

BISHOP'S HULL PARISH MAGAZINE

AUGUST 2026



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

EDITOR

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MAGAZINE SUPPORT TEAM

Proof reader - Margaret Coombs

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 please remember to support the
free 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.*



**Cafe
& Bar**

Now serving Coffees,
Hot Drinks & Breakfasts from
8.30am Tues-Sat
Lunches, Dinners & Sunday Roasts
£5.50 Senior Citizen Meals
Tribute Acts and Events
at the Weekends
Ask us about Functions & Wakes
01823 802877

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. Ringing 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

BISHOPS HULL BUTCHERS, POST OFFICE AND STORES

BISHOPS HULL, TAUNTON



**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 – Wednesday 8.00am – 3pm

Thursday – Friday 8.00am – 4pm

Saturday 7.00am – 2pm

Sunday and Monday Closed

Tel – 01823 337497

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 2.00-4:00

Wednesday – Flexercise 10:00-11:00

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

Fortnightly Tuesday in the month Crafty Coffee 10.00-12.00

2nd & 4th Thursday in month Mahjong 2.00-4.00

4th Wednesday in month Music Appreciation 2.00-4.00

3rd Thursday in Monthly Lunch - please write name on list in foyer

Annual membership £25.00 Find us on Facebook (& 'Like' us)

There are many more exciting activities... table tennis, cards, books, puzzles plus a variety of social events taking place throughout the year

For bookings please contact Nadia 01823 338242 / 07958246026

BISHOP'S HULL CAR BOOT SALES 2026

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

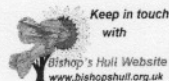
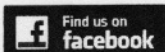
Sunday 26th JULY

Sunday 9th AUGUST

Bank Holiday Monday 31st AUGUST

Sunday 13th SEPTEMBER

Sunday 27th SEPTEMBER



Start Time 7a.m.

Bishop's Hull Playing Field TA1 5EB

///rocket.force.monday

Sellers £7 Buyer Parking £1

Cars Parked at Owners' Risk

The money raised supports the running and maintenance of the playing field facilities for the benefit of users and community

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.

Prescription Time Frame



To help us provide an efficient, safe and effective service to our patients, we ask that you follow the guidance below:

- Use the table below to work out when your prescription will be ready for collection,

- Order early for bank holidays, or if you are going on holiday,
- Let us know in advance, if you require our prescription delivery service

Due to permanent closures of some pharmacies in the area we are experiencing high volumes of prescriptions. We offer text message and a phone call service to let our patients know when their medications are ready. Please ask a member of staff about details.

We are a small but very busy pharmacy, so be prepared to queue. Please sign the back of your green paper prescription on arrival and tick the exemption box if it applies to you (there are pens available on the counter). Our waiting time for a walk-in prescription is usually up to 20 minutes, but it can reach to one hour depending on how busy we are. We are always extremely busy before bank holidays, so please order your prescriptions earlier and be prepared to queue.

Prescription Ordered	We normally receive	Ready for collection
Monday	Thursday	Monday
Tuesday	Friday	Tuesday
Wednesday	Monday	Wednesday
Thursday	Tuesday	Thursday
Friday	Wednesday	Friday
Weekend	Thursday	Monday

When you enter the pharmacy please turn right in order to join a queue or otherwise feel free to browse the shop. Whilst waiting for your prescription to be prepared please wait in the pharmacy, if you leave at any point, please queue again on arrival and ask the member of staff if your medications are ready. We apologise for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding.

These are the expected days when your prescription will be ready, however sometimes delays occur due to medication queries, items out of stock and increased workload. Please be aware that this guidance is for regular repeat medication. Please collect your medications after receiving your text message or phone call. Prescriptions that are urgent from the GP surgery can be dispensed when needed.

Opening hours: Monday- Friday: 9:00- 18.30 Saturday: 9:00-13:00

Sunday: Closed. Bank Holiday: Closed Tel. 01823 256 056

Address: 2 The Comeytrowe Centre, Pitts Close, Taunton, TA1 4TN



Bishop's Hull Belles WI

Bishop's Hull Belles is a group of friendly women with meetings held 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 monthly meetings where you will be warmly welcomed. The cost is £4 per visit (up to 3 meetings) which is then deducted from the annual subscription upon joining.
- Further information can be obtained from Heather Blackmore the group's secretary. Tel:01823-283884 mob 07963834365

Next Meeting.

Bishop's Hull Belles WI - Next meeting at The HUB -
Thursday 23rd July at 7.30pm

Speaker: Mickey Little (Horticulturist) 'Smoke that Thunders'

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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The Year of the Field Bindweed, *Convolvulus Arvensis*.



No one waters their lawn during a heat-wave so over the past few weeks my back garden lawn has been totally neglected. The usual white daisies (who tell me if it might rain shortly) have all disappeared. In their place a foot high yellow daisy appeared and the bees continued their feeding as if nothing untoward was happening.

The weeks passed (lots of heat but no rain) and even these yellow daisies began to disappear. But, Mother Nature being the carer of weeds, has decided to ignore my usual weekly weeding.

I now have a lawn covered in Bindweed. Thankfully it has restricted itself to my back garden lawn and looks quite attractive during the day and also when the flowers close once the sun has gone to bed.

However, Bindweed is a devil to eliminate, especially if it is growing vigorously amongst your vegetables. 'Dig deep and pull up' is my advice although this is not entirely successful. However, when it comes to lawns, a selective weed killer does a good job but only apply if you know rain is on its way. I am told, by other gardeners, that regularly cutting your lawn is bad news for Bindweed. We shall see once the rain arrives.

On Sunday 16th the village annual Flower Show is being staged in The Hub. Being a regular supporter I am quite concerned that the prolonged heat wave will have a detrimental effect on the quality of entries. In spite of watering the vegetable patch from time to time to keep things alive, the vegetables seem to be suffering from the heat. I have a beautiful row of runner bean plants with lots of leaves and lots of blossom being pollinated by the bees. But where are the runner beans? At a guess, 99% of the blossom just falls off and I have only managed to pick about one pound of 'weedy' beans. The courgettes are suffering too whilst the potato plants have a forest of tops but little below ground. This year is my first attempt at growing Dwarf French beans and here I am having some success. Unbelievably my rose beds are looking fine at the moment even though they have received no water at all since the last brief shower many weeks ago.

In 55 years of gardening I have not experienced anything quite like this year by way of success. Fingers crossed for my Flower Show entries.

THE VICAR WRITES

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

August often brings a slower pace—long summer evenings, the hum of lawnmowers, and a chance to pause. In the Gospels, Jesus often stepped away to pray and recharge. He knew that to pour out love, we must first fill our own cups.



Looking back at July, our cups certainly overflowed with sunshine! It was wonderful to see you at our Patronal Festival and the Deanery Pilgrimage. July also saw us glued to our screens for Wimbledon and the World Cup. The Apostle Paul loved a sporting analogy, reminding us to run the race of faith with dedication. Watching these athletes is a great reminder of people using their God-given talents to the full.

This month, we can keep that vibrant community spirit alive. First, I am delighted that we will be reading the **Banns of Marriage** over the coming weeks. Praying for these couples is a beautiful reminder of God's steadfast love.

We are hosting a **Play Retreat on Saturday 15th August**. Don't let the word "play" fool you—it is open to all ages! It is a day to explore faith creatively and find rest. You can [book your ticket here](#) or via the calendar on our website. Following that, our **Home Group meets on Tuesday 18th August**. Whether you are a theological expert or just starting to ask big questions, you are so welcome.

Looking ahead, there is a **Diocesan Confirmation Service on Saturday 7th November 2026**. Confirmation is a powerful way to publicly say "yes" to Jesus. We will be starting a preparation group very soon. If you or a friend are curious, please contact me for a no-pressure chat. May you find rest, joy, and the deep peace of Christ this August.

God bless you,
Rev Phil Hughes
Vicar, St Peter and St Paul, Bishop's Hull
Chaplain, Taunton College, UCS Group

Joyous Patronal Evensong Welcomes All

The St Peter and St Paul Patronal Evensong on 28 June 2026 at the Parish Church of Bishops Hull was a resounding success as our community gathered specifically to celebrate our Patron Saints. Funded by a generous Mustard Seed Grant from the Diocese of Bath and Wells, the special service brought together over 50 attendees, beautifully welcoming many new faces and individuals from the "edges" of the church family.

The evening was uplifted by the wonderful guest choir from St John's, Staplegrove. With ease they led the congregation in profound worship as we praised God and honoured our Patron Saints together.

The incredible atmosphere continued long after the final blessing with a marvellous spread in the entrance area, featuring a delicious mix of sandwiches, cakes, nibbles, and drinks. A massive thank you to the many dedicated people who helped make this community-building celebration such a triumph!



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. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all at the next coffee

morning on **Saturday 29 August 2026** From 10am till 12noon.

Come along to have a Coffee/Tea and cakes, with a friendly chat
and SWAP a book.



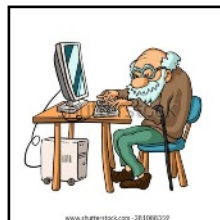
THOUGHT FOR THE DAY



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>>>>>>>>>



Editor Bob

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I know how expensive it is to send a letter so I would be happy to receive an email instead.

Frank Bond Centre AGM 2026

The date for the AGM, Thursday 8th September 2pm

NOTE. Magazine hard copies are no longer available but you have permission to print your own single copy, (if you have the necessary software and hardware), from the monthly emailed .pdf

Editor Bob.

Bishop's Hull Parish Council News

Summary of the June meeting:

- SC Cllr Hunt advised of new road markings to be added at the start of Bishop's Hull Rd opposite Netherclay to improve safety.
- Kinglake transfer is still pending further information from Persimmon, but will hopefully transfer this month. Now the playing fields have transferred from SC to PF Trust the transfer of the play park can now proceed to the PC.
- The Clerk prepared the year end accounts and Accounting statement, which have been checked by the internal auditor and were approved by Councillors along with the Annual Governance Statement.
- It was agreed The Clerk will write to residents with vegetation hanging over pavements and if no action taken escalate to SC.
- Councillors agreed to get the War Memorial professionally cleaned.

New Councillors. In the last year the Parish Council has gained 4 new Councillors, taking the Council to a full complement of 11 Councillors. Over the next few months, I will be introducing our newest members.

Next meeting date was set for Thursday 2nd July, 7pm at the HUB.

Meet Cllr Hilary Harper

Where are you likely to be seen in the Village ?- Walking my Sprocker, Amber, around the village, especially down at Netherclay Community Woodland. I'm also very involved in St Peter and St Paul's Church.

Why are you a Parish Councillor? - Since moving to the village just over 2 yrs ago I've wanted to get more involved in what's going on and to be part of something that improves things for the community.

When not volunteering as a Parish Councillor what are you likely to be doing? I've been retired for a few years now after working for Avon and Somerset Police. I love spending time with my family and volunteering. I help run Baby Badgers toddler group at The Hub and I enjoy art, knitting and reading. Also, looking after nature and the environment are very important to me.

What would people be surprised to know about you? - I served for 9 years in the Royal Navy (WRNS) and I used to be a skier and horse rider.



Playing fields, Play park and hiring facilities - The Playing fields in the village were owned by Somerset Council and leased to the Playing Fields Trust. Two years ago the Playing Fields Trust approached Somerset Council expressing a wish to take over ownership of the playing fields, like the PC did with Bishops Mead. After a long process, I'm pleased to say the playing

fields are now owned and managed by the Playing Fields Trust, securing this beautiful area for the benefit of residents. Ahead of the play park being transferred to the PC it remains the responsibility of Somerset Council, so please report any problems to them via their website.

The Playing Fields Trust is made up of volunteers who give up their time to manage this area. They generate their income from hiring out the playing fields and pavilion along with car boot sales. If you are interested in hiring the facilities or volunteering to support the Playing Fields Trust please see your copy of *Bishop's Hull Community News* page for contact details.

Bishop's Hull Belles WI - Next meeting at The HUB - Thursday 23rd July at 7.30pm

Speaker: Mickey Little (Horticulturist) 'Smoke that Thunders'

"Pilgrimage to Taunton Minster!"

Join our local pilgrimage on Sunday 12 July 2026. We leave Bishops Hull church at 3:15pm, walking to Taunton Minster for 4pm refreshments and a 5pm Diocesan Year of Prayer service. We'll walk back for an estimated 7:30pm return. All welcome! Contact Rev Phil Hughes, 01823 336102, for more details."

Looking After Yourself and Your Neighbours in Hot Weather

At the time of writing, we are just a week on from the unexpected May heatwave, during which temperatures across Somerset widely exceeded 30°C and approached 34°C. With the midsummer months of July and August still to come, it is reasonable to expect similar, if not even higher, temperatures. While many people enjoy warm weather, prolonged periods of heat can present significant health risks, particularly for vulnerable members of our community.



One of the most important things we can do during hot weather is stay hydrated. Drinking plenty of water throughout the day helps the body regulate its temperature and reduces the risk of dehydration. It is also wise to limit alcohol and caffeinated drinks, which can contribute to fluid loss. Wearing loose-fitting, light-coloured clothing and applying sunscreen can help protect against sunburn and heat-related illness. When possible, avoid strenuous outdoor activities during the hottest part of the day, usually between 11am and 3pm. If you are spending time outside, seek shade regularly and take frequent breaks. At home, keep curtains or blinds closed during the day to reduce indoor temperatures, and open windows in the evening when the air becomes cooler.

Hot weather can be particularly difficult for older people, young children and those with underlying health conditions. Checking in on neighbours, friends, and relatives can make a real difference. A quick phone call, a knock on the

door, or an offer to collect shopping may help someone who is struggling with the heat. It is also important to recognise the signs of heat exhaustion, which can include dizziness, headaches, excessive sweating, and weakness. If symptoms worsen or do not improve, medical advice should be sought promptly. By taking sensible precautions and looking out for one another, we can all enjoy the summer months more safely. A little care, preparation, and community spirit can go a long way during periods of extreme heat.

Take care, John Hunt

Bishops Hull Flower Show -

Sunday 16th August - Bishop's Hull Hub

Schedules are available from the post office with classes ranging from vegetables, flowers and fruit to home craft and handicrafts, art and photography.

There are also free classes to enter:

Children's classes with different age ranges. Rosettes to third place
Scarecrow class with the theme 'nursery rhymes'.

First prize £10, second prize £5

Hanging Basket. £5 prize kindly donated by Avery's Garden Centre

Bishop's Hull HUB

Bishop's Hull Apple Day! Saturday 10th October 11am to 2pm

Come to our favourite annual community event! We will have the apple presses available so bring your apples and containers to make your own apple juice.

Expect hot food (pulled pork rolls), cafe, apple activities and crafts.

Youth club Dates

Saturday 18th July

August - NO YOUTH CLUB DUE TO HOLIDAYS

Sept - TBC (Claire away - need DBS checked parents helpers for this one to run
- please email on Claire.Plumbly@hotmail.co.uk if you can help)

Domestic Abuse help

You can phone the Somerset Domestic Abuse Service on 0800 69 49 999 from 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week, select the option for Somerset.

More ways to get in touch are on the Somerset

Domestic Abuse Service <https://somersetdomesticabuse.org.uk/about-us/contact-us>

The help line is a single point of contact for confidential advice and support to any person concerned about domestic abuse in the Avon and Somerset area. If no one can answer your call, leave a number and a safe time to phone and they will get back to you.

BISHOPS HULL NEIGHBOURHOOD BEAT TEAM (from village WEB site)

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

From:
Keith, Neighbourhood Watch
Coordinator

A man has been sentenced after he was stopped driving against the flow of traffic on a busy dual carriageway while significantly over the drink-drive limit.

On the evening of Monday 4 May, Francis S., 50, of Taunton, was observed by a patrolling officer driving his Toyota Yaris on the wrong side the road on the A38 near Walford Cross, Taunton, forcing other motorists to take evasive action to avoid a collision.

Police were able to bring the vehicle to a controlled stop and put scene safety measures in place to prevent further risk to other road users.

On approaching the vehicle, it was evident that S. smelt strongly of alcohol and appeared confused, unsteady on his feet and was slurring his words.

A roadside breath test indicated that he was more than four times over the legal limit for alcohol.

S. pleaded guilty to the offence of driving while over the prescribed limit for alcohol and was handed a 32 month driving ban at Taunton Magistrates Court on Monday 8 June. He was also ordered to complete 100 hours of unpaid work and to pay costs

of £85 and a victim surcharge of £114.

Attending officer PC Nick Steele said: "S's manner of driving presented a significant and immediate danger to other road users and it was extremely lucky that no-one was harmed.

"The incident took place in hours of darkness on a poorly lit section of a high-speed dual carriageway. It was only by chance that a patrolling officer came across him when he did.

"This case demonstrates the potentially devastating consequences that can result when people choose to get behind the wheel after drinking alcohol. We will continue to target drink and drug drivers through both proactive patrols and intelligence-led enforcement activity, taking action against those who put themselves and others at risk."

See the attached on how to report a suspected drink or drug driver.

Attachments:

[how-to-report-a-suspected-drink-or-drug-driver.pdf](#)

Attached is this months newsletter from Taunton NPT (Neighbourhood Policing Team)

Attachments:

[taunton-policing-newsletter-june-2026.pdf](#)

"I am pleased to share that Neighbourhood Watch for Avon & Somerset Constabulary has been recognised during Volunteers' Week. Please find attached a copy of the post issued via the Force's social media channels.

Thank you all for your continued dedication and commitment to your communities. Your efforts truly make a difference and are very much appreciated across Avon & Somerset."

Attachments:

nhw-volunteer-week.pdf

In 2025, criminals stole £21 million from victims of courier fraud.

In Avon and Somerset alone, there was a financial loss of £346,000.

City of London Police are issuing a renewed warning to the public as courier fraud

continues to evolve across the UK, with criminals using increasingly sophisticated and persistent tactics.

Please read the attached for more information:

Attachments:

courier-fraud-warning.pdf

Attached is the monthly newsletter from your Taunton Policing team.

Attachments:

taunton-policing-newsletter-july-2026.pdf

As temperatures rise again, don't let home security slip down your list of priorities.

We've seen a number of burglaries at insecure properties with car keys being the main target.

Please see the attached for more information.

Attachments:

hot-weather-burglary.pdf

Crime in Bishop's Hull & Taunton West.

Total Crimes - 86 - trending_down
-21.8% MoM

Annual Crime Rate

55.13 per 1k - trending_down -2.1%
12m Trend

Safety Rating - Moderate

Total Population - 10,954

Crime Categories

Violence & Sexual Offences	33
Anti-social Behaviour	16
Public Order	14
Shoplifting	11
Criminal Damage & Arson	3
Robbery	2
Burglary	2
Other Theft	2
Bicycle Theft	1
Vehicle Crime	1
Drug Offences	1

Bishop's Hull police reports include updates on local crime, community safety initiatives, and recent arrests. For specific details, you can check the latest police newsletters or the Police website.

Overview of Bishop's Hull Police Reports

Bishop's Hull police reports provide essential updates on local crime, community safety initiatives, and recent arrests. These reports are crucial for keeping the community informed about safety issues and

BISHOP'S HULL IN TIMES PAST



John Hamer is taking his 'sabbatical' this month.
Back in September

A brief history of Bishop's Hull

The earliest mention of the village of Bishop's Hull is found in the Codex diplomaticus aevi Saxonici of 750 AD where it is called "Hylle". In the Domesday Book of 1086 it appears as "Hilla" and in 1225 it is mentioned as "Hulle". The Assize Roll of 1327 calls it "Hulle Episcopi" - the hill belonging to the bishop. This was the Bishop of Winchester who had purchased the manor (administrative area) of Taunton Deane in 904 AD. In 1120 Bishop Gifford of Winchester transferred the tithes to Taunton Priory, subject to an annual payment to the parish priest of "Hill Bishoppes" which then became one of the abbey's endowments. The stipend was to be £6 13s 4d; it was still recorded as £6 in 1535. The earliest part of the present church - the base of the tower - dates back to the 12th century. The octagonal upper part of the tower dates from the 13th century and is believed to be in the shape of a weaver's shuttle, reflecting the importance of the weaving industry at the time and possibly that it was a gift of the local weavers.

In 1308 the Bishop of Bath and Wells ordered the Prior to appoint a secular priest on a separate stipend to live and serve in Bishop's Hull. Previously services would have been taken by a canon from the priory. Permanent accommodation for the priest does not appear to have been provided until 1447/8 when the churchwardens paid 20 pence and an annual rent of one penny for a piece of land for a church house.

The church originally consisted of a nave with north and south aisles, side chapels and tower. The side chapels may have been chantries (endowed for priests to say masses for the soul of the founder). In 1449 Robert Cole directed that his body be buried in the churchyard of the Apostles St Peter and Paul of the Priory of Taunton: to Sir Geoffrey, Chaplain of Hull, 2s 6d to celebrate for my soul and the soul of Agnes my wife - to the said Sir Geoffrey 6d for tithes forgotten.

In the first half of the 16th century the church underwent a major refurbishment. In 1522 the Prior of Taunton employed a Taunton mason, John Bird, to build a new chancel. The operative mason and designer was John Denman who competed for the contract with Richard Pytt and John Gyll. The date of 1530 on a scroll held by a small angel on the east wall of the north chapel may indicate that the chapel was rebuilt at the same time

and this was the date the works were completed. The oak benches with carved bench ends may have been installed as part of this refurbishment or towards the end of the century when further work is attested by an entry in the 1597 churchwardens' accounts: "payd to the hillier [a tiler] more for mendinge of the church and 2 illes - 6d".

In 1538 when Richard Duddridge, the reeve (chief magistrate) belonging to Taunton Priory, was buried "in the holy sepulchre of Petr and Pawle nigh Taunton", he left a benefaction to "Hilbushoppes Church". A year later the Priory was dissolved and ownership of the church passed to the Crown. It appears to have been granted to the Farewells who owned the Great House or Manor in Bishop's Hull and had strong connections with the church, as is attested by the fine effigy and memorial in the church. Their own house was completed in 1538, so some of the construction work for both buildings may have been contemporary; there are certainly similarities in the stonework.

About 1550 the first of the church's present six bells was cast by Roger Semson of Ash Priors.

In the late 16th century several cases were heard in the court of the Bishop of Wells.

The parish registers of 1642-1645 show the burial of 16 soldiers during the Civil War.

During the Protectorate 41 inhabitants of Bishop's Hull petitioned Oliver Cromwell on behalf of their minister Nathaniel Charlton: "Being almost past hope of having a godly, able minister settled among us, our means being only 20 nobles a year, we recommend to you Nathaniel Charlton our present minister who is holy, useful and well affected even to blood and imprisonment. We also have our goods plundered and our houses burned and we are 500 or 600. Some years ago Mr Charlton had £50 a year granted him from St John Stowell's parsonage but received nothing, they being overcharged. We beg the settlement elsewhere." The minister pursued his calling until the Restoration when, refusing to use the public liturgy, he was removed from his living in 1662. He became minister of the village's first dissenting congregation, now the United Reformed Church.

The Visitation Return of 1815 records that the "perpetual curate" Richard Codrington resided at Milverton because there was no parsonage house in Bishop's Hull which then had a population of 844. He also served the parish of Staplegrove, saying prayers and giving a sermon each Sunday alternately morning and evening. The annual value of the living was about £110. Patronage of the living of Bishop's Hull appears to have passed from the Priory to the Crown and thence to the Farewells, Edmund Downyne and Peter Assheton, the Raban family and, from 1968, the Archdeacon of Taunton.

####

Road Work for 12 Weeks.

Key utility upgrades and replacement schemes are planned by National Grid and Wales & West Utilities to support and replace the existing networks along Staplegrove Road.

Highway Works currently being undertaken to facilitate the Bloor Homes development are continuing in this area until Summer 2027, these works include changes to the existing BT Openreach network.

Collaboration between Wales & West Utilities, National Grid, Openreach and CJL Construction has been agreed in partnership with Somerset Council to ensure planned upgrade works don't extend the traffic disruption beyond the completion of the new development junction. Commencement of Utility upgrades are due from 20th July 2026, these intrusive works are scheduled to last for 12 weeks.

From the Silk Mills northern roundabout to Showell Park (the turn off to the Nuffield Hospital) will be one-way, in an easterly direction.

These works will replace ageing Gas Services and upgrade the Electric network to support the community, planned works and Nuffield Hospital reinforcement.

How will these works affect us here in Bishop's Hull?

I'd have thought that Silk Mills Road northbound will be extra busy in the late afternoon peak time, with vehicles that would normally be joining the Minehead Road A358 from Staplegrove Road, having to use Silk Mills as a diversion. Clearly, others will find alternate routes, thus hopefully reducing the build up of traffic.

If you live in the village, from 20th July for approximately 12 weeks, you WILL be able to turn right at the northern Silk Mills roundabout into Staplegrove Road.

However, on your return journey you'll need to use Wellington Road, or your preferred alternative route, as you WON'T be able to access Staplegrove Road from the Nuffield Hospital entrance.

If you're travelling from the Minehead direction to Bishop's Hull, you CAN turn right at the northern Silk Mills roundabout and access the village as normal.

Useful contacts:

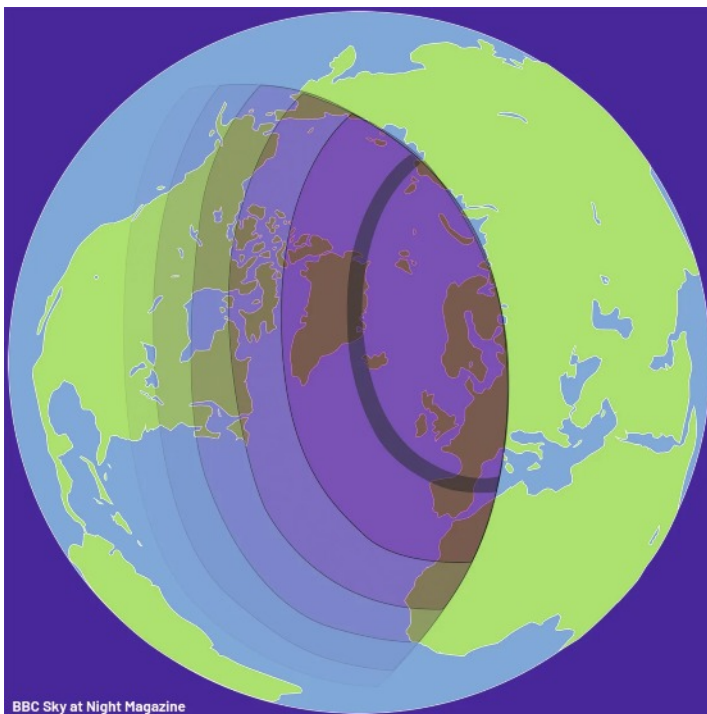
Bloor Homes - highways.southwest@bloorhomes.com

National Grid - 0800 096 3080

Wales and west utilities - 0800 912 2999

Take care, John Hunt





Total solar eclipse August 2026

The UK and Ireland will get to see a pretty good partial solar eclipse on 12 August 2026.

This will be a very deep partial eclipse, meaning the vast majority of the Sun will be covered by the Moon.

London will see 91% of the Sun obscured, Edinburgh 91%, Cardiff 93% and Belfast 93%.

In the Republic of Ireland, Dublin will see 94% of the Sun obscured, while Cork will see 96%.

This is an early evening eclipse for the UK and Ireland, where observers will see the Moon begin to pass in front of the Sun at around 18:15, local time, with maximum eclipse occurring about an hour later and the event ending shortly after 20:00.

EAT WELL FOR LESS DURING AUGUST

VELVET SOUP



- 1 large tablespoonful butter.
- 1½ large tablespoonfuls flour.
- 1 teaspoonful curry powder.
- 1½ pints milk and a little cream.
- Salt and pepper to taste.

MELT the butter in a pan, add the flour and curry powder and mix to a smooth paste. Then add the milk and bring to the boil. Cook ½ tablespoonful of rice and put it into the soup tureen before pouring in the soup. Serve hot.

From Miss M. Holliday, Yorkshire.

FISH ROLL



- 1 lb. boiled cod.
- 2 breakfastcupfuls mashed potatoes.
- 2 ozs. grated cheese.
- 1 dessertspoonful chopped parsley.
- 1 egg.
- A little milk and browned bread-crumbs.
- Pepper and salt.

FREE the fish from skin and bone and flake with a fork.

Mix with the potatoes, cheese, parsley, and seasoning.

Bind with the egg and a little milk if necessary.

Form into a thick roll and coat with browned crumbs. Put into a well-greased baking tin and bake for about ½ hour. Serve cut in slices with cheese sauce.

From Mrs. Rogers, Wrexham.

A TASTY HOT-POT



- ONE boiling fowl.
- 3 sprays each of parsley and thyme.
- Flour.
- Water or stock, seasoned.
- 2 onions.
- 2 carrots:
- 1 small parsnip.
- A few fresh cooked green peas, or a tin of peas.

SEPARATE all the joints of the fowl, as you would a rabbit.

Flour well and put in a stew-jar with onions, carrots and parsnip (sliced up), and the parsley and thyme, tied in muslin.

Cover with water or stock, seasoned. Cook gently for about 2½ hours.

Thicken with a little flour and water, if necessary, about ½ hour before it is done. For the last ½ hour, add the peas.

From Mrs. C. H., Staffordshire.

APPLE CREAM

PEEL, core and grate apples according to quantity required. Mix quickly with sweetened condensed milk.

Heaped into a glass dish this makes a delicious sweet, which children especially love.

*From M is: E. Rutherford,
Northumberland.*

APPLE CREAM SPONGE



2 lbs. apples.

2 eggs.

Sponge cake or any stale pieces of plain cake.

1 pint milk.

PEEL and cut apples in slices and cook with a little water until they resemble apple sauce. Leave until cool. Sweeten a little and pour half over the sponge pieces, then make a little custard with yolks of eggs, whisk the whites and other half of apples until it's like a lovely fruity cream.

Put a custard on top of sponge cake and apples, and then the cream on top. It makes a nice treat for the children, and only takes 15 minutes to make.

From Mrs. F. Janney, Lincolnshire.

APPLE CRISPS



4 good-sized cooking apples.

1 cupful brown sugar.

1/2 cupful margarine.

1 cupful flour.

GREASE a baking-dish, and 3/4 fill with sliced apple. Work the margarine, sugar, and flour together until the mixture is like granulated sugar. Spread it over the apples.

Bake in a hot oven for 10 minutes, then reduce the heat, and bake until the apples are soft and the crumbs nicely browned.

Serve with cream or thin egg custard

*From Mrs. G. Rare,
Huntingdonshire.*

EGG CUSTARD

For each person allow

1 egg.

1 tablespoonful sugar.

1 breakfastcupful milk.

1 pinch of salt.

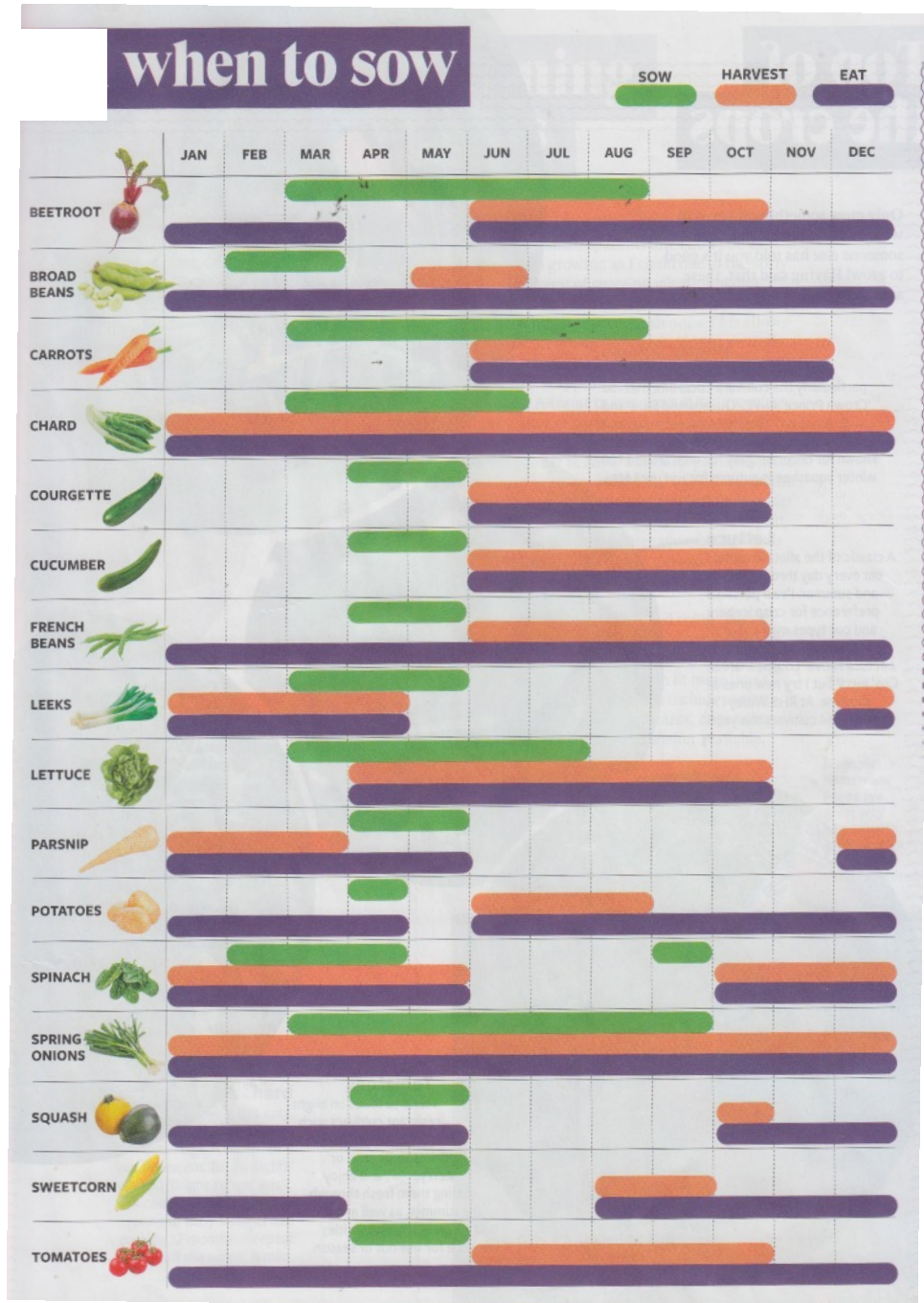
BEAT all together until frothy. Pour into greased fireproof dish and cook in a moderate oven until set and.

Slightly browned.

Serve cold.

From Mrs. Birkett, Cumberland.

Gardening in August



Enjoy your garden this month while it's looking its best, there are so many delicious fruits and vegetables ripe and ready to eat. August is also the time to start planning ahead if you want colourful autumn and winter blooms, or plenty of produce for your plate over the colder months.

Direct sow outdoors

- Winter-hardy spring onions such as 'White Lisbon' and 'Performer' should be direct sown now for crops next spring.
- Radish 'French Breakfast' are very quick to crop — continue to make more direct sowings this month for an autumn harvest. Alternatively try sowing winter radish 'Dragon' for a winter crop.
- Keep sowing salad leaves 'Speedy Mix' outdoors for a continuous harvest.
- Make final sowings of spring cabbages such as 'April' and 'Durham Early' into seedbeds now — they're a great crop to have next April when not much else is ready to eat!
- Swiss chard 'Bright Lights' can be sown in drills now for autumn 'baby leaves' or to over-winter for a spring crop.
- Lambs lettuce 'Favor' is a fully hardy crop which can be sown outdoors now for cropping throughout the autumn and winter.
- Now is an ideal time to direct sow pak choi 'Tricolour Mix' as it's prone to bolting if grown before midsummer.

- There's still time to make direct sowings of fast-maturing carrots such as 'Adelaide'.
- Make a last sowing of endive 'Mixed' outdoors for use as salad leaves.
- For something more unusual try growing kohlrabi 'Kolibri' F1 Hybrid in a well prepared bed — it will be ready in as little as 8 weeks after sowing.
- Make a final sowing of turnip 'Sweetbell' F1 Hybrid in drills now.
- Direct sow spinach 'Perpetual' now for autumn and winter cropping.
- Sow radicchio 'Rossa di Treviso precoce' outdoors for use as an attractive autumn salad leaf.

Plant outdoors

- Plant out summer/autumn cauliflower 'All The Year Round' early in the month for an autumn harvest.
- Finish planting out winter cabbage 'Winter Jewel' early in the month, allowing about 45cm between plants as they get quite big!
- Finish planting out kale plants for winter and spring cropping.

Flowers

Winter-flowering pansies can be sown now for colour in the cooler months.

Sow viola 'Pot Pourri Mixed' seeds to over-winter and provide fresh colour in the spring.

Sow hardy annual seeds like poppies, Californian poppies, cornflower 'Dwarf Blue Midget', calendula and larkspur now to provide earlier flowers next year. #####

Why you may be killing your houseplants

You see a lovely plant at the garden centre and bring it home. Within weeks you are watching it die. Why? There are eight possible reasons.

1. Over- or under-watering

When you water to an arbitrary schedule of your own (e.g. on your day off), rather than when the plant actually wants it.

Over-watering gives the plant 'wet feet', which can end in root rot. Under-watering stresses the plant, leading to leaf and flower loss.

2. Tap water

Some plants simply cannot handle the fluoride and chlorine in our tap water. They will do better with filtered water or rainwater.

3. Windowsill shock

That sunny windowsill can turn very cold overnight, and chill your plant's leaves and flowers. Slide your plant about four inches back from the pane, so that the roots are kept in 'room air' and not subjected to cold glass each night. And be aware that leaving your plants on the sill after you draw the curtains is to abandon them to the coldest pocket of the room.

4. Toxic cleaning products

Some cleaning products are designed to break down organic material. So, if you spray them into the air, rather than onto a cloth, particles land on your plant's leaves and begin destroying them.

5. Build-up of dust

Dust on leaves can block the sunlight the plant needs to photosynthesise. So, consider spraying or wiping the leaves every few weeks.

6. Light and shade

Plants vary a lot on this. If your plant is leaning towards the window, it wants more light. If it is scorched or faded, it wants more shade.

7. Watering from overhead.

Not always a good idea, because if water gets trapped around the plant base, it can rot the plant. Many gardeners prefer bottom-watering instead – adding tepid water to the base of the pot so that the roots can drink as much as they like.

8. Beware little pests

If strange designs are appearing on your plant's leaves, or if they look exhausted and discoloured, the culprits are usually gnats, thrips, mealybugs or spider mites. Your local garden centre will have advice or treatments on how to dispatch each one of them.

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What do they teach them in school these days?!

The following excerpts are 10- and 11-year-old answers to history tests and Sunday school quizzes. They were collected over a period of three years by two teachers. Read carefully and enjoy the grammar, misplaced modifiers, and of course, the spelling!

- The greatest writer of the Renaissance was William Shakespeare. He was born in the year 1564, supposedly on his birthday. He never made much money and is famous only because of his plays. He wrote tragedies, comedies, and hysterectomies, all in Islamic pentameter.
- Writing at the same time as Shakespeare was Miguel Cervantes. He wrote Donkey Hotel. The next great author was John Milton. Milton wrote Paradise Lost. Since then, no one ever found it.
- Delegates from the original 13 states formed the Contented Congress. Thomas Jefferson, a Virgin, and Benjamin Franklin were two singers of the Declaration of Independence. Franklin discovered electricity by rubbing two cats backward and also declared, "A horse divided against itself cannot stand." He was a naturalist for sure. Franklin died in 1790 and is still dead.
- Johann Bach wrote a great many musical compositions and had a large number of children. In between he practiced on an old spinster which he kept up in his attic. Bach died from 1750 to the present. Bach was the most famous composer in the world and so was Handel. Handle was half German, half Italian, and half English. He was very large.
- Bethoven wrote music even though he was deaf. He was so deaf that he wrote loud music and became the father of rock and roll. He took long walks in the forest even when everyone was calling for him. Bethoven expired in 1827 and later died for this.
- The nineteenth century was a time of a great many thoughts and inventions. People stopped reproducing by hand and started reproducing by machine. The invention of the steamboat caused a network of rivers to spring up.
- Louis Pasteur discovered a cure for rabbits but I don't know why.
- Charles Darwin was a naturalist. He wrote the Organ of the Species. It was very long, people got upset about it and had trials to see if it was really true. He sort of said God's days were not just 24 hours but without watches who knew anyhow? I don't get it.
- Karl Marx was one of the Marx Brothers. The other three were in the movies. Karl made speeches and started revolutions. Someone in the family had to have a job, I guess.

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

For their patronage of science, Charles II and his courtiers deserve all praise. Their patronage of the theatre, struggling to revive after its suppression by the foolish bigotry of the Puritans, was also a well-timed service to the nation, but the manner of it was less deserving of unqualified eulogy. The revived theatres differed in several important respects from those in which Shakespeare had first been played. The whole playhouse was now roofed in, and the stage artificially lighted with candles: there were 'footlights', a drop curtain, and painted scenery. Moreover, the women's parts were no longer, as before the Civil War, taken by well-trained boys, but by women actresses. Men came to see the actress as much as the play. Nell Gwynne's personal vigour and charm counted for more perhaps than her professional skill. It was to a large extent a new theatre and a new dramatic art, with new possibilities, and new dangers. For many years there was one theatre open in London, the Theatre Royal, at Drury Lane, and sometimes one or two more. But there were no fixed theatres in the provinces and the touring companies were few and bad. Acting was not, as music then was in the age of Purcell, a national pastime and an art widely practised at home by many small groups of connoisseurs. The drama was localized in London, and even there it appealed not to the citizens but to the Court and the fashionables of the town. It was for their vitiated taste that the drama of the early years of the Restoration catered. At that time a hard-hearted and cynical frivolity prevailed in Whitehall and Westminster much more than in England as a whole. The men who haunted Charles II's Court, the first leaders of the Whig and Tory parties in the time of the Popish Plot and the Exclusion Bill, laughed at all forms of virtue as hypocrisy, and believed that every man had his price.

What makes all doctrines plain and clear?

About two hundred pounds a year.

And that which was proved true before

Prove false again? *Two hundred more.*

So they thought, being themselves for sale. Yet two thousand Puritan ministers had just given up their livings and gone out to endure persecution for conscience' sake (1662), following the example of their enemies the Anglican clergy, who had suffered like things for twenty years past rather than desert the Church in her extremity. The Puritan and Anglican clergy who refused to save their livelihoods by recantation were nearly ten times as numerous as the Catholic and Protestant clergy who had similarly stood out during the frequent Tudor changes of religion.

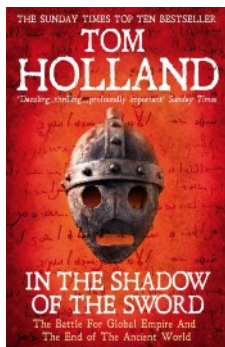
Conscience meant more, not less, than of old. England was sound enough. But her courtiers and politicians were rotten. For the King himself and the younger generation of the aristocracy had been demoralized by the break-up of their education and family life, by exile and confiscation leading to the mean shifts of sudden poverty, by the endurance of injustice done to them in the name of religion, by the constant spectacle of oaths and covenants lightly taken and lightly broken, and all the base underside of revolution and counter-revolution of which they had been the victims.

For these reasons a hard disbelief in virtue of any kind was characteristic of the restored leaders of politics and fashion, and was reflected in the early Restoration drama which depended on their patronage. One of the most successful pieces was Wycherley's *Country Wife*; the hero, by pretending to be a eunuch, secures admission to privacies which enable him to seduce women; one is expected to admire his character and proceedings. In no other age, before or after, would such a plot-motive have appealed to any English audience.

However, the theatre had been restored, and much of its work was good. It revived plays by Shakespeare and Ben Jonson. It was adorned by the poetic genius of Dryden's dramas and the musical genius of Purcell's incidental tunes and operatic pieces. And in the following generation Wycherley's brutalities went clean out of fashion. They were succeeded by the new English comedy of Congreve and Farquhar. Those great writers are usually lumped with Wycherley as 'Restoration dramatists', but in fact it would be more chronologically correct to call Congreve and Farquhar 'Revolution dramatists', for they wrote in the reigns of William and Anne.

So the Wycherley period of the English stage did not last long, but it had done permanent harm, because it had confirmed many pious and decent-minded families, High Church as well as Low, in a hostile attitude to the drama, which had in Shakespeare's time been peculiar to rigid Puritans. Till late in the nineteenth century, not a few well-brought-up young people were never allowed to visit the theatre. And if such stringency was the exception rather than the rule, it is at least true to say that the serious part of the nation would never take the theatre. And if such stringency was the exception rather than the rule, it is at least true to say that the serious part of the nation would never take the theatre seriously. This misfortune was not a little due to Puritan bigotry and to its outcome in the licentiousness of the early Restoration drama. These unhappy conditions were peculiar to England: the age of Wycherley over here was the age of Moliere, Corneille, and Racine in France. There the drama, comic as well as tragic, was decent and was serious, and the French have ever since taken their drama seriously, as the Elizabethan English took theirs, regarding it as a civilizing influence and a criticism of life.

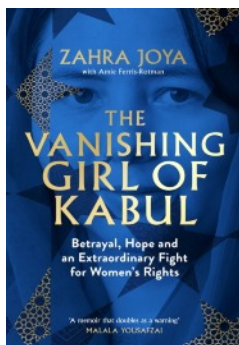
BOOK REVIEWS



In the Shadow of the Sword

Tom Holland

In the 6th century AD, the Near East was divided between two venerable empires: the Persian and the Roman. A hundred years on and one had vanished forever, while the other seemed almost finished. Ruling in their place were the Arabs: an upheaval so profound that it spelt, in effect, the end of the ancient world. In the Shadow of the Sword explores how this came about. Spanning from Constantinople to the Arabian desert, and starring some of the most remarkable rulers who ever lived, he tells a story vivid with drama, horror, and startling achievement.



The Vanishing Girl of Kabul

Zahra Joya

When the Taliban first ruled Afghanistan in the 1990s, Zahra Joya disguised

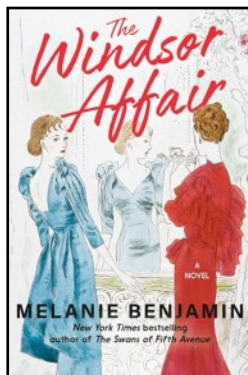
herself as a boy simply to attend school. After the US-led invasion, her world transformed. Education,

opportunity and freedom flourished. Like many Afghans, Zahra dared to believe in a future. She became a journalist and established her own media company to tell the stories of Afghan women.

Then, in 2021, the Taliban returned. Decades of hard-won progress vanished overnight. Women were erased from public life once again, and the promises made by the West collapsed into silence.

The Vanishing Girl of Kabul is Zahra's powerful story of betrayal, survival and resistance. Co-written with award-winning journalist, Amie Ferris-Rotman, a longtime friend of both Zahra and Afghanistan, this book blends the intimacy of memoir with the urgency of investigative reporting, exposing the brutal realities of gender-based oppression - not only in Afghanistan, but around the world.

Now living in exile in London, Zahra refuses to be silent. This book is her clarion call, a warning to a world too willing to look away.



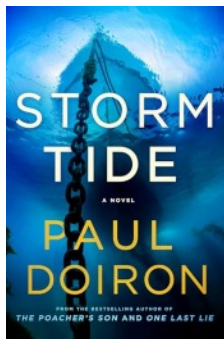
The Windsor Affair

Melanie Benjamin

Feuding Windsor brothers and their wives—some things, it seems, never change. The

Men: Edward David Windsor, heir to the British throne, and Albert, known as Bertie, his younger brother, "the spare." The Women: Edward's wife Wallis, an American divorcée, and Bertie's wife Elizabeth, descended from Scottish nobility. The Feud: a rivalry that will last all their lives, make headlines, and still fuel gossip pages nearly a century later.

The Windsor Affair recreates the cataclysmic events that nearly toppled the monarchy and incited the power struggle between Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, the queen-to-be, and Wallis Simpson, aka "That Woman," who fell into a calculated love affair with Prince Edward. Told from the perspective of both women, the novel propels readers into the fabulous world of the debonair Prince of Wales, café society of the 1930s, and the glittering private lives of the Windsors.



Storm Tide

Paul Doiron

When the magnificent home of entrepreneur Brian Malloy mysteriously goes up in flames, Maine

game warden Mike Bowditch tries to pull Malloy's burning body from the fire but is too late. Malloy was suspected of murdering his young, illegitimate son. Now it looks like someone else has delivered a verdict.

Miles away, on a lonely stretch of icy railroad track, the body of Axl Deming, once accused of a brutal rape, is found literally cut in half. Though the two murders seem unrelated, a cryptic text from an unknown number draws Bowditch to the scene—and hints at a chilling connection. He suspects someone is orchestrating the executions of criminals who escaped justice, and for reasons he can't explain, his own name is on the list, but the state police aren't convinced. His search for the truth takes him through frozen harbours, trackless forests, and remote islands, far from rescue. Meanwhile, Bowditch is facing a disciplinary hearing that could end his career. His wife Stacey, just weeks from giving birth, is being stalked by a stranger in a white van. And when he realizes someone has also been watching their home, the case turns increasingly personal. To protect his family, Bowditch must work alone to uncover who's behind the killings—and stop them before he becomes their next victim.

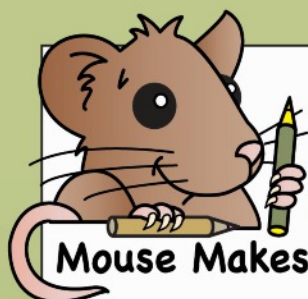


When Dealing With Dragons

Dana Swift

Bonding with dragons gave humans magic to craft metal—now, two school rivals have to work together to

protect a priceless secret, all while fighting their growing attraction to each other.,



Mouse Makes

4 across

After Paul was stoned, where did he travel to with Barnabas?

Acts 14:19-20

4 down

Where was Saul travelling to when Jesus

appeared to him?

Acts 9:3

7 across

Where did the Church in Jerusalem send Barnabas?

Acts 11:22

7 down

Where did Noah's ark come to rest after its journey?

Genesis 8:4

9. To which city did Philip travel to proclaim Christ?

Acts 8:5

10. To which river did people travel out to to be baptised?

Mark 1:5



1. To which city did God send Jonah?

Jonah 1:1-2



3. Which sea did Jesus walk beside before he went up on the mountain?

Matthew 15:29

2. Where did Paul travel to after seeing a vision?

Acts 16:9-10

5. Which town did Naomi and Ruth travel to after leaving Moab?

Ruth 1:22



6. Where did Paul and Barnabas go after being persecuted in Antioch?

Acts 13:51

EGYPT



JERUSALEM

JOURNEYS



JUDEA

8. To where did Mary and Joseph flee to get away from Herod?

Matthew 2:13



13. Where did Paul travel to after he left Athens?

Acts 18:1

GALILEE

11. After a five day journey where did Paul arrive?

Acts 20:6

12. Which sea did Moses walk through to get away from the Egyptians?

Exodus 15:4



What we treasure reveals where our heart really is



This month, the Church will mark the feast of St Laurence. If my calculations are correct, there are seven churches dedicated to St Laurence/Lawrence in our Diocese of Bath & Wells, so happy patronal festival to all of them!

We don't know a lot about Laurence, but what we do know is impressive. He was a deacon martyred by the Romans in a particularly violent way, during a time of brutal persecution of Christians.

It's said that the Emperor ordered him to hand over all the treasure of the Church. He refused. But not in the way you might think. When he was asked to gather and display all the treasure of the

Church, he called together the poor of the city to pray. And when the soldiers came to collect the treasure, and found only the poorest of the poor, Laurence declared, "These are the treasures of the Church." For that defiance in the face of tyranny, he was killed.

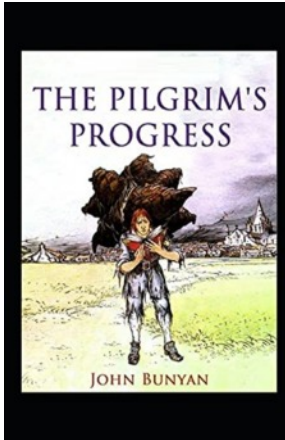
Laurence's worldview was in complete contrast to that of the ruling powers. Where they saw the poor as worthless and to be despised, he saw them as precious. He valued people above possessions in a way the authorities found baffling, maybe even threatening.

Jesus famously taught that what we treasure reveals where our heart really is. In our society there are so many competing demands for our hearts and minds. It can be hard to work out where to place our loyalty. If you were asked to gather all your treasure, I wonder what you'd bring, and what that would reveal? If we analysed how we spend our money as individuals, PCCs, and a Diocesan Board of Finance -the body that manages the assets and finances of our diocese - what would that show about our priorities?

Those are provocative questions to ask, and tricky to answer. But in an area where St Laurence is so honoured, maybe we should try.

Fiona Gibson, Bishop of Taunton

30th August - John Bunyan, the writer of Pilgrim's Progress



After the Bible, John Bunyan's wonderful Christian allegory, the *Pilgrim's Progress*, is one of the most celebrated and widely-read books in the English language. It has been translated into more than 100 languages around the world and keeps its place as a Christian classic.

Names of people and places from its pages have been commonplace wherever English is spoken. We need only recall Mr Great-Heart, Mr Valiant-for-Truth, Giant Despair, Madame Bubble, the Slough of Despond, Vanity Fair, the Delectable Mountains, the Hill Difficulty and the Celestial City.

Bunyan was born on 28 November 1628, at Elstow, near Bedford, England, of a poor family. He had little formal education and his father taught him to be a metal worker. His first wife died young. His second wife, Elizabeth, helped him considerably with his blossoming literary career. His conversion was the result of reading the Bible, and the witness of local Christians. From that time the Bible became the great inspiration of his life. He wrote more than 50 books on Christianity. A Baptist by conviction, he had little time for the Established Church.

Bunyan became a popular preacher, but because of his opposition to the Established Church and because he did not have a Church of England preaching licence, he was imprisoned in 1661. It was in prison that he wrote *Pilgrim's Progress*. It was not only Bunyan's greatest book, but was destined to become one of the most popular Christian books in the world.

Pilgrim's Progress is an allegory, using the names of people and places from the Bible to teach spiritual lessons. The vivid and unforgettable imagery in the *Pilgrim's Progress* covers the whole Christian gospel from sin and condemnation all the way through faith, repentance, grace, justification, sanctification, and perseverance to heaven itself.

Bunyan died on 31st August 1688. His portrayal of the death of Mr Valiant For Truth is Bunyan at his allegorical best. This brave old soldier of Jesus Christ had received his summons to 'go home.' Calling his friends together he says, "My sword I give to him who shall succeed me in my pilgrimage ... My marks and scars I carry with me, to be a witness for me, that I have fought His battles, Who will now be my rewarder." ... So he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side...'

Copyright and you

It is not always easy to discern what is best or tell genuine from false. A friend of mine asked me for some advice about a letter she had received. The document was from a firm of lawyers in Europe seeking a large amount of compensation for misuse of copyright in the UK. The lawyers claimed that a professional photographer's picture had appeared on a website without the owner's permission. A lot of money was claimed but if they responded immediately they could settle for a reduced amount.

Copyright is legal right that protects the use of your work. For example, it protects a writer from anyone else copying their work and selling copies. It also applies to photographs. You do not need to be a professional to get copyright protection, and remember it is the person that takes the photograph who gets the rights, so if someone takes a photo of my house, they own the copyright, not me, even though it is my house.

If you have a website, whether you design it yourself or get someone else to, you must check that any pictures are available and not in copyright. Do not assume that because a photograph is on a website that it is out of copyright. If you publish a parish magazine always consider if you have the right permission to use illustrations. Ask who took the photo and print a credit such as 'thanks to Joe Bloggs for photo of flower festival'. If it is an illustration from a website, ask permission first.

As always, this is a complex area of law so get advice. ###

Missing breakfast?

Surveys have found that, probably because of the popularity of intermittent fasting, these days 13% of adults never eat breakfast.

For some of us, missing breakfast is not a problem. But be aware that no food means low blood sugars, which can lead to lower energy levels and even impaired cognitive function, or brain fog. That is because the brain depends on a constant source of carbohydrates to function at its best.

Skipping breakfast may help you lose a bit of weight, but it can also disrupt your metabolism and gut microbiome. And you can be tempted to snack on bad stuff later on in the day.

So, what is a good breakfast? Steer clear of fatty, sugary foods. Wholegrain foods, nuts, seeds, and low-fat live yoghurt are easy on stomachs – and ensure a supply of energy over several hours.

**

Don't drive fast with your windows down

It can damage your hearing. So say experts from Boots Hearingcare and MoneySuperMarket.

The hot scorching weather of recent weeks can make it tempting to want to feel the wind on your face, but it does your hearing no good at all. Experts warn that at 70mph, the wind noise inside a car can hit 90-100db, exceeding the level of power tools and just below that of a concert.

An audiologist from Boots warns: "Even just 15 minutes of driving at levels of 100dB can be harmful to someone's ears. At high noise levels, your ears and brain are constantly working harder just to pick up

conversations, the radio and even external noises like car horns and sirens. That extra effort can lead to listening fatigue.”

And Department for Transport data shows that distraction or impairment played a role in 34 per cent of fatal collisions in 2024, the last year for which data is available.

Alicia Hempsted, an insurance expert at MoneySuperMarket, said:

“Distracted driving is one of the leading causes of accidents on UK roads, and noise is a distraction that doesn’t get nearly enough attention.”

So, she recommends closing the windows and using air conditioning when travelling above 50mph. For those drivers without air-con, open your windows partially, rather than fully, to reduce direct wind turbulence and protect your hearing.

**

Hot and humid – what to do with those amber and yellow health alerts

This year the UK Health Security Agency has issued a series of amber and yellow health alerts across the UK. Heatwaves can kill people, the Met Office has issued advice on how to keep safe in extreme temperatures. Stay hydrated – drink plenty of water. Avoid any exercise between 11am and 3pm, when the sun is strongest. Close curtains in rooms that face the sun. Wear sunscreen and a hat when outside.

Remember that even on very hot days, the water in lakes and the sea is still very cold. The Royal National Lifeboat Institution warns that entering it suddenly “can lead to cold water shock, causing a sudden increase in breathing and heart rate, which may trigger panic.”

If you find yourself in trouble in cold water, remember to Float to Live.

1. Tilt your head back, so that your ears are submerged
2. Relax and control your breathing
3. You may need to gently use your hands to help you stay afloat
4. It’s OK if your legs sink – everyone floats differently.

Where possible, choose a lifeguarded beach, and swim between the red and yellow flags.

In a coastal emergency remember to call 999 for the coastguard.

**

How to keep your pets safe in hot weather

The British Veterinary Association offers these tips:

Make sure all pets always have access to fresh water to drink, adequate ventilation, and shade from direct sunlight.

Don’t exercise dogs in the hottest parts of the day, especially older pets, flat-faced breeds or dogs with known heart or lung problems. Stick to early morning or late evening walks.

Do the five-second tarmac test before taking a dog out for a walk; if it feels too hot for you, it’s too hot for your dog’s paws.

Freeze plastic bottles of water and place them in your rabbit’s enclosure to help them stay cool, alongside plenty of fresh water too. Provide extra shade to guinea pigs and rabbits by covering the top of wire mesh runs with damp towels.

Some breeds of cats and dogs, particularly those with lighter-coloured or finer fur, may benefit from pet-safe sun cream, especially on the ear tips, which are prone to sunburn.

Spare a thought for wild animals. Keep out bowls of water for wildlife such as birds and hedgehogs. Watch out for early signs of heatstroke, such as heavy panting, restlessness and lack of coordination. Contact a vet immediately if you have any concerns about your pet's health.

**

We love our trains – when they finally arrive

Trains are soaring in popularity. We are taking more railway journeys now than we have for 100 years.

In just April and May last year alone, we made a staggering 1.83 billion journeys by rail, according to the Office of Rail and Road (ORR).

That is the highest level of train usage since 1920, when in a two-month period, our grandparents made 2.18 billion journeys. But there is bad news: train punctuality is woeful. Last year, more trains missed their scheduled arrival times than at any time since Covid. The ORR's director of planning and performance, says: "As more people are using the railway, it's important to have a relentless focus in ensuring trains are punctual and reliable as possible."

**

What is the scariest thing you can see on a motorway?

Someone driving TOWARDS you, at speed. You may think that is a next to impossible thing to have happen, but recent National Highways figures reveal that last year 947 drivers managed to drive the WRONG way down the motorway, straight into the path of oncoming vehicles.

That is an average of 18 a week. And overall, the numbers are increasing, up from 729 about five years ago.

Steve Gooding, director of the RAC Foundation, has called for motorway designers to do more to stop drivers making mistakes. "To think anyone could drive the wrong way on to a motorway heading into fast-moving traffic is truly the stuff of nightmares. "The fact that nearly 1,000 drivers did just that in the last 12 months both chills the blood and makes the case for demanding our highway engineers up their game to prevent drivers mistaking the off-ramp for a slip road. "Whether the answer lies in reconfiguring junctions or in technology – slip-road sensors that trigger roadside warnings or in-vehicle alerts – there's clearly work to be done to establish what's going wrong and to fix it."

The AA also points the finger at driver impairment, usually caused by drink, drugs or fatigue.

**

Our favourite butterfly

The colourful peacock butterfly is our favourite, according to a recent poll. The butterflies, with their striking colours and 'eye-spots' designed to fend off predators, beat 59 other British species in the vote run by Butterfly Conservation.

More than 20,000 votes were cast across the UK, with a rainbow of colourful species making up the top five.

The orange-tip butterfly came a close second to the peacock, followed by red admirals in third, holly blues in fourth and the bright yellow brimstone butterfly in fifth.

Butterfly Conservation, a wildlife charity, declared a "butterfly emergency" in 2024 as numbers recorded during the annual count fell to a record low.

Smile-lines

Editor: This month many newly ordained clergy will be settling into parishes across the country. So, with them in mind, we offer some old 'new curate jokes'...

Whispers

A young curate lost his voice at the local football match one Saturday and, being due to preach the next morning, he thought he should call in and consult his vicar. So he rang the vicarage bell, and the door was answered by a very attractive teenage daughter. "Is your dad here?" the curate managed to whisper. "No," she whispered back, thinking she had got the message. "Come on in!"

**

Won't go far

The curate went to the building society about his investments, adding: "We want to know how far afield we can go for our holiday."

Handing him his statement the cashier enquired very gently: "Have you got a field at the back of your garden, sir?"

**

Nearly omnipotent

The curate was giving his young daughter a cuddle before she went to bed. As he picked her up and hugged her tight, she said: "Daddy, you're so strong! I really think you'll be God one day!"

**

Slow

A curate consistently arrived late for work until his long-suffering vicar asked him what was wrong. "My problem," explained the curate, "is that I sleep very slowly."

**

Where are we?

When Columbus started out, he didn't know where he was going. When he

got there, he didn't know where he was. When he got back, he didn't know where he had been. And he did it all on other people's money. Can't help thinking that Columbus reminds me of some teenagers who go on family holidays...

**

Sky at night

The scientific theory that I like best is that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline luggage.

**

Sky fright

An airliner flew into a violent thunderstorm and was soon bumping around in the sky. One very nervous lady happened to be sitting next to a clergyman and turned to him for comfort. "Can't you do something?" she demanded.

"I'm sorry ma'am," said the reverend gently. "I'm in sales, not management."

**

Time is relative

A turtle is crossing the road when he's mugged by two snails. When the police show up, they ask him what happened. The shaken turtle replies, "I don't know. It all happened so fast."

**

Talking dog for sale

A guy spots a sign outside a house that reads "Talking Dog for Sale."

Intrigued, he walks in.

"So what have you done with your life?" he asks the dog.

"I've led a very full life," says the dog. "I lived in the Alps rescuing avalanche victims. Then I served my country in Iraq. And now I spend my days reading to the residents of a retirement home."

The guy is flabbergasted. He asks the dog's owner, "Why on Earth would you want to get rid of an incredible dog like that?"

The owner says, "Because he's a liar! He never did any of that!"

**

That'll come back to haunt you

I tried having my mother's phone disconnected, but customer service told me that since the account was in my dad's name, he'd have to be the one to put in the request. The fact that he'd been dead for 40 years didn't sway the rep. Then a solution hit me: "If I stop paying the bill, you can turn off the service, right?"

"Well, yes," she said reluctantly. "But that would ruin his credit."

**

Panicking poodle

A poodle and a collie are walking together when the poodle suddenly unloads on his friend. "My life is a mess," he says. "My owner is mean, my girlfriend ran away with a schnauzer, and I'm as jittery as a cat."

"Why don't you go see a psychiatrist?" suggests the collie.

"I can't," says the poodle. "I'm not allowed on the couch."

**

Stereotypes in real life

A ventriloquist is performing with his dummy on his lap. He's telling a dumb-blond joke when a young platinum-haired beauty jumps to her feet. "What gives you the right to stereotype blondes that way?" she demands. "What does hair colour have to do with my worth as a human being?"

Flustered, the ventriloquist begins to stammer out an apology.

"You keep out of this!" she yells. "I'm talking to that little jerk on your knee!"

Down to size

During the pandemic, my two granddaughters—six and eight years old—were being home-schooled by their mom. One day, the eight-year-old had a spelling bee with her sister.

"Spell 'elephant,'" the older one said. "Let her spell small animals, not big ones," said her mom.

The older sister paused, then said, "Spell 'mosquito.'"

**

Holy spelling mistake!

A young monk arrives at the monastery. He is assigned to helping the other monks in copying the old laws of the church by hand. He notices, however, that all of the monks are copying from copies, not from the original manuscript. So, the new monk goes to the head monk to question this, pointing out that if someone made even a small error in the first copy, it would never be picked up! In fact, that error would be continued in all of the subsequent copies.

The head monk, says, "You make a good point, my son."

He goes down into the dark caves underneath the monastery where the original manuscripts are held in a locked vault. Hours go by and nobody sees the head monk. The young monk gets worried and goes down to look for him. He sees him banging his head against the wall and wailing.

"We missed the R! We missed the R! We missed the R!"

"Father!" cries the young monk.

"What's wrong?"

The head monk with tears in his eyes replies, "The word is celebrate!" ##

Letter from St James the Least of All

Happily, the Church of England still retains some singular parish clergy. Take the parish of St James-the-Least-of-All, for example. Here the elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar, Eustace, continues his correspondence to Darren, his nephew, a low-church curate recently ordained... by the *Revd Gary Bowness*.

On how to baffle the church committee

The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

I was delighted to hear that you have been made chairman of the Missionary Sub-committee; it should help you to hone your skills in appearing to encourage committee members to contribute while ensuring that they only say the things you want to hear. It is a skill that needs not a little practice; democracy only works if all the important decisions have been made beforehand.

However, do remember that sub-committees are only formed in order either to kill an idea stone dead, or to give the chairman of the main committee some time to decide what he wants, since he isn't sure how to handle the issue at that moment. I formed a sub-committee in 1999 to discuss Miss Fothergill's suggestion of creating a 'water feature' on the Rector's Glebe land, as a way of celebrating the Millennium. More than 25 years later, we are still actively discussing the idea.

I noted at the time that no one wanted the thing on their own land. It's significant that whenever people suggest some imposing edifice, they always think it will be most appropriate either in the Rector's garden, or in some public place, well out of sight of their own homes.

While the Water Feature Group has been working away tirelessly, and endless masons and architects have been approached, a suitable design has yet to be presented. It looks as if a suggestion will eventually be considered by my hundredth successor as we enter the third Millennium. That is the customary rate of progress for St James the Least, which I find entirely satisfactory.

The procedure for decision-making is always the same: after enormous effort, the sub-committee will produce a carefully worded report, which will be circulated round all members of the church council. At the next meeting, they will be thanked profusely for all their hard work, and the matter will be discussed at great length. It will then be proposed that the final decision will be taken at the next meeting, after everyone has had time to consider the matter more thoroughly.

Come the next meeting, the item will somehow fail to appear on the agenda, and when it is raised in Any Other Business, it will be pointed out that it is now far too late in the evening to tackle such an important issue. From then on, you can be assured, it will sink without trace.

Always remember the golden rule: a church committee meeting consists of a body of people waiting to go home.

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 276 892. Information about childcare <http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Taunton Foodbank
<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/help4all

BISHOP'S HULL FACILITIES

BH Parish Council - Helen McGladdery 07518144614
clerk@bishopshullparishcouncil.gov.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 -
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@la-pilates.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
Garden:	Monday
	<u>RUMWELL</u>
Refuse:	Thursday
Garden:	Wednesday

STONEGALLOWS

Refuse:	Thursday
Garden:	Monday

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)

SERVICES AT ST PETER & ST PAUL AUGUST 2026

Sunday 2 August Trinity 9	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Sally Adams	Romans 9:1-5 (1135); Matthew 14:13-21 (981)
Wednesday 5 August	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 9 August Trinity 10	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Tim Venn	Romans 10:5-15 (1137); Matthew 14:22-33 (981)
Wednesday 12 August	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 16 August Trinity 11	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Sonja Faupe	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 (1138); Matthew 15:21-28 (982)
Wednesday 19 August	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 23 August Trinity 12	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Paul Curry	Romans 12:1-8 (1139); Matthew 16:13-20 (983)
Wednesday 26 August	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 30 August Trinity 13	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Bob Coombs	Romans 12:9-21 (1139); Matthew 16:21-28 (983)

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 Hilary Harper

Safeguarding Officer: Beverley Keitch

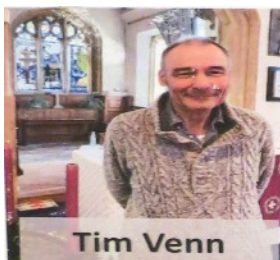
Other PCC Members - Rachel Horder.

Sue Martin

Hilary Harper .

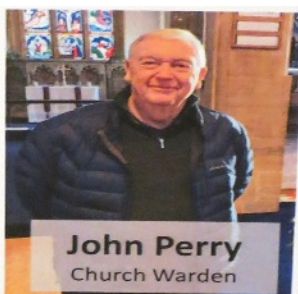
Mark Dakin

Lillian Priest



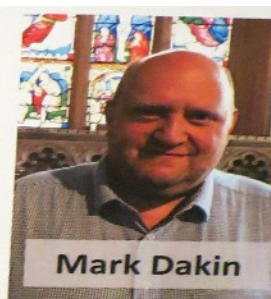
Tim Venn

Church Warden



John Perry

Church Warden



Mark Dakin

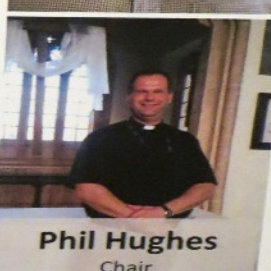


Sue Martin



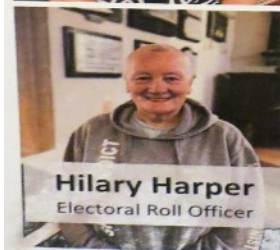
Rachel Horder

PCC Treasurer



Phil Hughes

Chair



Hilary Harper

Electoral Roll Officer



Beverley Keitch

Parish Safeguarding
Officer



Lillian Priest