



BISHOP'S HULL PARISH MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 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

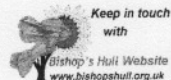
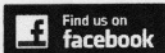
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE



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

Bishop's Hull Belles WI
Next meeting at The HUB
Thursday 24th September at 7.30pm
Guest Speaker
Claire Bounds - (Avon and Somerset Police)
Cyber Protection

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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I appreciate that the British are well known for their love of talking about the weather so it will not go amiss if I make a few comments on the weather we have been experiencing over the past two months.

It all started back in June when us gardeners were beginning to wonder if the earlier wet and chilly weather would have an adverse effect on our vegetables. We never imagined that within a few weeks we were praying for some rain. We prayed and prayed (did the usual rain dance) but it just got hotter and hotter. Many of us commented that it couldn't last. How wrong we were.

We were told by the weather forecasters that there was a 'heat dome' sitting over the UK and all the wet weather was heading north before it got to the UK. The southerly winds brought more and more heat up from sub-Saharan Africa and nothing seemed to be improving.

As Europe (and the UK) got hotter the lack of rainfall let the sun dry out the vegetation, especially the grass, and wild fires sprung up in just about every country. As time went on these fires became massive and in some areas villages and centres of population were devastated and lives lost.

Everyone was asking why were we getting these extremes of heat? Was this some cyclical event that happened over the centuries? Sorry, the experts said, "It is you and me who are responsible", came the reply. Too many people burning too much coal, oil and gas and filling the air with vast amounts of carbon dioxide. You either believe this or not. The debate continues daily.

Meanwhile, back in the vegetable patch, out came the hosepipe and we did our best to ensure the runner beans, beetroot, potatoes, etc. were all kept happy. (I hope you didn't water your lawn). All was/is not well. Although the bees were busy doing their usual thing, Mother Nature was also hard at work. If the temperature at night does not fall below a certain level (15C) then germination will not take place and your beans will not set. Down below in the potato patch the heat was also making itself felt. If the daytime temperature is above 30C no amount of water will encourage the plants to grow and your yield will be much less.

Thankfully late August began to give us all some respite as the rain returned. Much of the rain has to date been in the northern part of the UK but I have heard of some recent 'downpours' locally (but not in Waterfield Close).

In spite of all the challenges I am proud to report that at our recent Flower show I had success in the following classes - runner beans, French beans, carrots, potatoes and beetroot. My cactus made a 3rd and my quiche a second. Remember, if you live long enough, success will eventually knock on your door.

THE VICAR WRITES

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As summer goldenly fades, September brings that familiar, refreshing sense of new beginnings. September always feels like a second New Year for our community. A new term is starting for our local schools, and we hold all our children, teachers, and school staff in our prayers as they settle into new routines and opportunities.



I am particularly delighted to share that our faithful 'Open the Book' team will be heading back into the Primary school once again this term, bringing the wonderful stories of the Bible alive for the children through drama and storytelling. Hold them in your prayers!

We have some wonderful opportunities to gather together this month. On **Sunday 13th September at 10.00am**, we are privileged to welcome Marcio and Noemi our CMS link missionaries, who are joining us all the way from Brazil. Do come along to hear their inspiring testimony of God at work overseas; our service will be followed by Q&A and a delicious bring and share lunch – a sign up sheet is in church.

For those looking to grow deeper in faith and fellowship, our Tuesday **homegroup resumes on 15th September at 7.30pm**. Furthermore, on **Wednesday 16th September**, our new Confirmation group will begin for all those exploring taking this next step in their journey of faith. Contact Rev Phil Hughes for more details phil2overflowing@gmail.com

Towards the end of the month, do drop in for fellowship and delicious treats at our **Coffee Morning on Saturday 26th September**. Then, on **Sunday 27th September**, we will celebrate our **Harvest Services at both 8.00am and 10.00am**, giving thanks for God's abundant provision and bringing gifts to support those in need in our wider community.

May this new term bring you fresh hope, joy, and peace in Christ.

God bless

Rev Phil Hughes

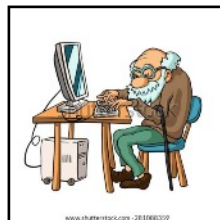
Vicar & Chaplain (College and Motorsport)



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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

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 26 SEPTEMBER 2026** From 10am till 12noon.

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



Bishop's Hull Parish Council News

Summary of the July meeting;

Kinglake Transfer of ownership to PC still pending. The Clerk has contacted Persimmon to remind them of their current responsibility to ensure the grass is still cut and bins are emptied until the transfer goes through. They have confirmed this will be actioned. The Clerk will also seek confirmation from Persimmon as to when the roads within the development will be transferred to SC responsibility.

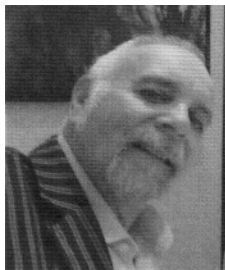
Play Park: Transfer of ownership to PC still pending. The PC agreed to take out an indemnity policy against mines and minerals at the advice of the PC solicitor at a cost of £56.00.

Other matters:

The updated financial regulations were approved by Councillors .A budget of £200 was set for planting in the Autumn. Allotment insurance was renewed at a cost of £175.97

Next meeting date: Thursday 3rd September, 7pm at the HUB.

Meet Cllr Paul Hopkins



Where are you likely to be seen in the village?

Walking our 2 dogs, Pickle, an aging rescue poodle and Truffle, a lively young cockerpoo, around the village.

Why are you a Parish Councillor?

When I became aware of the vacancy on the Parish Council, I did wonder whether I had the necessary skills to help make a difference. I always like to contribute, having previously been a staff governor at a local secondary school for 16 years and a long spell on the organising committee for the Historic Vehicle Gathering at Powderham Castle. Now I'm retired I have the time to get involved in the community rather than just living in the village.

When not volunteering as a Parish Councillor what are you likely to be doing?

I spend 3 mornings a week at a local gym to keep myself fit and active In the warmer months I will be off with my wife and the dogs in our camper van, exploring the South West .When relaxing you may find me sitting next to a river or lake, feeding the fish.

What would people be surprised to know about you?

I am a qualified youth cricket coach and umpire. In the mid 1990s I spent some time as a volunteer coach at the County Ground as part of the team coaching the County under 11s

From the Chairman -

“I thought I would take the opportunity for a catch up whilst there is no PC meeting in August. I hope you are coping with the heat which is of course most difficult to escape. Curtains drawn, windows closed, fans/coolers working overtime Phew. If you do venture out please, please take precautions against the conditions as heatstroke or exhaustion can creep in without you noticing until you become ill. On a, slightly, cooler note, I hope you have noticed that volunteers have given some attention to a number of footpaths and hedges where conditions allowed. If you have a hedge that is overgrown onto the public paths, please ensure you trim this back as soon as practicable to avoid restricting pedestrian access. There s plenty more to do around the village of course and if you spot ‘Team Bishop’s Hull volunteers doing their bit for the village, please engage with them or better still give them a hand?’ Our village certainly looks better for their actions. Please ensure you use litter/dog bins where necessary as there has been a noticeable increase in litter and dog poo bags lately. We pay good money for emptying the bins so please use them. Please report a bin if it is full to Somerset Council via their website. See Bishop’s Hull Parish Council website for details on how to get involved with Team Bishops Hull’. ”Love Volunteering-Love Our Village”.

As always, please feel free to make contact with myself or the Clerk should you require information on Parish Council activities or indeed with any thoughts and ideas for improvements. Enjoy the summer break in whatever ways you have chosen to do so and stay safe throughout

Kind Regards Tony Taylor”

Join our 100 club today and you could be our next winner!

You must be 16 years or older to purchase a ticket.

The 100 club supports the Bishop’s Hull Hub

Bishop’s Hull HUB - Bishops 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 reminder NO YOUTH CLUB IN AUGUST DUE TO HOLIDAYS

September - 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)

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 is 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 - mghways.southwest@bloorhomes.com

National Grid - 0800 096 3080

Wales and west utilities - 0800 912 2999

Take care, John Hunt

Fire in Netherclay Community Woodland.

At the end of July, I received a short video clip from David Gurr, Chair of the Friends of Netherclay group, showing the aftermath of a fire in Netherclay Woodland. Well done to the Bishop's Hull resident who alerted the emergency services, who arrived quickly and extinguished the blaze using beaters and portable water packs.

A huge thank you goes to the incredible Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service for their prompt response and decisive action. It does not bear thinking about how different the outcome might have been if the fire had gone unnoticed for another ten minutes.

At the time of writing (11th August), a fifth heatwave is forecast for Somerset. With temperatures remaining high and vegetation becoming extremely dry, everyone can play a part in protecting our countryside from fire. Even a small spark can quickly develop into a serious wildfire, putting people, wildlife, homes, woodlands and farmland at risk.

If you are visiting parks, open spaces or rural areas, please avoid using disposable barbecues, campfires or fire pits. Never drop cigarettes, matches or smoking materials on the ground, and make sure they are fully extinguished before disposal. Glass bottles and litter should always be taken home or placed in bins, as they can increase the risk of fire and create hazards for others.

If you are walking in the countryside, stick to designated paths where possible and be mindful of local fire risk warnings and restrictions. Farmers, landowners and businesses are also encouraged to review fire safety measures and ensure access routes remain clear for emergency vehicles.

If you spot a fire, leave the area immediately, move to a place of safety and call 999.

By taking a few simple precautions, we can all help keep our countryside safe during a heatwave.

Please take care everyone, John

Those new Royal Mail solar-powered digital post-boxes



Royal Mail has converted about 3,500 of the old trusty red post-boxes into digital affairs, out of the 115,000 post-boxes in the country. The new solar-powered digital post-boxes feature a solar panel roof, a built-in barcode scanner, and an extra-large drawer that accepts parcels up to shoebox size.

The idea is that the solar panels on top capture sunlight to power the digital scanner and automated drawer mechanism. So, then all you have to do is to scan the 2D barcode on your pre-paid parcel label, using the box's scanner to automatically open the large drawer.

The traditional letter slot remains, for regular stamped mail.

As for proof of posting? You use the Royal Mail app on your phone to track and request confirmation when you drop off an item.

If you don't want to download an app or use a printer, the good news is that you can still send your parcels as before, at a post office counter.

YOU ARE INVITED!

MARCIO & NOEMI
LINK MISSIONARIES FROM BRAZIL

JOIN US • BE ENCOURAGED • MAKE A DIFFERENCE



STORIES OF GOD AT WORK!

	DATE:	SUNDAY 13 TH SEPTEMBER 2026
	TIME:	10AM, SERVICE STARTS, FOLLOWED BY Q&A, THEN A SHARED LUNCH
	LOCATION:	ST PETER AND ST PAUL CHURCH BISHOPS HULL, TA1 5EG
	DETAILS:	ALL WELCOME!

Together in Faith, Sent to the World.

BISHOPS HULL FLOWER SHOW 2026

First Prize Winners by Class

16 August 2026

18:55

Division 1 Vegetables

Class:	Description:	First Prize Winner:
1	1 pot plant, 1 vase of flowers & 1 variety of vegetables	JENNY HILLIER
2	Pepper, 1 in number	Lin Pope
3	Runner Beans, 6 pods	Lin Pope
4	Dwarf Beans, 6 Pods	Lin Pope
5	Beetroot, 3 in number	ROBERT COOMBS
6	Carrots, 3 in number	J BAKER
7	Onions, 3 in number, not exceeding 3" in diameter	Lin Pope
8	Onions, 3 in number, exhibition	Lin Pope
9	Potatoes, white, 3 in number	NIALL WATSON
10	Potatoes, coloured, 3 in number	Lin Pope
11	Squash, any type, 1 in number	Lin Pope
12	Medium Tomatoes (with calyx and exceeding 35mm), 5 in number, same variety	LAURA POPE
13	Small Tomatoes (with calyx, not exceeding 35mm), 5 in number, same variety	JILL AMOS
14	Shallots, dish of 9	Lin Pope
15	Any other vegetable not on schedule	JANE GRAY
17	Longest bean	Lin Pope
18	Heaviest onion, trimmed for exhibition	Lin Pope
19	Collection of 5 type of vegetables (not less than 2 of each)	Lin Pope
20	Courgettes, 3 in number, maximum 6" flower optional	Lin Pope
21	'Wonkiest' Carrot	Lin Pope

Division 2 Flowers

Class:	Description:	First Prize Winner:
22	Display of cosmos in vase	Lin Pope
23	Sweet-peas, 6 stems	Jane Faber
24	Gladioli, 3 spikes	GARETH NEEDS
25	Roses, 5 blooms, individual stems	Jane Faber
26	1 rose (displayed with leaf on stem) in a vase	NIALL WATSON
27	Garden flowers, vase to show all round, with own foliage arranged for effect	Sue Parker
28	Pot plant, foliage, maximum pot size 8" diameter	JENNY HILLIER
29	Dahlias, cactus, vase of 3 blooms	Richard Venn
30	Dahlias, any other, vase of 3 blooms	Richard Venn
31	Grasses, vase of 3 varieties	DAVID GURR
32	3 heads of hydrangeas	JILL AMOS
33	1 cactus or succulent in pot, maximum pot size 5" diameter	JENNY HILLIER
34	1 African violet, maximum pot size 5" diameter	LAURA POPE

Division 2 Flowers

Class:	Description:	First Prize Winner:
35	Garden flowers, distinct kinds, 3 vases	PAT BARRETT
36	Geraniums, a vase of 5 stems	MARIAN ASH
37	1 vase of shrubs, (not to include roses)	Rebecca Fisk
38	1 vase of 5 stems of mixed annuals	Lin Pope
39	1 vase of cut culinary herbs, named (min 3 kinds)	DAVID GURR
40	Hanging Basket in Bishops Hull	1 Shutewater Close

Division 3 Fruit

Class:	Description:	First Prize Winner:
41	Plate of soft fruit, not from tree, 1 kind	PAT BARRETT
42	Plate of any other fruit from tree, not soft fruit	NIALL WATSON

Division 4 Floral Art

Class:	Description:	First Prize Winner:
43	'English Country Garden' basket arrangement of garden flowers, foliage & other natural materials - show one way	JENNY HILLIER
44	An arrangement of flowers in an unusual container. Not to exceed 18"x 18"x 18"	SUE FAIRE
45	Table arrangement displayed all round. Not to exceed 12 x 12" No height restriction	JENNY HILLIER
46	An arrangement of 5 flower stems with foliage, displayed one way. Not to exceed 18"x 18" (Novice Class)	Rebecca Fisk
47	A container of floating flower heads freely floating, container not to exceed 12" diameter	NANCY SMALLDON
48	An arrangement of flowers in a cup and saucer	JASMIN POPE

Division 5 Homecraft

Class:	Description:	First Prize Winner:
49	Jar of jam	JANE GURR
51	Jar of jelly	Lin Pope
52	Jar of lemon curd	Jane Disborough
53	Jar of chutney	Jane Disborough
54	5 fruit scones	LAURA POPE
55	Quiche	LAURA POPE
56	Victoria sandwich cake 7" cake tin, 6 oz mix with 3 eggs, red jam, no cream	IRIS DAY
57	5 lemon biscuits	J BAKER
58	Savoury loaf of bread with yeast (label flavourings)	JEMMA GURR
59	Lemon drizzle cake	JEMMA GURR
60	Cheese Loaf (judged according to the recipe on page 8)	JENNY HILLIER
61	3 chocolate brownies	Richard Venn
62	3 bread pudding slices	NANCY SMALLDON
63	Gluten free cake	SUE FAIRE
64	Vegan cake	JILL AMOS

Division 5 Homecraft

Class:	Description:	First Prize Winner:
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Division 6 Handicrafts

Class:	Description:	First Prize Winner:
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65	A sewn garment (item of clothing) - hand and/or machine sewn. No pictures or wall hangings	Vivien Atkins
66	A hand and/or machine embroidered picture	LIN TARRANT
67	A handmade knitted garment	LUCY ROBIN
68	A handmade crochet item	Vivien Atkins
69	A handmade toy, any medium	Claire Loder
70	A handmade wooden article	ROBERT MORGAN
71	A wood turned object	Mr R BOOTHER
72	A handmade greeting card for a celebration. To be created by the exhibitor from base materials	SUE FAIRE
73	Any other handicraft not included in this section (no kits)	JASMIN POPE
74	A photograph "architecture" (not mounted) max size 7"x5"	PAT BARRETT
75	A photograph using a mobile phone "Street Photography" (not mounted) max size 7"x5"	JEMMA GURR
76	A watercolor painting Max frame 18"x 22"	Richard Holland
77	A painting, any medium, not watercolour. Max frame size 18"x22" State materials/method used	MARGARET PEPPARD
		Richard Holland

Division 7 Children - age 4 and under

Class:	Description:	First Prize Winner:
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78	Potato print picture	Maverick Ambrose
79	Decorate a crown	JACOB AYRES
80	Face on a plate	Maverick Ambrose

Division 8 Children - age 5 to 8 years

Class:	Description:	First Prize Winner:
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81	Make a bughouse	Jackson Ambrose
82	Decorate 3 biscuits	Freddie Palmer
83	A painted pebble	Jackson Ambrose

Division 9 Children - age 9 to 12 years

Class:	Description:	First Prize Winner:
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84	Display flowers in a jam jar	ROSA PHILLIPS
85	Make and decorate a sponge cake	FERN ROBIN
86	Make a miniature garden in a seed tray. Max 10" x 10"	ANNABEL NEEDS
87	Design and display a book cover	FERN ROBIN

BISHOPS HULL FLOWER SHOW 2026**Cup Winners by Division or Group - PRESS Report**

16 August 2026

18:47

DIVISION

Trophy ID:	Trophy Name:	Fullname:
8	Mr T Nash's Silver Salver Exhibitor gaining the most prize cards in the Vegetable, Flower & Fruit Sections	Lin Pope
14	Miss Hicks Trophy Most prize cards by an entrant	Lin Pope

DIVISION 5 Homecraft

Trophy ID:	Trophy Name:	Fullname:
11	Robins Close Cup Most prize cards in Homecraft section	JEMMA GURR

GROUP Vegetables

Trophy ID:	Trophy Name:	Fullname:
1	O J Fry Cup Best exhibit in Class 1	JENNY HILLIER
2	Stan Parsons Cup Best runner beans in show	Lin Pope
3	Jim Baker Cup Best carrots in the show	J BAKER
4	Mr Gamlin Perpetual Cup and Monkton Elm £10 voucher Best exhibit in the vegetable section	Lin Pope
24	Baker cup Wonkiest carrot	Lin Pope

GROUP Flowers

Trophy ID:	Trophy Name:	Fullname:
5	May Rowland Perpetual Cup Best exhibit in Class 34, African Violet	LAURA POPE
6	C Smith Perpetual Cup and £5 Best exhibit in the Flower Section	DAVID GURR
15	Avery nurseries £5 voucher Best exhibit in class 27	Sue Parker
16	Avery £5 voucher 1st - Best individual hanging basket in Bishops Hull	1 Shutewater Close

BISHOPS HULL FLOWER SHOW 2026

Cup Winners by Division or Group - PRESS Report

16 August 2026

18:47

GROUP Fruit

Trophy ID: Trophy Name:

Fullname:

- 7 Fred Yeandle Perpetual Cup and £5
Best exhibit in the Fruit Section

NIALL WATSON

GROUP Floral Art

Trophy ID: Trophy Name:

Fullname:

- 9 Rose Bowl and £5
Best exhibit in the Floral Art classes

JASMIN POPE

GROUP Homecraft

Trophy ID: Trophy Name:

Fullname:

- 10 George Drew Perpetual Trophy and Rumwell Farm shop £5 voucher
Best exhibit in the Homecraft section

Jane Disborough

GROUP Handicrafts

Trophy ID: Trophy Name:

Fullname:

- 12 Mrs B Harris Perpetual Cup and £10 Monkton Elm voucher
Best exhibit in the Handicraft section

ROBERT MORGAN

- 13 Diana Rose Cup
Best exhibit in class 76 and 77, A Painting

Richard Holland

GROUP Childrens Classes (age 4 years & under)

Trophy ID: Trophy Name:

Fullname:

- 20 Rosette
Best exhibit preschool children aged 4 and under

Maverick Ambrose

GROUP Childrens Classes (age 5 to 8 years)

Trophy ID: Trophy Name:

Fullname:

- 21 Rosette
Best exhibit childrens class aged 5-8yrs

Jackson Ambrose

GROUP Childrens Classes (age 9 to 12 years)

Trophy ID: Trophy Name:

Fullname:

- 22 Rosette
Best exhibit childrens class aged 9-12 years

FERN ROBIN

By David Pickup, a solicitor

Hard Times



There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number, living things both large and small. Psalm 104:25 Do you remember rock? I do not mean the music, but the confectionery sticks sold at seaside resorts. They were pink cylinders about a foot long and an inch wide with a white centre and had the name of the place in letters. They were covered in film and had a small label with a picture of the place on. It is sometimes referred to now as Rock Candy which does not seem right. They were hard as, well, hard as rock and very difficult to break up to eat. Real teeth breakers.

One source says it started at fairgrounds in the 19th Century, when sugar was plentiful and inexpensive. It was not brightly coloured or lettered in those days, but it was of similar shape and size as it is today.

Ben Bullock was an ex-miner from Burnley, who conceived the idea whilst holidaying in Blackpool. He began producing sticks of brightly coloured lettered candy at his Yorkshire-based sweet factory in 1887. He sent his first batch of

lettered rock to retailers in Blackpool, where it was well received. Other sources say a Victorian character by the name of Dynamite Dick, who came from either Morecambe or Blackpool.

It takes a lot of skill to make it. I think it is still available on sale to eat or keep as a souvenir.

How often should you change your sheets?

Ever wonder that?



When the question was put to various sleep coaches and sheet manufacturers, they came up with a variety of things to consider.

Once a week is thought to be good practice by many, but no more than twice a week, or you risk putting unnecessary wear and tear on your bedlinen.

Do you bath at night or in the morning? It matters, because that determines how much dust and sweat you will be taking to bed with you each night.

Do your pets sleep with you? In that case you may wish to change your bedding more than once a week. They may be leaving the odd flea, tick and certainly some fur in your bed.

Do you have allergies? If they include dust mites, it may be worth changing your bed every three to four days.

Allergy UK advises a 60 degree wash to kill dust mites.

And finally, don't rush to make your bed each morning. Instead, pull back the sheets, open the window, and give it some time to air.

**

Can't sleep? Could these drinks be keeping you awake?



Sleep experts suggest the following possible suspects:

Alcohol. It interferes with the way your brain shuts down for the night. It can disrupt the deeper, more restorative level of sleep that you need.

Hot chocolate. Here it is the added sugar that is the problem. It gives you an energy boost that you don't need at bedtime!

Tea or coffee in the afternoon. Caffeine stays in your system for at least five hours.

That glass of water by your bed. It will probably wake you up in the night. Instead, consider increasing your liquid intake earlier in the day. But if you really want a drink at bedtime, here are three that might help: Chamomile tea has an antioxidant called apigenin, which promotes sleepiness. Warm milk contains tryptophan, an amino acid that helps produce serotonin and melatonin. And peppermint tea soothes your digestive system.

**

Why wearing slippers isn't always so cosy

Many of us love the comfort of wearing our slippers around the house. They are warm and cosy and keep the carpets clean.

But – if you wear them for many hours a day, beware: slippers can be dangerous when they show signs of wear and tear. Soles with holes, flaps, worn down backs, or frayed uppers are the reasons for thousands of painful falls each year.

How sturdy are your slippers? If you can fold them in half, they are not supporting your feet. So walking on the hard floors in your home will mean that the impact from each step goes straight to your knees, hips and lower back.

And what about arch support?

Anyone with arthritis, sciatica, knee and back pain or plantar fasciitis will really struggle without it.

Instead, slippers need to have a rubbery cushioned thick sole, which provides some shock absorption. And they need to have a heel cup indentation, so it is easy to keep the slipper on. Otherwise, you will be clawing your foot to hang on to them, which will put strain on the tendons below. Some people find that croc-style clogs are a good option.

At the end of the day, it pays to be good to your feet. They are a complicated and wonderful mix of 26 bones, 33 small joints, 29 muscles, and dozens of tendons, ligaments, nerves and blood vessels. In the words of the Psalmist, your foot is 'fearfully and wonderfully made' and deserves your protection and support.

**

Government consultation on weddings proposes greater flexibility and cheaper options



Couples will soon be able to marry almost anywhere, including forests, beaches, cruise ships at sea, canal boats, and at home, under Government proposals that “shift the focus from bricks and mortar to people and promises”.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is to consult on plans to allow “authorised officiants” of any religion or belief to conduct weddings, in what are being described as the most radical changes to marriage law in England and Wales since the 19th century.

The Government says, however, that the “permanence” of marriage will be strengthened by enabling more questioning of candidates before their weddings.

“To protect against forced, predatory and sham marriages, couples must complete a two-stage process, including in-person interview, to verify their identity and demonstrate eligibility to marry.”

Anglican banns of marriage would continue “as an important part of the established Church”, the document says.

It continues: “The Government agrees with the Law Commission’s recommendation that Anglican weddings should continue to be conducted as they are now. It recognises the unique role of the Church of England and the Church [in] Wales in relation to marriage and has no plans to alter . . . these roles.”

The MoJ says that the proposals will reduce costs. The average wedding in England costs more than £20,000 and venue hire alone typically costs around £6,000 - before any food.

About 470,000 people marry in England and Wales each year. Anglican weddings are generally required to take place in a church or chapel, although they can take place in a private home by special licence.

EAT WELL FOR LESS DURING SEPTEMBER

HARICOT BEAN SOUP

1 lb. haricot beans.
2 Spanish onions.
1 peeled turnip:
1 stick celery.
2 quarts water:
1 pint milk.
2 ozs. Dripping.
Pinch ground
mace.
Sprig parsley:
2 tomatoes.
Salt and pepper.



SOAK beans in cold water overnight. Next day drain and add to water with mace, diced vegetables, pepper and dripping. Bring to boil and simmer for 3 hours, adding the sliced tomatoes 30 minutes before the soup is ready. When ready, rub through a wire sieve and add milk, minced parsley, and salt to taste. Reheat and serve.

For 6 or 8 people.

*From Mrs. J. R. Robinson,
Cumberland.*

FISH PUDDING

1 lb. Cod.
1 beaten egg.
1 gill milk.
Breadcrumbs.
Margarine:
mustard.
Pepper and salt.



BOIL cod in salted water, then remove the bones and skin and flake. Grease a mould and place alternate layers of fish and breadcrumbs. Season with a pinch of mustard, pepper, and salt. Pour over the milk and beaten egg, dot the top with

bits of margarine and bake in a good oven until lightly browned. Turn out and serve very hot.

From Mrs. Rogers, Wrexham.

BEETROOT AND POTATO PIE



1 lb. boiled or steamed potatoes.
 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. Beetroot.
1 large onion.
1 oz. margarine.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Flour.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ pint milk.
2 tablespoonfuls grated cheese.
Pepper and salt.

GREASE a pie-dish. Place in it alternate layers of sliced cooked potatoes and beetroot, having potatoes on top. Pour over the onion sauce made as follows :--

Melt fat. Fry in it the onion previously skinned and chopped; but do not allow it to brown. Stir in the flour. Add milk, and let sauce cook undisturbed until it nearly reaches boiling-point. Then beat until quite smooth. Season with pepper and salt. Sprinkle grated cheese over the top of the pie-dish, and bake till a golden colour in the oven.

*From Min Christian Milne,
Aberdeenshire.*

APPLE DELIGHT



6 ozs. self-raising flour.
2 ozs. sugar.
3 ozs. Lard.
1 egg white.
1 lb. cooking apples.
A pinch of salt.

MAKE a short pastry by rubbing the fat and a pinch of salt into the flour. Roll out pastry and line a sandwich-tin; bake until golden brown. Peel, core and slice the apples, cook with sugar and a little water until very soft. Beat up with a fork and fill the pastry. Whisk the egg white until stiff and spread evenly on apple. Return to the oven for a few minutes to brown and when cold decorate with a little black currant jam. Serve cold with custard.

From Miss A. Everall, Warwickshire

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 14, -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 1¼ hours.

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

From Mrs. R. Cruse, Worcestershire.

RHUBARB AND BANANA PIE



1 lb. Rhubarb.

1 egg white.

3 ozs. Sugar.

2 ozs. Almonds.

The grated rind of ½ a lemon.

2 tablespoonfuls castor sugar.

4 bananas.

WASH the rhubarb and cut into small lengths, put into a pie-dish and sprinkle with lemon rind and the sugar. Peel the bananas, crush and beat to pulp with the castor sugar; when soft beat in the white of the egg. Continue beating until quite stiff.

Spread on the top of rhubarb to form a crust, sprinkle the top with blanched almonds, and bake in a moderate oven for ½ hour.

Serve hot with custard or cream.

From Mrs. J. W. Foster, Yorkshire.

BISHOP'S HULL IN TIMES PAST

100 years ago



In connection with the Union of Guilds and Christian Endeavour Societies a devotional rally was held at Bishop's Hull Chapel. The pastor of the church presided, supported by the Revs JT Henwood and FE Boorman. The address was given by Mr R Stone of Pyrland on 'Young People's Present Day Advantages'. Short addresses by the Revs Henwood and Boorman brought to a close an inspiring meeting.

Forty-two members of Rumwell Working Men's Club were favoured with fine weather for their 4th annual outing with a trip to Weymouth by charabanc. The party halted once on the outward journey and twice on the homeward way to partake of food and refreshments, prepared by the host and hostess, Mr and Mrs Marker. Tea was provided at the Dorothy Restaurant. The visitors spent about eight hours at the Dorset resort and returned delighted with the day's pleasures. This outing marked the commencement of the usual club season.

Members of the Farncombe Company of Girl Guides formed a guard of honour at the wedding at Godalming Parish Church of Miss Mildred Eldon, only daughter of Mr and Mrs A Elson of Farncombe, to Mr Clifford James Pugsley, only surviving son of Mr and Mrs T Pugsley, of Woodlands, Bishop's Hull. The bride had held the rank of lieutenant in the Farncombe Company of Girl Guides, and the bridegroom was a Bellringer at the Godalming Parish Church. Both were members of the Godalming Musical Society. In honour of the event the bridegroom's fellow ringers rang a peal on the church bells at the conclusion of the service. The reception, attended by about 60 guests, was held in the Churchroom, Farncombe. Mr and Mrs Pugsley afterwards left for Winchester en-route to Somerset for the honeymoon.

Bishop's Hull fete provided a variety of attractions for a large attendance, combining a highly creditable flower show, a baby show and a popular gymkhana and sports programme. Bishop's Hull sports had been a successful annual event for some time and the previous year a flower show on a small scale was introduced. This year there had been a notable advance on the show side, the entries received exceeding 300, double those of last year. The fete was held in a field kindly lent by Mr H Quartly and its objective financially was to provide a good donation for the Bishop's Hull District Nursing Association. Mr GU Farrant was the popular president of the fete and show and he was also a successful exhibitor, both of flowers and vegetables. The show exhibits were staged in one large tent, where they made an exceedingly effective display. Credit was due to the Show Committee and Mr CH Payne, the hon secretary, for the way in which this important section of the day's festivity was organised. Mr Payne's fellow Committee members were Mr EA Dimond (chairman), Mr G Pring, Mr T Smith and Mr EA Wilkins. Mr PJ Case of the Staplegrove Nurseries and Mr Chapell of Trull were the judges. Facing the entrance to the tent was a large and tastefully

arranged non-competitive group of plants and hardy cut flowers shown by Mr EA Wilkins of Fideoak Nurseries. Arranged under the auspices of the local Nursing Association by the hon secretary, Mrs EP Peters, a baby show formed one of the afternoon attractions for mothers of bonny infants in the district. A good entry of 22 babies was received from the parishes within the flowers show area, and the judging was carried out by Miss Gane, county superintendent of nurses. The popular gymkhana saw entries from the stables of some of the best-known local competitors, including Messrs D and E Worrall, LG Dorse, WF Sellick and W Bromfield. The finishes were judged by Admiral Sir Wm Nicholson KCB.

50 years ago

At the first meeting since elections, the Parish Council re-elected Mr AE Smith chairman and Mrs SM Gwyther vice-chairman. Consideration was given to proposed street names for the Bishop's Meadow estate and it was recommended that one should be named Waterfield Drive in memory of the late Miss PG Waterfield. Regarding the council's request for an additional street lighting at Farrant Close, the clerk reported that due to economy measures the County Council was unable to provide any additional lighting during the current financial year. On provision of allotments, the council was prepared to operate a scheme using private gardens when owners unable to cultivate their land were willing to permit its use by other residents. It was agreed that notices be displayed inviting residents prepared to participate, either by permitting use of their gardens or by cultivating such gardens, to contact any member of the council.

The funeral took place at Taunton Deane crematorium of Mr Arthur Leslie Bradbeer of Smithy, who died at Cheddon Road Hospital after a long illness. Formerly a retort stoker at Taunton gasworks, Mr Bradbeer was employed as a dairyman by Mr and Mrs DJ Venn at Newley Farm until 1971, when he began work at Hunts Dairies. The funeral service was conducted by the vicar of Bishops Hull, the Rev EG Mullins. The Co-operative Funeral Service, of Priorswood Road, made the arrangements.

At a meeting of the Bishops Hull Village Hall and Playing Field Association, the treasurer reported that the fete made a profit of £480. It was agreed that it would have been £800 if the weather had been fine. The chairman said that the association would have to make up the deficiency soon in order to keep to the target of £2,000 a year for the next two years. He thanked everyone who had contributed to the success of the fete. Winners of the fete queen contest were: Queen, Zoe White; Princess, Melanie Hooper; attendant, Deborah Bond. The football club, under the leadership of David Shorney, sold £30 worth of programmes. Details of the sponsored walk were given by Mr Gordon Hooper. The meeting discussed the latest plan for the proposed hall and Mr Mike Sharpe reported on the meeting held with the county education authority on the favourable reply received from the Charity Commissioners. He mentioned the drawing up of a document relating to the management of the hall when completed.

Back to School - facing that first Day



No matter how old we are, we can probably remember our first day at school – being left at the door, meeting children we did not know, separated from the adults we did know and had trusted since the day we were born. But on the other hand, there was the excitement: a big step along the road of life, new friends to make, another adult to become important in our lives. Yes, quite a lot to handle when you're rising five!

And that's what hundreds of thousands of children are going to experience this month. Parents may have prepared them for it, and they may in a slightly apprehensive way be looking forward to it, but it must feel to the five-year-old like a massive step into the unknown.

Not much less is the anxiety of mum, who leaves her precious child, proudly resplendent in their new school uniform, in the Reception class-room. Will he or she suddenly panic, and cry for that familiar parental cuddle? Will they feel abandoned in an alien setting? Will they like the teacher?

Of course we'll be praying for them, and we know that like millions of others before them they will very probably eventually decide that their schooldays were among the best of their lives. But end of class can't come soon enough for mum on that first day! How wonderful when they come running out, laughing and excited, clutching a piece of paper with some obscure crayon marks on it – written evidence of their first day's education.



He gave us eyes to see them' **The Church Bells**

S'ummoned by Bells' is the title of John Betjeman's poetic autobiography, where he describes how bells summoned him to school and to church. Bells announcing the joy of weddings and Sunday services; and also marking out times of sadness and the death of loved ones. One of the strangest bell-towers is at St Augustine's Church, Brookland in Kent, north-east of Rye. It was originally built in the medieval period, and now stands as a triple coned, wooden, octagonal tower detached from the church, and clad with shingles in 1936.

The story is that the tower looked down at a beautiful bride about to marry an unpleasant groom: it was such a surprise that the tower jumped off the church in shock. The truth is that the church was built on marshy ground, and a stronger foundation was needed for the bells. And so the tower was built north of the church.

Like all belfries and steeples, it is an impressive witness to the place of bells in human life and work: as time-keepers, announcing both festive occasions and emergencies, and calling people away from more worldly pursuits to worship. That is why bells have always been blessed at their installation for their true function is to ring out the harmony of heaven. .

The tenor bell at Warburton Church in Cheshire is inscribed with the words, 'I bid you to the house of prayer, 'I bid you to the house of prayer. St Werburgh's hallowed name I bear. Good folk draw near and humbly pray, as prayed that

saint in olden day.' As a little boy, John Betjeman would listen to the bells with his teddy bear, Archibald. 'I heard the church bells hollowing out the sky, deep beyond deep, like never-ending stars.'

'Back to School

The summer days of leisure
Give way to autumn cool;
Our mood is hard to measure
As we go back to school.

The table that was bearing
The fizzy pop and snacks
The surface is now caring
For books and packed lunch packs.

It's sad when times of easy rest
Give way to daily grind;
The bright side, when we're feeling
stressed
Can be quite hard to find!

But we can't live forever
On a beach of golden sand;
It wouldn't be so clever
To live our lives unplanned!

A new phase is beginning
New scope of things to learn,
New ways we can be winning
New corners we can turn!

When school days are behind us
And faded, like a ghost -
The summertime will find us
.....?

By Nigel Beeton

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

The autobiography of Sir John Reresby, Baronet, of Thrybergh in the West Riding of Yorkshire, supplies atypical instance of the changing fortunes of a Cavalier landed family. Sir John's father died in 1646, the year after Naseby, leaving the estate in debt for £12,000, 'not through ill husbandry but through reason of the war'. He had been taken prisoner by the Roundheads two years before his death, 'confined to his own house', and forced by fines to sell 'a large wood, all of it great timber, that stood in the Park'. His son, Sir John, aged twelve at the time of his succession to the encumbered estate, managed, under the careful conduct of his mother, to pull things round. In the next twenty years the debts were gradually paid off, and in 1688 Sir John was in a position to begin a series of improvements in his country house. .

He rebuilt the exterior of the manor-house with stone in place of roughcast; he put 'a new Wainscot in several of the rooms'; he enlarged the deer park by taking in some arable fields and 'encompassed it with a stone wall'; to replace the timber sold during the troubles he planted ashes and sycamores, chosen as more suitable to the soil than 'trees of better kinds'; he brought the garden up to date, making a 'jett d'eau or fountain, in the middle of the parterre, and the grotto in the summerhouse and brought the water in lead pipes', and he raised the height of the garden wall. These operations were frugally spread over a number of years. Finally, just before the Revolution, he was 'at some charge to repair and beautify the Church and the windows and to give a new bell to the steeple'.

So far from being an 'illiterate squire', Sir John was a fair Latin scholar and had a smattering of Greek; he talked Italian fluently and French like a Frenchman. In his youth he had spent some time in Padua University and in Venice, learning music and mathematics. At home he was an active Justice of the Peace; his clerk, he tells us, made '£40 a year out of the place' — more than many clergymen received from their livings. Sir John sat for the rotten borough of Aldborough (Yorks), where there were only nine electors, privileged owners of 'burgage houses'. A moderate and cautious Tory, Sir John became a House of Commons man, a courtier, sometimes a paid servant of the Crown. But he never ceased to be, first and foremost, a country gentleman.

Landowners of this type, with estates of the middling size and with outside connexions and sources of profit, could more than hold their own in the Restoration world. But the small squire who lived on the proceeds of farming his own land but had little or no rents or other property, a man of meagre education and no knowledge of the world outside his own country, was beginning to lose ground in the latter part of the seventeenth century. The economic situation was gradually turning against him, for capital was needed to keep up with the new methods of land improvement. The fines and losses of the Civil War period might be a weight round the neck of a small estate for many years after the Restoration. And henceforth, more than -ever, the great landowners and the men who had acquired new wealth by law, politics, or

commerce, were on the look-out for land, and ready to buy up the needy small owner with tempting offers. In this way the Dukes of Bedford added acre to acre, and manor to manor, till it seemed as if all Bedfordshire were theirs.

This process of increasing the great estates by extinguishing the small culminated in the reign of George III, but it had already begun in the reign of Charles II. It accounts for much of the bitterness of Tory feeling immediately after the Revolution of 1688 against the moneyed men and the great Whig Lords. The small squire was usually a Tory and he specially detested the burden laid on his vanishing patrimony by the land tax, raised to pay for the wars of William and Marlborough, the more so as he believed that the proceeds of the tax went into the pockets of low-born army contractors, and of rich Dissenters, Londoners and Dutchmen who lent money to government.

Though less fatal to the whole race of landowners than our modern income tax and death duties, the land tax was a sore burden to many small estates. War and taxation certainly hastened the change, but at bottom the creation of great estates out of small was a natural economic process, analogous to the absorption of small businesses by large in the industrial world of our own day. If once agriculture came to be regarded as a means of producing national wealth, and no longer as a means of maintaining a given state of society, the change was inevitable. The capital in the hands of the great acquisitive landowners, and their devotion to the business and profit of landowning, were necessary conditions of that 'agricultural revolution' which in the eighteenth century so greatly increased the productivity of the English soil by wholesale enclosure and by the general application of new agricultural methods.

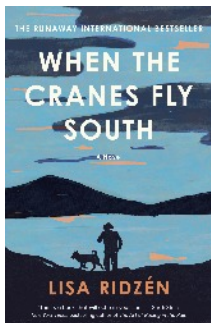
In the reign of Charles II these changes were still in the experimental stage. Agricultural writers were advocating, and a few more enlightened landlords and farmers were practising, the improvements which became general in the following century - scientific rotation of crops, proper feeding of stock in winter, roots and clovers, the field cultivation of turnips and potatoes, oil-cake, silos, the storage of water. In the Restoration period all these things were known, but their general adoption was retarded by the open-field system with its half-communal agriculture, and by the want of capital and knowledge among the small squires and yeomen freeholders to whom so much of the land still belonged. And even the big landowners, in the generation immediately following the disturbance of the Civil Wars had not enough confidence in the future, not enough capital or credit, nor enough personal interest in agriculture to take the lead in land improvement on a large scale, like their descendants in the days of 'Turnip Townshend', Coke of Norfolk, and Arthur Young.

After the Restoration rents were rising, but the landlords put too little of them back into the land and failed to encourage good farmer.

*He that havocs may sit:
He that improves must flit*

was a Berkshire saying of this time: 'Our gentry are grown ignorant in everything of good husbandry,' wrote Pepys. For lack of leadership and capital the age of change was postponed.

BOOK REVIEWS



When the Cranes Fly South

Lisa Ridzén, Alice Menzies
(Translator)

Bo is running out of time. Yet time is one of the few things he's

got left. These days, his quiet existence is broken up only by daily visits from his home care team. Fortunately, he still has his beloved elkhound Sixten to keep him company ... though now his son, with whom Bo has had a rocky relationship, insists upon taking the dog away, claiming that Bo has grown too old to properly care for him. The threat of losing Sixten stirs up a whirlwind of emotion, leading Bo to take stock of his life, his relationships, and the imperfect way he's expressed his love over the years.



Last Man Out:

An RAF Rear Gunner's True Story of Fire, Wire, and the Long Walk Home

by Ronald M Wade (Author)

His life. Or the man

beside him. Sergeant Ron Wade had seven seconds to choose. On the night of 16 January 1941, twenty-three-year-old Ron was

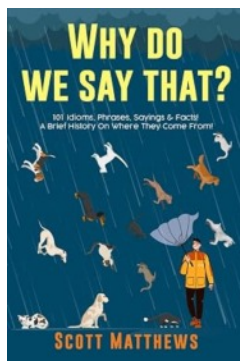
about to jump from a burning Whitley bomber over the Dutch coast.

Then he saw his navigator coming up the fuselage. Parachute and harness in his hands. Unable to put them on.

The aircraft was on fire. The silk was on fire. The North Sea was below. Ron turned back. He zipped the navigator's harness shut, pushed him out, and jumped after him. He was the last man out of Z6462. Of the 125,000 men who flew with RAF Bomber Command in the Second World War, 55,573 were killed. 9,838 were taken prisoner. Ron was one of the 9,838.

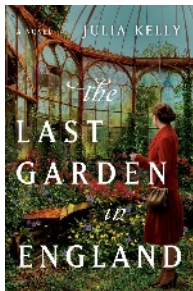
And what came next was harder than the falling aircraft.

Why Do We Say That?



101 Idioms, Phrases, Sayings & Facts! A Brief History On Where They Come From!
by Scott Matthews (Author)

Why do you “call shotgun” when you want the front passenger seat? What does “letting the cat out of the bag” have to do with divulging secrets? Why do you ask people to “cut to the chase”? Why do you hear all those juicy rumors “through the grapevine”?



The Last Garden in England is a poignant and heartwrenching tale of five women in three eras, whose lives are tied together by one very special place.

Present Day: Emma

Lovett, who has dedicated her life to breathing new life into long-neglected gardens, has just been given the opportunity of a lifetime: to restore the gardens of the famed Highbury House, designed in 1907 by her hero Venetia Smith. But as Emma dives deeper into the garden's past, she begins to uncover secrets that have long been hidden from history.

1907: A talented artist with a growing reputation for her ambitious work, Venetia Smith has carved out a niche for herself as a garden designer to well-to-do industrialists, solicitors, and bankers looking to show off their wealth with sumptuous country houses. She is determined to make Highbury House a triumph, but the gardens there—and the people she meets—will change her life forever.

1944: When land girl Beth Pedley arrives at a farm on the outskirts of the village of Highbury, all she wants is to find a place she can call home, while cook Stella Adderton could not be more desperate to leave Highbury House pursue her own dreams. Diana Symonds, a widow and the mistress of the grand house, is desperately trying to cling to her pre-war life now that Highbury House has been requisitioned to become a convalescent hospital for wounded soldiers. But when war threatens the

gardens at Highbury House, these three women are drawn together by a secret that will last decades.

The Last Garden in England explores the unexpected connections that can cross time and the special places that can bind us together in unbreakable bonds.

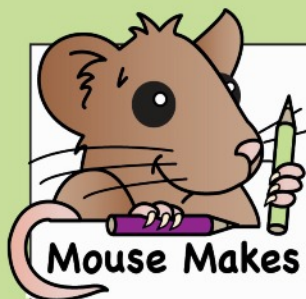
The author of the “enthrralling” (Woman’s World) *The Lost English Girl* returns with a heartfelt new novel about estranged sisters who inherit their late mother’s dress shop in World War II London.



Isabelle Shelton has always found comfort in the predictable world of her mother’s dressmaking shop, Mrs. Shelton’s Fashions, while her sister Sylvia turned her back on the family years ago to marry a wealthy doctor whom Izzie detests. When their mother dies unexpectedly, the sisters are stunned to find they’ve jointly inherited the family business. Izzie is determined to buy Sylvia out, but when she’s conscripted into the WAAF, she’s forced to seek Sylvia’s help to keep the shop open. Realizing this could be her one chance at reconciliation with her sister, Sylvia is determined to save Mrs. Shelton’s Fashions from closure—and financial ruin.

Through letters, the sisters begin to confront old wounds, new loves, and the weight of family legacy in order to forge new beginnings in this lyrically moving novel perfect for fans of Genevieve Graham and Lucinda Riley.

###



Mouse Makes



READ
John 15:1-17

How many
times does Jesus
use the word
FRUIT?

What does
Jesus command?
To _____
one another.
John 15:12,17

THE TRUE VINE

Who is the vine?

_____ "
John 15:1

What does Jesus
ask us to do?
"Go and bear

_____ "
John 15:16

What happens
to the branches
that do not remain
in the vine?
Thrown into the

_____ and _____

How many
times does Jesus
command us
to **LOVE**
one another?

_____ "
John 15:6

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

JESUS • I AM • TRUE • VINE • FATHER
GARDENER • FRUIT • FRUITFUL
BRANCH • PRUNES • CUT • WITHERS
CLEAN • THROWN AWAY • FIRE • BURNS
REMAIN • ABIDE • DISCIPLES • JOY



Called to care for God's earth

By Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' (Genesis 1:26).

These words come from the account of creation found in Genesis Chapter 1. I'm often asked about this text. Is it true? How do I square its words with my understanding of science? Do I believe this is how the world was made?

I don't think Genesis 1 is a literal account, a description offered in the style of a David Attenborough documentary. Rather I suggest that this account is so stuffed with truth that it's hard for us to deal with. Truth that's not about factual deception but that's about meaning, purpose and value. Genesis 1 asks 'How do we understand the world?' and 'How should we live in it?'

Take for example the words 'have dominion' to be found in Genesis 1:26 given above. These words, an interpretation of the Hebrew word *radah*, have been understood very differently.

Some would say that 'have dominion', *radah*, has been understood as harsh domination, treading down, and using raw force; a justification for treating the non-human world as an expendable resource for human consumption that has led to our destruction of so much of the natural world around us.

Others suggest that the true meaning of *radah* is service and care. This sees 'have dominion' as a call not to crush, but to protect, nurture, and provide justice. This view sees humankind invited to act as deputies for God, called to cultivate the earth responsibly while preserving its health and flourishing.

Arguments about the interpretation of a Hebrew word may seem specialist. But how we read one of the most important passages of the Bible can shape our whole world view. Service and care or domination and destruction? These differing ideas lie at the very heart of the arguments we have about how humankind should treat our earthly home that God has gifted us. What steps will we take, however small, to protect it?

Duke of Edinburgh's Award celebrates 70 years: **1956 - 2026**

It was back in February of 1956 that Buckingham Palace released a press announcement outlining plans for a trial period of 'The Duke of Edinburgh's Award'.

It was the post-war era, and His Royal Highness wanted to help boys bridge the gap between leaving formal education at 15 and starting National Service at 18. He also wanted them to build self-confidence and a sense of purpose to support them into their future. A youth programme, he believed, would improve their skills and equip them to make valuable contributions to their communities and society.

In 1956, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award pilot was launched to national voluntary youth organisations. It soon expanded to include Local Education Authorities, the Armed Forces and some schools across the UK.

After the first year, 7,000 boys had started a programme and 1,000 Awards had been achieved. Girls were allowed to join the programme in 1958. Since that first year, millions have joined the DofE Award programme.

The DofE continued to evolve, and programmes took on their current format of Volunteering, Physical, Skills, Expedition, and Residential at Gold level in 1980.

In 2020, DofE participants stepped up in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The volunteering efforts of 330,000 young people equated to an investment of almost £8.5 million in a time of need.

The DofE says: "It hasn't been the easiest few years for young people. From the ongoing aftermath of the pandemic to the anxieties of the cost-of-living crisis, the future doesn't always feel certain.

"But, in seven decades of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE), we've learnt one thing: never doubt what young people can do. Time and time again, we've seen that when young people are given the chance to prove to themselves what they're capable of, there's no limit to what they can achieve.

"We're here to celebrate and champion every young person. To provide a safe environment of support and challenge that grows as they do.

"Whatever their ability, interest or background, DofE offers young people the chance to strive for achievement, overcome obstacles, and set their minds to a personal challenge. Because when you prove to yourself that you're ready for anything, nothing can hold you back. Our Founder HRH Prince Philip once said: 'There is more in you than you might think.' And, here at the DofE, we help you realise that."

Prince Philip passed away in April 2021, but his legacy thrives thanks to the tireless support of the new Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Edward.

More info at: <https://www.dofe.org>

**Join the Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning
on 25th September**



Why not consider attending – or even hosting – a Macmillan Coffee Morning? Many are going to be held soon, on 25th September, but you can hold one whenever you like.

About 50,000 coffee morning events are held around the country each year.

The first Coffee Morning happened in 1990. It was a small affair with a simple idea: guests would get together for coffee and donate the cost of their drink to Macmillan. It was so effective that Macmillan did it again the next year - only this time nationally.

Since then, the tradition has grown, until now an estimated 1.2 million coffee mornings have been held since the tradition first began.

These days, Coffee Mornings come in all shapes and sizes. They can range from small home gatherings to large corporate events; school fundraisers to a gathering with a local community group. But they all have one thing in common - they raise vital funds to support the almost 3.5 million people in the UK living with cancer.

More details at: <https://www.macmillan.org.uk>



GARDENING IN SEPTEMBER

September is a great time to plant spring-flowering bulbs like daffodils and hyacinths, as well as to divide herbaceous perennials to keep them healthy. It's also important to start reducing watering for houseplants and prepare for potential frost by protecting tender plants.

Key Gardening Tasks for September

September is an important month for gardeners in the UK, marking the transition to autumn. Here are some essential tasks to focus on:

Planting and Sowing

Spring-Flowering Bulbs: Now is the time to plant bulbs like daffodils and hyacinths for vibrant spring displays.

Herbaceous Perennials: Divide and replant herbaceous perennials to promote healthy growth and increase your stock.

Maintenance and Care

Watering: Begin to reduce watering for houseplants as temperatures cool.

Frost Protection: Prepare for potential frost by protecting tender plants with cloches or fleece.

Harvesting

Crops: Continue harvesting vegetables and fruits. This is a good time to enjoy the last of your summer crops and prepare for autumn yields.

Pruning and Tidying

Prune Late-Summer Flowering Plants: Trim back any late-summer flowering shrubs and perennials to maintain shape and health.

Clean Up: Clear out any debris from your garden to prevent pests and diseases.

Preparing for Winter

Mulching: Consider mulching around plants to protect roots from frost and retain soil moisture.

Overwintering: Identify tender plants that need to be brought indoors or protected from the cold.

By focusing on these tasks, you can ensure your garden remains healthy and vibrant as the seasons change.

Fruit and vegetables

- Sow hardy greens, such as kale, land cress, pak choi, mizuna, lamb's lettuce and mustard, for winter pickings
- Prune out all the fruited canes of summer raspberries, cutting down to the base, and tie in new canes to supports
- Pot up herbs, such as chives and parsley, and place on a sunny windowsill to use during winter
- Start sowing hardy varieties of broad beans and peas for early crops next year
- Plant shallot and onion sets in a sunny spot, 10cm apart, with the tip just showing above the soil
- Cut away any leaves covering the fruits of pumpkins, squash and marrows to help the skins ripen in the sun
- Plant saffron crocus bulbs (*Crocus sativus*), so you can harvest your own saffron this autumn
- Pick apples and pears before the wind blows them down, and store undamaged fruits if you can't eat them fresh
- Store chillies by threading the stalks onto strong cotton or wire and hanging up to dry somewhere warm and dry
- Cut off trusses of unripe outdoor tomatoes before the weather turns cold, then ripen them indoors
- Lift maincrop potatoes, dry off and store in hessian or paper sacks, in a cool, dark, well-ventilated place
- Complete summer pruning of both free-standing and trained apple trees, to encourage good fruiting in future years.

Flowers

- Sow hardy annuals, such as cerinthes, ammi, scabiosa and cornflowers, for flowers early next summer
- Lift gladioli corms, dry them off, then store in a frost-free shed or garage over winter
- Plant wallflowers, pansies, forget-me-nots and other spring bedding in pots and borders
- Collect ripe seeds from your favourite flowers and store in labelled envelopes, ready to sow in spring
- Plant up containers for autumn interest, using cyclamen, heathers, heucheras and other colourful bedding plants
- Lift, divide and replant congested clumps of perennials, such as achilleas, once they finish flowering
- Fill any gaps with late-flowering perennials, such as sedums, to provide nectar for pollinating insects into autumn
- Plant spring bulbs in autumn, including crocuses, daffodils, hyacinths, bluebells and snake's-head fritillaries in pots and borders
- Take cuttings from fuchsias, salvias and pelargoniums
- Keep summer bedding flowering in hanging baskets and pots until the first frosts by deadheading and feeding regularly
- Trim conifer hedges to neaten them up and control height
- Leave sunflower seedheads in place for birds to feed on
- Make an autumn wreath, using flowers, foliage and berries from the garden. ##

Policing Newsletter

NEWS FROM ACROSS TAUNTON

Hello and welcome to the Taunton Policing Newsletter for the month of August 2026. As always, the newsletters contain a snapshot of some of the work the Taunton Policing Teams have been involved with in the previous month.

Community Engagement with 1st Wilton Squirrels

We were delighted to visit the 1st Wilton Squirrels group after receiving an invitation to speak with the children about policing and staying safe.

PCSO's Will & Sean spent time chatting with the youngsters about the role of the police and how we help keep our communities safe. While the children showed plenty of interest in learning about policing, it quickly became clear that our police vehicles were the main attraction! The opportunity to explore the cars and press some of the buttons proved to be a real highlight for the group.

It was a fantastic visit, and a pleasure for us to engage with such an enthusiastic and curious group of children. Thank you to the 1st Wilton Squirrels for inviting us along, and we look forward to supporting more community events in the future.

Pictured below: PCSO Will Raisey with members of the 1st Wilton Squirrels group during the visit.

Retail Crime Offender Jailed Following Multiple Shoplifting Offences

We are pleased to share a successful outcome in tackling retail crime within our community.

In early July, officers arrested Dale Fussell in connection with 23 shoplifting offences committed across businesses at the Hankridge Retail Park. The offender had repeatedly targeted local retailers, stealing goods of significant value and impacting both businesses and staff. Following his arrest, Dale Fussell appeared before the court and was sentenced to 26 weeks' imprisonment. This result demonstrates our continued commitment to tackling retail crime and supporting local businesses. The successful prosecution not only holds the offender accountable for his actions but also helps protect retailers, staff, and shoppers across the area.

We would like to thank the businesses involved for their support throughout the investigation. This sentence sends a clear message that persistent offenders will be pursued and brought before the courts.

Working together, we can continue to make our communities safer places to live, work, and shop.

Police Helicopter Supports Investigation into Motorcycle Thefts

On Saturday 4 July, many residents noticed the National Police Air Service (NPAS) helicopter circling over the Monkton Heathfield area. The helicopter was deployed at our request as part of an operation targeting the theft of motor vehicles, particularly motorcycles.

Thanks to information provided by members of the community, our Roads Policing Team had identified a vehicle and its occupants believed to be linked to a number of motorcycle thefts. On the 4th July, officers located the vehicle travelling in the Monkton Heathfield area and carried out a successful stop using tactical containment methods.

As a result, a juvenile male was arrested in connection with the investigation.

The investigation remains ongoing, and we would like to thank everyone who has come forward with information and evidence to assist officers in identifying those involved. Community intelligence continues to play a vital role in helping us tackle crime and bring offenders to justice.

Your support is greatly appreciated and demonstrates the importance of working together to keep our communities safe. We encourage anyone with information about crime or suspicious activity to continue reporting it to us.

Swift Teamwork Leads to Three Arrests Following Crime Spree

In the early hours of 22 July, our officers received multiple reports of theft from motor vehicles and burglary across the local area.

Through quick-thinking and proactive work by attending officers, combined with invaluable assistance from members of the public who provided high-quality CCTV footage, images of three suspected offenders were swiftly identified and shared with our partners at the Somerset Council CCTV Control Room.

Approximately eight hours later, CCTV operators in Bridgwater spotted the same three individuals walking along a local road and immediately alerted police. Officers responded quickly, locating and arresting all three suspects.

The three juvenile males, who are originally from the Devon area, were subsequently released under investigation. However, they have been issued with bail conditions prohibiting them from entering Somerset while enquiries continue.

This successful outcome highlights the excellent partnership between Avon and Somerset Police, Somerset Council CCTV operators, and our local community. It also demonstrates how vital public support, technology, and effective teamwork are in helping us identify offenders and keep our communities safe.

Thank you to everyone who assisted with this investigation.

AMERICAN SMILES

The Woodcutter's Lost Axe

One day, a woodcutter was chopping trees by the river when suddenly his axe fell into the water. He began to cry. At that moment, the landowner happened to pass by and asked why he was crying. The woodcutter explained that his axe, which he used to make a living, had fallen into the river. The landowner went into the water and came out holding an axe made of gold and diamonds. He asked the woodcutter, "Is this your axe?" "No," replied the woodcutter. The landowner went into the water again and came out with a silver axe. "Is this your axe?" he asked. "No," said the woodcutter. The landowner went in a third time and came out with an iron axe. "Is this your axe?" "Yes!" the woodcutter replied happily. The landowner was so pleased to find such an honest man that he gave him all three axes. The woodcutter went home full of joy. A few days later, the woodcutter and his wife went walking by the river. Suddenly, his wife fell into the water. Again the woodcutter began to cry, and again the landowner appeared and asked why. "My wife fell into the river!" said the miserable woodcutter. The landowner went into the water and came out with Audrey Hepburn at her prime. "Is this your wife?" he asked. "Yes!" said the woodcutter. "You lied to me!" shouted the landowner, furious. "Please understand," replied the woodcutter. "If I had said no, you would have come out with Scarlett Johansson or some such. And if I had said no again, you would have brought out my real wife, and then I would have said yes.

That way you would have given me all three! But I'm a poor man – I can't take care of three women. So I said yes right away to Audrey..."

Moral of the story: You may need more than one axe, but not more than one woman.

Healthy Life, Healthy Wife

In their small village, a couple was famous for the husband being 102 years old and his wife being 98 years old, and both in terrific condition, working their farm every day and having the bodies of much younger people. One day, a visitor to the village, curious about the couple, approached the old man at his farm. The old man was cutting wood without a shirt on, sweat glistening on a body that seemed to belong to a man half his age. The visitor introduced himself and asked the old man: "I hear you are 102!" "That's correct," said the old man with a smile. "Wow, I must say, you look in amazing shape!" "Thank you." Said the old man humbly. "Do you mind if I ask-" "-How am I this healthy at my age?" finished the old man. "Help me carry this wood back home and I'll tell you." The visitor agrees and they make their way inside. "You see," said the old man, "I've been married for 75 years. Now, when we got married, I made a little arrangement with the wife. Every time we have an argument, the loser of said argument must run for 5 kilometers. Seeing as we have a pretty typical marriage, I've been running 5 kilometers almost every day for 75 years! That's why I'm in the great shape I am." "But if that's the case," said the puzzled visitor, "how come your wife is in such great

shape too?" "Well," smiled the old man, "she usually runs after me to make sure I finish the whole five."

One Last Wish

Lying on his deathbed, an elderly man made his final request to his wife: "Honey, I'm almost out of time and there's something I'd like you to do for me when I'm gone." She nodded her head and said, "You can count on me. Anything you ask, I'll make sure it's done." "I want you to wed my buddy, Jacob," he said, his voice filled with emotion. Astonished, his wife replied, "Jacob? But I thought you couldn't stand him!" He smiled and looked into her eyes as he answered, "That's precisely why..."

Why is Daddy Special?

A father, mother and child went out to spend time on the beach on a hot summer's day, but as soon as they reached the beach they discovered that there was a black flag there, a sign not to enter the water. The boy really wanted to get in the water, but his mother did not agree and they stayed on the beach to rest in the sun and play in the sand. After a few minutes, the father got bored and turned to his wife: "Keep an eye on the boy, I'm going into the water, there's no way the sea is really that dangerous." After a few minutes the boy asked "Mom, why did you let dad get in the water and not me?"

"Because you and father are two different people and there are things he can do and you can't." answered the mother. "Is it because dad knows how to swim really well?" continued the boy. "Not really" answered the mother. "Is it because dad is big and

strong?" "No." "Then why is daddy allowed to enter the water and I'm not?" the boy complained. "Because daddy has life insurance."

Priest's Theory

A newly married Liam goes to the meet Father Charles. He greets the priest and says, 'Father, I need to talk to you.' The Priest asks, 'Is it a confession, my son?' Liam replies, 'No, Father. I need to clarify something.' The Priest takes Liam to his private chamber and says, 'Tell me, Liam. What is it?' Liam asks, 'Father, why do some women try to change men after marriage? My friends keep teasing me about it.' The Priest smiles and replied, 'Liam, my son; as the bride walks down the long aisle, she excitedly registers 3 stimuli: The altar, the choir and the sound of the hymn being sung. Aisle, Altar, and Hymn. She becomes mesmerized. Aisle, Altar, Hymn. Aisle, Altar, hymn. Aisle, Altar, Hymn. And finally, as she stops beside the groom, she is already saying to herself... "I'LL ALTER HIM."

Get rid

A man bought a new fridge for his house. To get rid of his old fridge, he decided to put it outside in his front garden, along with a sign saying: 'Free to good home.' For three days the fridge sat there without even one person looking twice at it.

So eventually the man changed the sign to read: 'Fridge for sale: £30'. The next day someone stole it.

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 what clergy should wear on their feet

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Thank you for sending me the photograph of you having your face painted at your parish's 'Fun Day' - although I can't help feeling that to label an event 'fun' is the most effective way of draining it of all amusement whatsoever. Why on earth can't parishes continue with the traditional title of 'Crowning of the Rose Queen and Fete', equally traditionally grimly enjoyed to the accompaniment of thunder and torrential rain.

However, the one thing that caused me the greatest concern in your photo was the fact that you were wearing sandals. Sandals are only to be worn by Franciscan monks (without socks) and holidaymakers on Blackpool promenade (regrettably, generally with socks). I know that you will argue that Jesus wore sandals. This was mainly because reliable pairs of brogues had yet to be invented, but also because He lived in a hot, dry country. We live in a cold, wet one.

The only appropriate colour for footwear for a parish priest is black, and the only appropriate material is leather - although I will concede that can create difficulties. Wet leather shoes and polished marble sanctuary floors are a potentially lethal combination.

I well remember as a curate when old Canon Griffith entered the Sanctuary, having just got drenched coming from the Rectory. His feet moved across the marble floor some miles per hour faster than the rest of his body. Had he landed face down, the congregation may have assumed he was reverently prostrating himself before the altar. But lying in a supine position, staring in a dazed state at the rafters, only conveyed inappropriate indolence, when he should be at work.

However, do not take the alternative of wearing crepe soles. I suspect your present church will be fully carpeted - it seems to go with your sort of theology - and there will be no problem. But crepe soles and any sort of polished stone floor are a truly disastrous mixture. The slightest movement will make it sound as if you are being followed by a swarm of demented frogs.

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

RUMWELL

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 SEPTEMBER 2026

Wednesday 2 September	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 6 September Trinity 14	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Elaine Bowyer	Romans 13:8-14 (1140); Matthew 18:15-20 (985)
Wednesday 9 September	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 13 September Visit by Missionaries Marcio & Noemi	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.	Jan Knight	Romans 14:1-12 (1140); Matthew 18:21-35 (985)
Wednesday 16 September	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 20 September Trinity 16	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Will Osmond	Philippians 1:21- 30 (1178); Matthew 20:1-16 (987)
Wednesday 23 September	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 27 September Trinity 17 HARVEST FESTIVAL	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Christabel Ager	Philippians 2:1- 13 (1178); Matthew 21:23- 32 (989)
Wednesday 30 September	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		



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

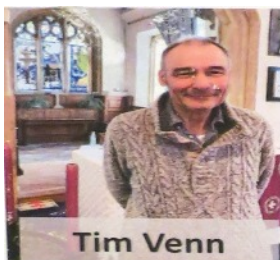
Other PCC Members - Rachel Horder.

Sue Martin

Hilary Harper .

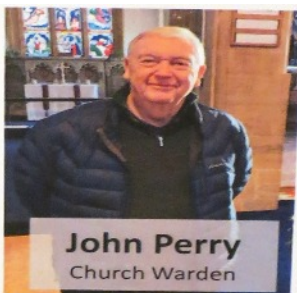
Mark Dakin

Lillian Priest



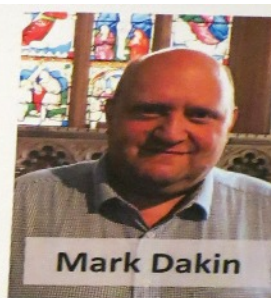
Tim Venn

Church Warden



John Perry

Church Warden



Mark Dakin

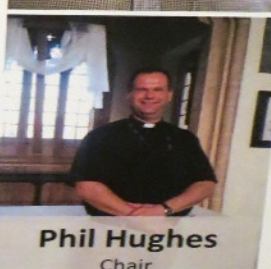


Sue Martin



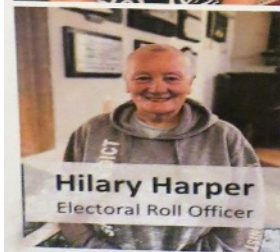
Rachel Horder

PCC Treasurer



Phil Hughes

Chair



Hilary Harper

Electoral Roll Officer



Beverley Keitch

Parish Safeguarding
Officer



Lillian Priest