the early Tudor reigns were recruited from many sources — the ordinary unemployed, the unemployable, soldiers discharged after French wars and the Wars of the Roses, retainers disbanded at Henry VII's command, serving-men set adrift by impecunious lords and gentry, Robin Hood bands driven from their woodland lairs by deforestation and by the better enforcement of the King's peace, ploughmen put out of work by enclosures for pastures, and tramps who prudently pretended to belong to that much commiserated class. All through the Tudor reigns, the 'beggars coming to town' preyed on the fears of dwellers in lonely farms and hamlets, and exercised the minds of magistrates, Privy Councillors, and Parliaments. Gradually a proper system of poor relief, based upon compulsory rates, and discriminating between the various classes of the indigent, was evolved in England, first of all the countries of Europe. It was soon found that the whipping of 'sturdy beggars' was by itself no solution. The double duty of providing work for the unemployed and charity for the "impotent was gradually recognized by Tudor England as incumbent not merely on the Church and the charitable, but on society as a whole. In the reign of Henry VIII some great towns, like London and Ipswich, organized the administrative relief of their poor. At the end of Elizabeth's reign and under the early Stuart kings, it had become a duty prescribed by national legislation, enforced upon the local magistrates by a vigilant Privy Council, and paid for by compulsory Poor Rates.



Mouse Makes

J E W S
M A R Y
W S O N
O T N A



EPIPHANY is the Greek word for **MANIFEST** which means 'to show'. God shows us who He is through His son Jesus Christ

How many other words can you make from:
EPIPHANY

After Jesus was born in Belthlehem, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem looking for the child born to be king of the Jews. They had seen his star and had come to worship him. King Herod was troubled so met with the wise men to tell them to let him know when they found him.



When they saw the star rest over where Jesus was they rejoiced and gave him three special gifts. God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod so they went home by another way.

C H I L D K H M Y R R H
F R A N K I N C E N C E
J O Y A N G E L R H
G A E G Y P T P

Herod wanted to destroy Jesus, but God told Joseph to flee to Egypt to be safe.
Where did Jesus finally grow up?



READ the story of the wise men in *Matthew 2:1-23*



H L A N D T W O A
R E S T A R K I L L C
C R Y W Z J O S E P H
B O Y S A D R E A M R
M D W O R S H I P L I
E Z S H E P H E R D S
N G I F T S V I S I T
B E T H L E H E M
E J E S U S U

E G O D
B O R N
F L E E
L D G E



WISE • MEN • EAST • STAR
REST • BETHLEHEM
VISIT • JESUS • GIFTS
GOLD • FRANKINCENSE • MYRRH
WORSHIP • SON • CHILD
BORN • KING • JEWS • CHRIST
SHEPHERD • JOY • GOD
HEROD • KILL • BOYS • TWO • CRY
ANGEL • DREAM • JOSEPH • MARY
FLEE • EGYPT • LAND • NAZARETH





Bringing hope into the world

"A leader" said Napoleon Bonaparte, "is a dealer in hope." At the start of 2025, this is a tough challenge for leaders everywhere! Conflicts continue around the world. The climate emergency is ongoing. At the polls, voters in many countries express their dissatisfaction with the status quo. As we look around us, can hope mean anything more than mere wishful thinking? As we look on all the challenges that exist, have we anything more to say than "I hope that that somehow, somewhere, something will turn up".

More than ever, the Christian understanding of hope is what we need. Christian hope is broader, deeper, stronger altogether than any 'wishful thinking'. In scripture, hope is not just a vague desire that something good in the future will somehow happen. Rather, the Biblical understanding of hope is of a confident expectation and desire that good in the future will come. It's an assurance based in our pre-existing experience of God's goodness, God's love, the faithfulness that he has already shown towards us.

Scripture also contains the idea that while hope is something which comes primarily from God, it is also something in which human beings have a part to play, a contribution to make. The letter to the Hebrews says this: "God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized." (Hebrews 6:10-11)

God graciously calls us to join in bringing hope into the world. Our work, our love, our diligence matter. The contribution we make is important in bringing into being the future that God wants for us. At the start of this new year, we are called to take the lead: to be signs, symbols, dealers in the hope for which our world longs today.

Rt Revd Michael Beasley,
Bishop of Bath and Wells

Blood on the Tracks



Fifty years ago, on 20th January 1975, Bob Dylan's album *Blood on the Tracks* was released.

It was his 15th studio album and an exceptional one, marking his return to Columbia from Asylum Records. The Ultimate Classic Rock website places it third best of Dylan's 40 studio albums, behind the double album *Blonde on Blonde* and *Highway 61 Revisited* – both from about ten years earlier, in the brave new days of his switch to electric.

The ten tracks range from the brilliant *Tangled up in Blue* through a stunning, quite risky *Idiot Wind*, an amazing and complex wild west story in *Lily, Rosemary and the Jack of Hearts*, to the tender, seductive *Shelter from the Storm*. And more.

In many ways it can all be related to the breaking up of his marriage to Sara Lownds, and it does reflect a lot of pain. Dylan said in a radio interview in April 1975: "A lot of people tell me they enjoy that album. It's hard for me to relate to that."

Bob Dylan was born Robert Allen Zimmermann in Duluth, Minnesota, in 1941. Jewish by birth, he converted to Christianity in 1978 through the influence of a friend and a personal supernatural experience, and was said to have joined the Vineyard Church. Although he released three overtly Christian albums – one of them widely praised – his faith has remained in the background since then.

In 2016 Dylan won the Nobel Prize for Literature for creating "new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition".

Described by some as the Shakespeare of his generation, he sold tens of millions of albums, wrote more than 500 songs recorded by more than 2,000 artistes and set a standard for lyric writing which makes the old classics sound jaded and formulaic.

**

by Tim Lenton

BOOK REVIEWS



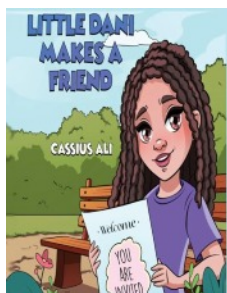
Waking the Women - Faith, Menopause, and the Meaning of Midlife

By Jayne Manfredi,

Women over the age of 40 are by far the biggest and the

most active demographic in the Church of England. But while a huge proportion of any given congregation will likely have experienced menopause, it still remains largely unacknowledged, unspoken and unaddressed. It is almost entirely taboo as a topic of conversation in churches. Writing with refreshing frankness, popular blogger and broadcaster Jayne Manfredi uses biblical reflection, prophetic storytelling and prayer to journey with those experiencing “the dreaded M word”. Facing the menopause head-on, and by turns hilarious and moving, *Waking the Women* offers a challenge to destigmatize women’s experiences by opening up the conversation around midlife and ageing in the church.

**Little Dani
Makes a
Friend**
Cassius Ali



“**L**ittle Dani”
shows us
that if your

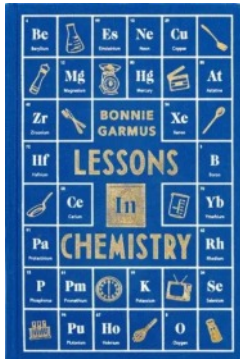
heart’s desire is to make a friend, then all things are possible with faith. Still, we must be true to ourselves. Remember, a real friend accepts you as you are. You don’t have to pretend to be someone else to fit in or hurt someone to be a part of a group. There are children being bullied, feeling as if no one cares or hears their voices. Children who believe nothing will change if they tell someone or who might feel as if they don’t have a friend in the world. I want them to know there is someone who cares and is cheering for them to keep their faith. I went through the same thing, and I am still standing up for you. If you don’t have a person in your life who feels like a real friend. Then be a friend to someone in need. You may find strength in your struggle together. At the very least, it will take your mind off your issues. Long enough to realize how strong you truly are. It starts with being kind, understanding, and empathetic towards others. You may never know what people are going through. Your efforts may make a difference to someone in need. All glory to our heavenly Father.

Lessons in Chemistry

Bonnie Garmus

Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact, Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is no such thing as an average woman. But it’s the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality.

Except for one: Calvin Evans; the lonely, brilliant, Nobel-prize nominated grudge-holder who falls in love with—of all things—her mind. True chemistry results.



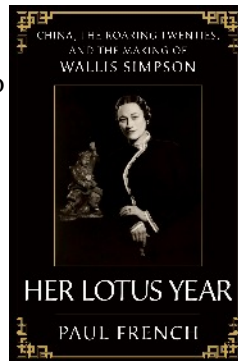
But like science, life is unpredictable. Which is why a few years later Elizabeth Zott finds herself not only a single mother, but the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show *Supper at Six*. Elizabeth's unusual approach to cooking ("combine one tablespoon acetic acid with a pinch of sodium chloride") proves revolutionary. But as her following grows, not everyone is happy. Because as it turns out, Elizabeth Zott isn't just teaching women to cook. She's daring them to change the status quo. Laugh-out-loud funny, shrewdly observant, and studded with a dazzling cast of supporting characters, *Lessons in Chemistry* is as original and vibrant as its protagonist.

Her Lotus Year: China, the Roaring Twenties, and the Making of Wallis Simpson

Paul French

Before she was the Duchess of Windsor, Bessie Wallis Warfield was Mrs. Wallis Spencer, wife of Earl "Win" Spencer, a US Navy aviator. From humble beginnings in

Baltimore, she rose to marry a man who gave up his throne for her. But what made Wallis Spencer, Navy Wife, the woman who could become the Duchess of Windsor? The answers lie in her one-year sojourn in China.



In her memoirs, Wallis described her time in China as her "Lotus Year," referring to Homer's Lotus Eaters, a group living in a state of dreamy forgetfulness, never to return home. Though faced with challenges, Wallis came to appreciate traditional Chinese aesthetics. China moulded her in terms of her style and provided her with friendships that lasted a lifetime. But that "Lotus Year" would also later be used to damn her in the eyes of the British Establishment. The British government's supposed "China Dossier" of Wallis's rumoured amorous and immoral activities in the Far East was a damning concoction, portraying her as sordid, debauched, influenced by foreign agents, and unfit to marry a king. Instead, French, an award-winning China historian, reveals Wallis Warfield Spencer as a woman of tremendous courage who may have acted as a courier for the US government, undertaking dangerous undercover diplomatic missions in a China torn by civil war. Her Lotus Year is an untold story in the colourful life of a woman too often maligned by history. #

SMILE LINES

Moses revisited

Young Joseph was asked what he had learned in Sunday school. "Well, Mum, God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When Moses got to the Red Sea, his engineers built a pontoon bridge, and all the people walked across it safely. Then Moses radioed headquarters to send bombers to blow up the bridge, and so all the Israelites were saved." "Did your teacher really say that?!" asked his mother, somewhat alarmed. "Well, no, Mum. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

*

In place of cabbage

On Sunday after the church service, a woman told the minister that when she had sent her husband to buy a cabbage for lunch, he had fallen and broken his leg. "That's terrible!" said the minister. "What did you do?" "I opened a can of peas," she replied.

**

Old love

During a wedding the mother of the bride managed to keep from crying until she glanced at the grandparents. As the bride and groom took their vows, the grandmother had reached over to the grandfather's wheelchair and was gently touching his hand. That was all it took to start the mother's tears flowing. After the wedding, she went over to the grandmother and told her how that tender gesture triggered her outburst.

"Well, I'm sorry to ruin your moment," the grandmother replied, "but I was just checking to see if he was still awake."

**

Home Schooling

Back in the 'good old days', we didn't appreciate how much education was given at home...

Our mothers taught us **TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE:**

"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."

Our fathers taught us **RELIGION:**

"You better pray that that will come out of the carpet."

Our mothers taught us **LOGIC:** "If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the shops with me."

Our fathers taught us **MORE LOGIC:** "Because I said so, that's why."

Our mothers taught us about **CONTORTIONISM:** "Just you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"

Our fathers taught us about the science of **OSMOSIS:** "Shut your mouth and eat your supper."

Our mothers taught us about **BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION:**

"Stop acting like your father!"

Our mothers taught us about **ESP:**

"Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?"

And finally, our fathers taught us about **JUSTICE:** "One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you!"

**

Bible

A father was approached by his small son, who told him proudly, "I now know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and asked him to

explain. "It's easy. It stands for Basic Information Before Leaving Earth."

Problem solving

There was a bishop, an archdeacon and a curate driving down a steep mountain road. The brakes failed and the car careened down the road out of control, nearly going over the cliff. They all got out, shaken by their narrow escape from death.

The bishop said: "To fix this problem we need to organise a committee, have meetings, and through the process of exchanging ideas, develop a solution."

The archdeacon said, "No that would take too long. I will simply open the bonnet, isolate the problem and firmly correct it."

The curate said, "Why don't we push the car back up the hill and see if it happens again?"

**

Understand church language

PROCESSION: The ceremonial formation at the beginning of the Service, consisting of altar servers, the celebrant, and late parishioners looking for seats.

RECESSIONAL: The ceremonial procession at the conclusion of the Service, led by parishioners trying to beat the crowd to the carpark.

RELICS: People who have been going to church for so long that they actually know when to sit, kneel, and stand.

TEN COMMANDMENTS: The most important Top Ten list.

USHERS: The only people in the parish who don't know the seating capacity of a pew.

**

Labels

I have my own system for labelling homemade freezer meals. I no longer bother with labels like 'chicken casserole' or 'lasagne' or 'steak and ale pie'. Instead, I use 'Whatever', 'Anything', or 'I Don't Know.' That way when I ask my family what they want for dinner, I always have it to hand.

**

Sermon

The church warden asked the curate how she thought the church service had gone. The curate shrugged. "The music was excellent, and the prayers were relevant, but I wonder if my sermon ever really got off the ground."

The church warden was sympathetic. "Never mind, it certainly taxied a long way."

**

Collection

A minister in a rural church had been having trouble with the collections. One Sunday he announced, "Now, before we pass the collection plate, I would like to request that the person who stole the chickens from our local farm please refrain from giving any money to the Lord. The Lord doesn't want money from a thief!"

The collection plate was passed around and for the first time in months, everybody gave.



St James the Least of All

Editor: The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace' ... If you would like a copy of our published booklet of Uncle Eustace's letters, please email us at: enquiries@parishpump.co.uk

On the importance of NOT keeping accurate minutes

*The Rectory
St James the Least*

My dear Nephew Darren

Since you were the one to ask this parishioner of yours to act as PCC secretary, you have no reason to complain about the minutes of meetings she produces. You should never let anyone act as a secretary unless they cannot speak English or are hard of hearing, and preferably, both. The more significant the committee and the more contentious the issues being debated, the more you should nobly put yourself forward both to chair the meeting and take the minutes. In the majority of cases, that will spare the other members that awkward moment when you ask for a volunteer, and they all feel the sudden need to stare at their feet.

If you act as secretary, then you can be certain that accounts of what took place will only be what you had wanted to happen and that the decisions taken will be what you had already decided before discussions started. Any inconvenient observations from other committee members can be omitted entirely.

Admittedly, the more observant may notice that your accounts of the meeting may not wholly agree with their recollections, but the skill of being a secretary is not to produce the minutes of the previous meeting until the day before the next one. This will mean that the great majority will have long forgotten what actually did happen two months previously, and that many will not have had the time to read them anyway and will avoid having to admit that fact by passing them.

Only the deeply committed will want to pursue apparent discrepancies. In that case, confess to the meeting that your hand-written notes were accidentally left on a bus and so you can no longer check the accuracy of what you have written. As a way of appearing helpful, you could even give the person challenging you the bus route number and time of day you travelled. Further challenges will rally the rest of the committee to your side, and soon someone will suggest you proceed to the next item on the agenda. Since you are also the chairman, you naturally bow to their request.

Just in the way that church rotas bear no resemblance to the people who actually turn up to do the jobs, minutes of meetings need not bear too much resemblance to what actually happened, especially if what did happen is inconvenient for you.

After all, democracy is all very well - provided a benign dictator is in overall control.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

Regular weekly events

MONDAYS

10.00-11am Nia (Dance fitness) HUB
10.00-12noon Painting Group FBC
1.30-4.00pm Whist Club FBC
2.00-4.00pm Bridge (except 1st
Monday) FBC
6.15-7.15pm Zumba HUB
7.30pm Tone Big Band (1st & 3rd
Mon) HUB

TUESDAYS

6.15-7.00am Group Fitness Training
HUB
10.30-11.30am Qigong HUB
1.30-2.30pm Tai Chi HUB
10.00-4.00pm Board Games FBC
7.00-8.00pm Yoga HUB

WEDNESDAYS

10.00-11.00am Pilates for Everyone
HUB
10.00- 11.00am Flexercise FBC
11.00-12noon Mum and Baby Pilates
HUB
2.00- 4.30pm Short Mat Bowls HUB
6.00- 7.00pm Tae Kwon Do HUB

THURS DAYS

6.15-7.00am Group Fitness Training
HUB
10.00-12noon Baby Badgers HUB
10.00-12noon Bridge Club FBC
2.00-4.00pm Croquet FBC

FRIDAYS

8.30-1.00 pm Star Bubs HUB
10.00-12noon Pétanque FBC
10.00-12noon Frank's Café FBC
4.45-8.15pm Martial Arts HUB

SATURDAYS

6.30-7.15am Group Fitness Training
HUB
9.30-11.30am Hub Gardening Club
HUB
9.00pm Bingo Con Club

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

YOUR SOMERSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS

John Hunt (Independent)
07880 794554
john.hunt@somerset.gov.uk
Cllr Caroline Ellis 07473 119425
cjellis1968@googlemail.com

Your Member of Parliament

Gideon John Amos Lib/Dem

SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTS

Taunton Citizens advice - 0808 278
7842

Village Agent - 01823 331 222

Mindline, a 24/7 phoneline available
to support people of all ages offering
a listening and advice service for
wellbeing. You can call Mindline on
01823 27689. Information about
childcare [http://www.
childcarechoices.gov.uk/](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/)

Taunton Foodbank
[https://taunton.foodbank.org.uk/get-
help/](https://taunton.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/)

Free support and advice about:
Money, food, home, health and
wellbeing, domestic abuse, problems
with drugs and alcohol and
parenting visit:

[www.connectsomerset.org.uk/help4
all](http://www.connectsomerset.org.uk/help4all)

BISHOP'S HULL FACILITIES

BH Parish Council - Helen
McGladdery 07518144614
clerk@bishophullparishcouncil.go
v.uk

BH Pre School - 07928 950230
BH Primary School - 331624
Castle School - 274073
Spring Nursery - 793506

**Community Room & School Hall
- Rick Moon 354908**

Frank Bond Centre - Nadia 07958
246046

Neighbourhood Beat Team

PCSO Lyndsay Smith & PCSO
Marshall Bernhardt
Call 101 or 999 in emergency
lyndsay.smith@avonandsomerset.police.uk
marshall.bernhardt@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Robin Close Hall - 356389

St Peter & St Paul Parish Church
Rev. Phil Hughes 336102

BISHOP'S HULL ORGANISATIONS

BH Flower, Fruit and Vegetable Show
- Amanda Gallacher 337720

Bishop's Hull HUB - 07500 748 609
booking: bhhubbookings@gmail.com
General enquiries and events:
bishopshullhub@gmail.com
Bishops Hull Hub cafe -
bishopshullhubcafe@gmail.com

BH Short Mat Bowls - Alan Chapman
01823 630641
bhsmbc@yahoo.com

BHVH & Playing Fields Trust - Paul
Bulbeck 283941

BH WI — Sue Hazelwood 01823
323986

British Martial Arts and Boxing
Association Tae Kwon Do
alecmhay@aol.com

Brownies - Sheena Grinter 331184

Community Woodland Volunteer -
David 272415

Nia (Dance Fitness) - Jackie
07949735139

FBC Activities - Carolyn 283941

Infinity Martial Academy - Jon 07736
714370

jonakkc@hotmail.co.uk

Pilates - Larissa

lapilates7@gmail.com / larissa@lapilates.com

Somerset Hills Chorus - Brenda
Palfrey 07857 244272

Tae Kwon Do - Sebastian Morey-
Weale 07900 517767

Tai Chi - Bev Fernandes 07880
555984

Zumba - Felicity 07939 580327

**REFUSE / RECYCLING
/GARDEN COLLECTIONS**

Dates below taken from Somerset
Council Website.

Please note new day for recycling and
refuse collections.

**Recycling: Every Thursday - all
areas**

**BISHOP'S HULL, SHUTEWATER,
UPCOTT & BARR**

Refuse: Thursday 16th January

Garden: Monday 20th

RUMWELL

Refuse: Thursday 16th January

Garden: 15th & 29th

STONEGALLOWS

Refuse: Thursday 16th

Garden: Monday 20th

**BH COUNCIL PRIVACY
STATEMENT AND POLICY**

[http://www.bishopshull.org.uk/
Parish/BHPCprivacyNotice.pdf](http://www.bishopshull.org.uk/Parish/BHPCprivacyNotice.pdf)

[http://www.bishopshull.org.uk/
parish/BHPCprivacyPolicy.pdf](http://www.bishopshull.org.uk/parish/BHPCprivacyPolicy.pdf)

Bishop's Hull Parish Magazine Edition 39/08 January 2025
SERVICES AT ST PETER & ST PAUL JANUARY 2025

Wednesday 1st January	NO SERVICE			
Sunday 5th January EPIPHANY	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Ephesians 3:1-12 (1174); Matthew 2:1-12 (966)	Will Osmond
Wednesday 8th January	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m		
Sunday 12th January Epiphany 1	Holy Communion Holy Communion	08:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Isaiah 43:1-7 (729); Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 (1029)	Tim Venn
Wednesday 15th January	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 19th January Baptism of Christ	Holy Communion Holy Communion	08.00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Isaiah 62:1-5 (750); John 2:1-11 (1064)	Paul Curry
Wednesday 22nd January	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 26th January Epiphany 3	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	I Corinthians 12:12-31a (1153); Luke 4:14-21 (1031)	David Ager
Wednesday 29th January	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		

Waiting

After 40 years of living in various damp and cold vicarages, we retired and were finally able to move into our own home. It took several weeks to settle in, but then we were nearly done – just waiting for the arrival of the new couch and chairs.

As the delivery truck pulled into the driveway, I hastened to welcome it. "Finally!" I exclaimed, flinging open the front door. "I've been waiting for years for this!"

"Don't blame me, lady," he retorted. "I only got the order this morning."



GRASS CUTTING
Peter Willis

CHURCH DIRECTORY (01823)

Church web site: www.stpeterandstpaul.org.uk

Vicar: **Rev. Philip Hughes**
336102
(Usual day off - Friday)
phil2overflowing@gmail.com



Rev Philip Hughes

Church Wardens: Tim Venn John Perry

Treasurer Rachel Horder

Electoral Roll Officer

Safeguarding Officer: Sally Adams (co-opted PCC member)

Other PCC Members - Mark Dakin Sue Martin
Shirley Stapleton

Tower Secretary: Giles Morley 430710

St Peter and St Paul's PCC 2024-2025

1. Rev Phil Hughes (Vicar)
2. Tim Venn (Church Warden)
3. John Perry (Church Warden)
4. Rachel Horder (PCC Treasurer)
5. Sally Adams (Parish Safeguarding Officer, co-opted PCC member)
6. Mark Dakin
7. Sue Martin
8. Shirley Stapleton



9. And you? The PCC is a great team to belong to and is there to assist the Vicar in the Mission and function of the church. If you think God may be calling you to serve in this way there are lots of opportunities, so do have a chat with one of the fab team!