

The Beacon

Ashwick, Oakhill & Binegar News



NOVEMBER 2020

Cover photos: © IWM & Heather Greaves



BEACON TRINITY



Church of England Services

Due to restrictions on numbers for social distancing we have changed the pattern of services in the Parish.

November 1st	10am	Communion in St. James, Ashwick
November 8th	10am 11am	Communion in All Saints, Oakhill Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in Oakhill
November 15th	10am	Communion in St. James, Ashwick
November 22nd	10am	Communion in Holy Trinity, Binegar
November 29th	10am	Advent Reflection, All Saints, Ashwick

We continue to have services in each of our buildings, but with limited numbers. We have not turned anyone away yet, but if the church is full to Covid capacity I am afraid we will. Face coverings are needed when in the building and social distancing is maintained.

We have now got the facility to receive online donations through our website - www.beacontrinity.church - so please consider supporting your local church. You are also welcome to write a cheque payable to 'Beacon Trinity' and drop it into the Rectory.



Find us on 
facebook.com/beacontrinity

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Battle of Britain, VE Day, VJ Day images from top left, down: Imperial War Museums, © IWM CH 1400;
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As we look forward to a winter of discontent many of us are feeling tired, some frustrated, some angry. It has been a long year and it isn't over yet. Normally I would be mentioning what we are planning for Christmas in this issue of The Beacon but I am afraid we have not yet decided, other than I know we are not going to be able to have our usual Christingle Service, Carol Services or Christmas Eve Services this year. We will, however, still celebrate Christmas. There will be services on Christmas Eve even if we are not able to sing carols, so watch this space next month.

But back to now. Are you more tired than usual, are you feeling like you have lost the year, maybe you have lost your job or know someone who has? Maybe you missed a wedding or the birth of a grandchild, all because of Coronavirus. It really is a loss, a bereavement. We have all lost something from our lives this year, some more than others. Obviously, some have lost loved ones and not been able to have a funeral as they would plan. However, even if you have not had the death of someone you know you have still lost a part of your normal life this year.

In recent years there has been an increasing awareness of mental health in our society. Now more than ever we need to be aware of this. I have found it helpful to think about this time as a time of loss and grief. Those who have grieved the loss of a loved one at some point in their life will know that the grief causes a variety of reactions including tiredness, lethargy, frustration and sometimes depression.

These feelings are present in many people's lives at this time and psychologists and mental health specialists are telling people to think in terms of loss and grief. I am not a specialist counsellor myself, but I am aware of what is being said about this time. Listening is so important. Sometimes just being listened to can help, we don't need answers but understanding. It has been said "we will get through this together," and I believe we will, but the together is so important. Let us not leave anyone on their own, let us care for each other in this time of grief and loss. Let us respect each other's situation as being different to our own and stand with each other.

God bless you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick".

Covid-19 Helpline update

At the start of lockdown we set up a helpline phone number with answering machine for people in the Oakhill/Ashwick area and Binegar PC and the BAGS group did similar for Binegar/Gurney Slade. It was very well used for a long time as people who were shielding needed help to collect medication or shopping. We who organised it either side of the hill had a great list of volunteers who were willing to help out. I know how important it was for many people. **THANK YOU** to all those who helped out in one way or another.

The restrictions of movement have now been lifted and the use of the helpline has virtually stopped. So, the Oakhill/Ashwick phone will no longer be monitored. Should anyone need help then you are able to call the Rectory in Oakhill or Clerk to the Parish Council in Binegar as we still have the details of people who will help out. **Richard Priestley**

Help control the virus

To protect yourself and others when you leave home you must:

- Wash hands - keep washing your hands regularly
- Cover face - wear a face covering over your nose and mouth in enclosed spaces
- Make space - stay at least a metre away from people not in your household

If you are feeling unwell, get a test and do not leave home for at least 10 days.

Coronavirus symptoms can include:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

Advice taken from Gov.UK and the NHS

Christmas Gifts for Mendip YMCA

As many people are no doubt aware, we have for many years arranged for people's donations of non-perishable food, toiletries, etc. for use by the local YMCA as Christmas gifts, to be collected in Binegar Church.

However, as the ongoing Virus situation makes the use of the church uncertain, donations may be left in the porch at The Galleons, Binegar Lane, **no later please than Thursday, 10th December.**

Molly and Grenville Reakes



Community corner

Strachey Crest...

Further to Adam Brown's 'quest for a crest' in The Beacon last month, we are grateful to Lin Thorley of the Oakhill & Ashwick Local History Group for coming to the rescue. Lin tells us "It's a Strachey crest. They tended to put it on anything they spent money on, regardless of whether they had built it!" If you have a similar crest on your house and are interested in finding out more about it, the History Group are the people to contact!

Community Council for Somerset...

CCS Village Agents are in communities across Somerset. They help to bridge the gap between isolated, excluded, vulnerable and lonely individuals and statutory and/or voluntary organisations which offer specific solutions to identified needs. They can offer advice and support to find local groups and activities available in our community and help you with any queries you may have or situations that you need advice and support with.

Please visit:

www.ccslovesomerset.org.uk and
www.somersetcarers.org

or call Hannah Burbedge on 07495 177 175
hannah@somersetccc.org.uk
to find out who can advise you.

A Marathon with a difference!

When I applied to run the 2020 London Marathon I could not have imagined the contrast between my experience on the 4th of October (perhaps the wettest day of the year) and my dreams of running over Tower Bridge, carried along by cheering crowds. In this unusual year, the Marathon went virtual! So, I ran the familiar sights of Oakhill, Ashwick, Binegar and Gurney

Slade in ever decreasing circles, navigating the flooded roads. When did passing the Cutty Sark at mile 7 morph into running along the A37? However, my motivation for completing this mental and physical challenge remained consistent - to raise money for Brain Research UK. Yes, it was tough, it took me much longer than I'd hoped, I was cold, soaked through, spectators were confused cattle and I had to pick my way through deep puddles and roads that had turned into rivers to complete the 26.2 miles. None of that really mattered - with every step I supported the work of my chosen charity, raising £2812.50 in total. A huge thank you to everyone who waved, encouraged and sponsored me! **Laura**

Au revoir to Rich and Ruth!

Beacon Trinity said an 'official' goodbye and thank you to Rev Rich Miles, our curate for the past two years, and his wife Ruth, at a service in St James



Church, Ashwick on Sunday, 4th October. Various presentations were made and best wishes extended to Rich in his new role with Movement in the Bath & Wells Diocese.

This month's cover...

This month's cover is a montage of images courtesy of the Imperial War Museums (see inside front cover) and poppies in the churchyard by Heather Greaves.

Please send photos for the cover (portrait orientation, in colour) to: magazine@beacontrinity.church. Thank you.

DRIVE-IN HARVEST FESTIVAL

Successful 'Drive-in' Harvest Festival on Sunday, 27th September on Binegar Fair Field, attended by an estimated 50 cars with approximately 100 adults and 20 children. We were blessed with a lovely sunny day,

Donations of non-perishable food items were received and were passed on to the Salvation Army Food Bank in Shepton Mallet and the Food Bank in Midsomer Norton.

The service was the result of a joint effort between the Church of England and the Methodist Chapel.



From top, left to right, images kindly provided by:

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Binegar Fair Field

Wildflower Area & Community Orchard

It was wonderful to have the Drive-in Harvest Festival on the Fair Field in Binegar last month. This area is where we want to create a space that is enjoyable for everyone, a place to walk through, rest in, reflect in, meet in... you get the picture.

We have plans for a wildflower area and possible community orchard; more immediately we would like to see some spring flowers and colour for next year. So we are asking if you would like to donate some bulbs to go along the edges and under the fencing, and maybe you know a shrub that needs little care once in the ground that would bring colour and texture to the area. I am not a great gardener, so I am relying on those of you who are. Are you moving things around in your garden? Why not gift a little to this community resource?

It would be great to have hundreds of daffodils to plant and then I may be asking for help planting!

SO... contact me vicar@beacontrinity.church / 840239 or Patsy Scadding 841163 to arrange a time to drop things off and let's look forward to 2021 as the beginning of the transformation of Binegar Fair Field.



Grenville's Ramblin's...



On August the 15th this year we were reminded that while we had remembered the 75th anniversary of the end of WW II in Europe on 8th May 1945, the equally massive and bitter part of the same World War was still raging in the Far East against Japanese forces, until it was brought to an end on the 15th of the following August. Having by that date become a teenager and as such having lived through that terrible era of what was then history in the making, I take the liberty, with this remembrance anniversary in mind to offer one or two personal thoughts from then til now.

The most obvious good and hopeful thing is that today 75 years on, the outlook of all the nations involved in that conflict have obviously undergone considerable change. Both from lessons learned and new relationships brought about by the rising generations, all playing a part in at least encouraging the process of healing the scars of the war.

Having said this, I can during this time of remembrance, do no other than look back and remember the terrible cost in human life caused by the same Nazi style vicious inhuman behaviour of the Japanese military regime; those who were the perpetrators of that area of the worldwide conflict. This was, I believe, especially evident in their treatment of those unfortunate enough to become their prisoners of war. (I know of at least two from this area who survived). It appears that at least 20,000 of these unfortunate people, not counting civilians, died or disappeared during their imprisonment.

However, with the writing on the wall with regard to the outcome of that war, history again tells us that the regime was given the opportunity to surrender by the 28th of July. Their having refused the opportunity, provoked (some may say) and gave the American military, the excuse of exploding an Atomic device over both Hiroshima and Nagasaki, having the effect of bringing the war to an end on or about the 15th of August, now remembered as VJ Day.

It is an undeniable fact that those frightening new weapons caused the deaths of thousands of people. Once again, we saw as it was in cities in this country and all over Europe and indeed many other places in the world, the innocent paid the price of warfare.

I suppose there are many of us, especially of today's generation, who find the use of those two bombs abhorrent. Yet, as I remember the threatening times that we had been forced to live through 75years ago, whatever we may think today, those who decided to use the atom bombs did what they and we thought was right at that time. Then again, much as I dislike the idea of nuclear weapons, once the genie was let out of the bottle there was and is no way of putting it back; yet is it fear of the consequences that has done the next best thing for the last 75 years?

Grenville Reakes

Oakhill & Ashwick Local History Group

Another Instalment from the 'History' of Ashwick Grove

For the past couple of months we have been looking at the 'History' of Ashwick Grove, a handwritten account from 1892 by Richard Charles Strachey, 'Squire' of Ashwick (1835-1901). The following extracts from the 'History' are typical, containing a number of anecdotes, often either humorous or focused on money.



"Rookery Farm was Robert Neale's [the Rookery at Stoke St Michael]. He told me my father offered him £8000 for the farm. Afterwards I once got up to £7500 and after his death bought it for £5200. He was a mean fellow, I asked him to subscribe with others to help pay off a debt on the Stoke School. He objected to education and told me if there had been no school there would have been no debt on it, and that he had made a vow he would never have any servant who could read or write. I think this was shortly before his daughter had been before the Shepton Bench on suspicion of trying to poison one of their maidservants."

"At Fosse Farm there was a row of cottages near where the dairy is now. I remember when as children I and my sisters went to watch them being pulled down and we went home with quantities of fleas. Poor old Cox died here... when he [was selling up] he advertised the size of one field at about 17 acres. I said it must be more. Wainwright measured it and it was about 27."

"Neighbourne Farm is now let at £60 a year less than it was in 1868. The tenant, who was a good one, accidentally shot himself about 6 o'clock in the morning when going out rabbit shooting by appointment. He paid £230 and although farmers' times were about at their worst he said he should be happy if he could get the £30 taken off. There have been two tenants since, neither of them much good – the first at £180 and then £170. I have laid out a good deal on this farm house. I spent a large sum several years ago in thoroughly doing it up. I think in the Parlour there is, or was, an old Ashwick drawing room grate. A few years ago it burnt down but the money I had from the insurance office restored it and the old thatched front was replaced by slate...there is coal under this farm, to whom it belongs I know not, there are splendid springs also, certainly in places where you can get grand drinking water. People used to come long distances to obtain water from one spring for bad eyes, and I believe still do so."

Ashwick Court: "my father bought it from the Gale family... old Gale, Vicar of Pylle, was a real friend of mine. The place was intended for my unmarried sisters to live in free and I had to find £400 to furnish it. I have had some shockingly bad tenants here and have spent lots of money here. The place has been an almost constant expense during my time... I know queer stories in connection with the place...lucky the walls can't speak! I will tell a harmless one. When Burt lived here and I was a boy he had a horse blind in one eye called Cyclops, and a smart but drinking groom named Stocking. Burt used to hunt and drive this horse, but he was a determined kicker. One morning he was to drive to Bath and ordered Stocking to harness Cyclops. Stocking after a while hallos out that he can't go up to him. So Burt, who wore a wig, went down to the stables with his long hunting whip. The lash presently came back, caught his wig and sent it across the yard. He put both his hands over his head and ran into the house... I afterwards bought Cyclops and gave Burt £5 to take him back."

For once he doesn't mention how much he had paid.

Lin Thorley

East Mendip Gardening Club...

After the last few days of torrential rain, it certainly feels that autumn is turning into winter, are they autumn colours that we see or rust? If things have not been blown away then it is time to protect plants and structures as it gets colder, wetter and windier.



Use hessian or bubble wrap to insulate outdoor containers from frost.



To prevent waterlogging raise pots off the ground using 'pot feet' or bricks.

Prune roses by a third to a half to prevent wind rock which will loosen their roots. To reduce infection, remove fallen leaves of roses that have black spot or rust and bin or burn them.

Cut back yellowing or dead foliage of perennials and lift and divide overcrowded clumps. Pot up spare roots and overwinter in the hope that there may be plant sales in the spring or give to friends.

Lift and relocate plants when they are dormant.



Spread fresh manure over vegetable beds and let the worms do their work as it rots down over the winter.



Parsnips will be sweeter after the first frosts.

Stake top-heavy brassicas and draw up soil around the base to stop root damage from wind rock.

Check stored onions, garlic and potatoes and remove any that are rotting.



Tidy strawberry plants - removing runners and cut off dead leaves.

Attach bubble wrap to the inside of the green house to protect plants. Remember to ventilate, particularly after watering.



Once dormant divide mature clumps of rhubarb.

...as autumn turns to winter

Plant raspberry canes.

Reuse spent compost from annual container displays as a mulch.



Do not over water plants during the winter.

Paint sheds and fences with preservative during the next dry spell to prolong their life and look good during the winter.



Replace damaged greenhouse glass. Use horticultural disinfectant to thoroughly wash the glass, floor and staging to kill over wintering pests and diseases.



Clean out existing water butts and install another to let the autumn rain fill them ready for next year.

Take photos of where herbaceous plants are before they die back to prevent damaging their roots during a winter dig.

Take stock of this year's garden and make notes or sketches for next spring. What grew well or failed miserably, what changes to make, all will help when ordering seed and plants for the next planting season.



Order fruit trees and bushes and perennial plants as these can be planted between now and springtime.

Ensure your bird baths and feeders are clean and full to encourage hungry birds to keep pest numbers down and give joy on a bleak day.

Taken from Thompson & Morgan's "What to do in the Garden this month"
www.thompson-morgan.com/what-to-do-in-the-garden

Jane Evans



WEATHER REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2020

From Roemead Farm.
Written by
Gerald Esain.

September on the whole was dry and warm.

The temperature was around, or a little above average. Highest reading 27.1°C on the 14th. Rainfall total 38.5mm, below average and the 5th driest in 40 years for this site.

Thank You Anne Stringer!

It was with great pleasure that I was able to pass on Somerset County Councils thanks to Ann Stringer for being Oakhill Church School's crossing patrol person for the last 25 years.

An amazing achievement, standing outside in all weathers, supporting thousands of school children over the years to safely navigate a very busy main road.

A huge thank you from all of the staff and families present and past.

Mr P. Morris, Headteacher



BINEGAR SCOUTS

NOVEMBER 2020



1st North Mendip is a thriving Scout Group that meets in Binegar Memorial Hall weekly during term time. We currently have Beavers (6-8yrs), Cubs (8-10yrs) and Scouts (10-14yrs).

Beavers and Cubs returned to face to face Scouting in September. They have enjoyed learning how to safely use axes and saws, fire lighting, marshmallow toasting, exploring and map reading! Despite the weather, attendance and feedback have been good.

Scouts are still on Zoom and have made crumble, as well as starting on their Digital Citizen badge. They built rain gauges to monitor the weather at home just in time for storm Alex, so a few were washed away.

Do you have a young person aged 5, 6 or 7 that may be interested in joining our Scout In adventure? We're looking for young people who want to make new friends, have fun and learn some new skills in our Beaver section. Why not give it a try?

If you are interested in joining us please sign up via our Online Waiting List: <https://tinyurl.com/v7kz5kp> or contact a member of the team:

Beavers/Cubs - Gemma (Raksha) - 01749 938321

Scouts - Natalie (Gunner) - gunnerexplore@gmail.com

You can also sign up and see what we're up to on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/northmendipscouts



Forest School

@ Oakhill School

This term we have introduced

Forest School to our curriculum. Forest School aims to promote the holistic development of all those involved, fostering resilient, confident, independent and creative learners. It uses natural resources for inspiration, to enable ideas and to encourage intrinsic motivation and enables children to learn



in a different way and take risks in the natural environment.

This term Year 6 have been participating in Forest School and have had lots of fun den building, playing team building games as well as learning new skills such as tying knots, sawing and fire lighting.



We are very grateful to Rob and Amanda Miles for letting us use their land for these activities particularly at a time where being outside is important for our mental health. It has been lovely to see the children learning in a different way



and developing good teamwork skills. As we move through the year you may see different year groups going into the wooded area as we hope to share this exciting development with our entire school community.

Phillip Morris, Headteacher



News from the Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall Committee



After our successful AGM last month, we would like to introduce our new Committee for Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall:

Andy North (Chair), Kim Hare (Vice Chair), Caroline Ambrose (Treasurer), Jessica Elliott (Secretary), Martin Rymes (Facilities Management), Tim Ambrose, Julie Brooks, Dawn Davies, Abi Powell, Sally Sargent, David Thorley and Bryan Wells. We still have a vacancy for Bookings Clerk should anyone else be interested in joining us!

This is our biggest committee for some time, and we have big plans for the Hall and Recreation Field over the coming months and years. In our first meeting as a newly formed committee, our re-elected Chair, Andy, laid out our seven step plan, highlighting the areas we intend to focus on:

1) Governance - now that the new committee has been elected, we need to ensure all of our governance is in place. We are going to formulate and formalise a business plan - this will help us to focus as group and put us in a stronger position to apply for grants and progress our larger development goals. We aim to work towards Hallmark Accreditation which will further help with this.

2) Finance - it will take a little while for our new Treasurer, Caroline, to complete handover from her predecessor, Julie. Many thanks to Julie for all of her work for the many years she has been our treasurer. Going forward, we will be assessing our banking facilities to see whether we can improve the service we receive from our account, and possibly take advantage of better products on the market.

3) Rejuvenation - Rejuvenation of the village hall remains very much a priority for us, including our plans to move and improve the kitchen facilities we currently have, ideally with the option of creating a space which could be used for community events / café. We will also be looking at the outdoor space and any improvements to the leisure facilities on offer.

4) Marketing - Now that our hall has undergone such a transformation inside, we will be focussing on ensuring that it is in use as much as possible. We are in a lucky position - with plenty of parking and outdoor space - and we need to ensure potential hirers are aware of this and consider us for their events. We will be investigating online calendars and booking sites, alongside other ideas to make dealing with us as easy as possible for potential customers.

5) Fundraising - Last year, our main users, the Playgroup, moved to the school grounds. Whilst this was obviously a good move for them, for us it left a big hole in our income, which the closure due to COVID unfortunately added to. We made the most of the enforced shut-down by completing some of the improvement work we had planned without disrupting any users, but we clearly now need to focus on earning enough to keep the hall open, and to make the improvements that we would like to do. As well as encouraging more use of the hall, and our own fundraising events, we need to ensure we are in a position to make the most of the grants and support out there for community facilities like ours - our business plan, above, will help with this.

6) Facilities and Maintenance - we have created a new role in the committee, that of Facilities Manager, which has been filled by Martin Rymes. Looking after the building and grounds is an important part of our purpose, and Martin's role will ensure that even while we look to the future and the improvements we want to make, the existing structure and the recreation field is kept in the best possible condition. This is especially important now, while we need to ensure that the building is safe, clean and well managed during the COVID outbreak

7) Environmental Activities - we take our environmental responsibilities seriously, and we are keen to develop in this area. We trialled the wildflower meadow this year, which was largely successful, and we will continue to enhance the outside space, using the funds from the grant we received this year, to plant wildflowers, native bulbs and trees. In addition we are always looking to improve the operation of the hall itself - we intend to improve the roof insulation for example, and will be looking at other areas to improve our environmental footprint.

We are excited that the new and improved Village Hall is now open again, and we have lots of returning and new events happening already.

Brand new classes in Tai Chi, Yoga and Pilates have already started, alongside the existing clubs and societies, such as Table Tennis, and football. All are operating safely, within Government guidelines on social distancing and with additional health and safety measures in place to protect us all. We are looking forward to welcoming back the other clubs and societies who meet here, when the time is right for them.

Thank you to everyone in the area for your ongoing help, especially our wonderful "Friends of Oakhill Village Hall" group. The Village Hall is a Committee made up of willing and keen volunteers, but we couldn't do it without the support of the wider community behind us. We hope to see you all soon!!

**Kim Hare,
Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall Committee**

BISHOP PETER'S November Message



One more step

By Bishop Peter

As a vicar one thing I really enjoyed, even though it seemed to come round rather quickly, was writing the letter for the parish magazine. I know that not all parishes are able to produce a parish magazine and some find a website is a better way to communicate with people, however, I do still appreciate reading them when I can. So, I would like to express my thanks to all those involved in writing, editing and producing parish magazines. They are often still an effective way to share what we are doing in our churches and to share with others the good news of the gospel.

Recently I was reading one which had an article by someone recalling a visit made to the north west of the USA some 40 years ago. They spoke about the warmth of their welcome and the joy of being invited to preach in the church. What caught my eye, was that they remembered visiting Lake Wallowa where it is said: 'the air is so pure and the sky so clear that one can see the dawn of the day after tomorrow!' What a glorious expression. Of course, the truth is that we don't know what the future holds and at the moment things are challenging and uncertain for all of us and indeed for the world.

One night recently when I was in hospital, unable to sleep and waiting for the dawn to break, I found myself singing the words of 'One More Step Along the Way I go' which has the chorus: 'And it's from the old I travel to the new, Keep me travelling along with you'. Maybe as we look to the future, with the joys and challenges that it will bring, that should be our prayer – Lord help us to travel with you wherever you may be leading.

With my warmest greetings,

Bishop Peter

Tales of old

In 1580, Henry Russell became Rector of Binegar. His university records him as Dorset commoner (a “*pleb.*”). He entered Oxford in 1576, graduated in 1579 and became Master of Arts in 1581. It adds this note: “instituted Rector of Tyneham, Dorset on 4 August 1594”.

Today, Tyneham is the forgotten village, locked in time since 1943 when villagers had to move out to make way for D-Day preparations.

However, Tyneham was where the great aristocratic Russell family – the Dukes of Bedford – began. Henry may have been a common man from a minor branch of the Russells, but someone paid for his university education and funded it for five years.

Russell was instituted our Rector a year *before* being awarded an M.A. Our Prebendary George Cooper presented him on 11 May 1580. George was brother to Sir John Cooper whose son became the Earl of Shaftesbury. Henry Russell was in his early 20s when he became Rector. Most priests – if they had the money to buy a presentation, that is – had to wait till age 30. Russell had rich, powerful friends.

Russell must have had a way with words and public speaking. This quality led the Bishop to grant him a *Licence to Preach*. This may have influenced his installation to a Wedmore prebend in January 1585. He now sat in the Cathedral’s Chapter House with a second income.

Good preaching and a second living show Russell at his best and worst.

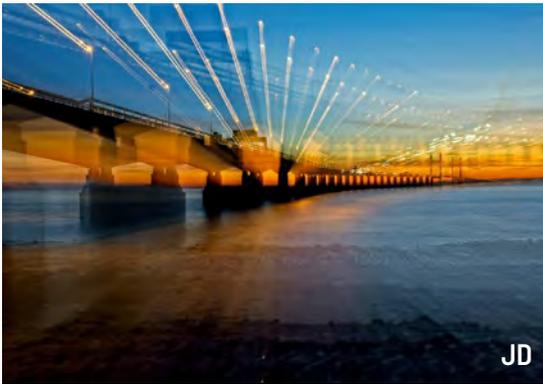
Preaching was one of the most important means of religious education, but it was very problematic. Only a third of clergy were licensed to preach. Many ministers were incapable of it. Twelve canons existed because of the Church’s fear that the *wrong* thing might be said. Russell helped to improve preaching. This countered spreading Puritan propaganda that the Church was defective because there were not enough preachers.

Taking a second income was frowned on. It was an affliction of the Church that would later put it on the road to disaster. If Russell exhibited this (and other) such afflictions, he was, nonetheless, a staunch Anglican and a good man. We must think no less of him because he lived by the rules of his day.

Richard Higgins

Structural Surveyors

images by the Beacon Photography Group



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Ashwick Parish Council

October 2020 Update – David Barlow & Kate Egan
(ashwickparish@hotmail.co.uk)

Congratulations

The Council was thrilled to hear that Charlotte, our appointed Clerk, has given birth to a baby girl. Best wishes to the family!

Planning

The following applications have been discussed by Councillors and were recommended for approval:

2020/1597/FUL - Erection of multi-purpose farm storage, vehicle maintenance and administration building, Badgers Cross Farm.

2020/1660/VRC - Variation of condition 2 (plans list) of permission 2020/0684/ - Erection of single storey rear extension following demolition of existing extension HSE. (Two storey extension and single storey link to garage). Gales Court Bungalow, Nettlebridge.

2020/1730/HSE - Erection of single storey rear extension following, demolition of existing extension, associated internal alterations and landscaping, Field View, Zion Hill.

2020//1906/TCA - T1 Black Pine, Fell, T2 Lawsons Cypress - Fell, All Saints Church. Councillors recommended approval and referred the application to the Mendip Tree Officer.

The Bright Blue Bag!

Somerset has changed the way they recycle household items from October when plastic items were added to the list. Bright Blue bags have been delivered to all households together with leaflets explaining the new system. In future general rubbish will only be collected every three weeks. Remember, Somerset has a great recycling record but still half of the contents in the average rubbish bin could be recycled!

One Somerset and Somerset Stronger

Somerset County Council and Mendip District Council are currently carrying out public consultations on how the County Council moves forward. One Somerset is based around a unitary council and Stronger Somerset is based around two councils for the area. There are two websites for further information: www.onesomerset.org.uk and www.strongersomerset.co.uk

Vacancies on the Council

There are currently a couple of vacancies for Councillors on Ashwick Parish Council. The Council is waiting to hear whether they can proceed down the co-option route and, if so, information will be posted on the village noticeboards, website and Facebook with possibly a new member being elected at the next meeting on Wednesday, 11th November.



Binegar and Gurney Slade Parish Council News

Playground

Thank you to the councillors and friends who gave their time to clear the overgrown shrub from the perimeter fence. What a huge difference it has made.

There has been continued vandalism to the fence behind the large multi play; this has been reported to the police. Please be vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour.

New Trees for Binegar Bottom

New trees are to be planted in Binegar Bottom kindly supported by Mendip District Council. This will support the continued upkeep and conservation of Binegar Bottom and aid the Parish Council's pledge to support Climate Change through the planting of trees especially at this time when so many ash trees are being lost.

Ash Dieback

Ash Dieback is now well established in Somerset and sadly has affected several trees on Neville's Batch. The Parish Council has taken advice and arrangements are in place to have the dead and dying trees professionally removed.

Dog Waste

The Parish Council has received numerous complaints regarding irresponsible disposal of dog waste bags. Dog waste bins are available in the village please use them or take your bags home – Thank You.

Get Ready for Recycle More

Recycling and rubbish collections will soon be changing in Mendip. This will include the ability to recycle additional items. For information about Recycle More, visit somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycle-more and sign up for their e-newsletter.

Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council will meet virtually on Tuesday 3 November at 7:00pm. Notification will be given via the village noticeboards and Parish website as appropriate.

Keep Safe

Diane Abbott Parish Clerk: binegarpc@hotmail.co.uk
www.binegar-pc.org.uk

Your councillors - Jon Abbott, Philip Blatchford, John Bridges
Cath Law, Phill Roberts, John Scadding and David Stone

Pumpkin Soup Recipe

(As seen on bbcfood.com)

Ingredients:

1 large onion, chopped
2 carrots, peeled and chopped
2 garlic cloves
1 bay leaf
25g/1oz unsalted butter
2 tbsp olive oil
1 medium pumpkin (prepared weight about 850g/1lb 14oz) deseeded and roughly chopped



1 medium-sized floury potato, such as Maris Piper, roughly chopped
1 litre/1¾ pint vegetable or chicken stock, a little extra may be needed
100ml/3½ fl oz double cream
3 tbsp pumpkin seeds
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method:

- 1) Put the onion, carrots, garlic bay leaf, butter and half the olive oil into a large pan. Cook over a low-medium heat for about 10 minutes until the vegetables are tender but not coloured.
- 2) Add the squash and potato, mix to combine and cook for a further 2-3 minutes. Pour in the stock, season well and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat to a gentle simmer, half cover the pan with a lid and continue to cook for about 40 minutes until the squash is really tender when tested with the point of a knife.
- 3) Pick out the bay leaf and blend the soup until smooth using a stick blender.
- 4) Add the cream and a little more stock if the soup is on the thick side, taste for seasoning, adding more salt and pepper as required.
- 5) Meanwhile, heat the remaining oil in a frying pan over a medium heat and add the pumpkin seeds and fry quickly until the seeds start to pop. Remove from the pan.
- 6) Ladle the soup into bowls and serve with a swirl of cream and the toasted pumpkin seeds.



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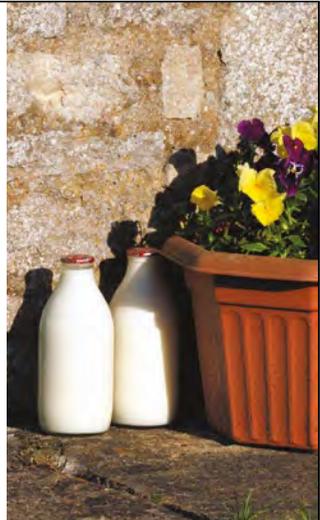
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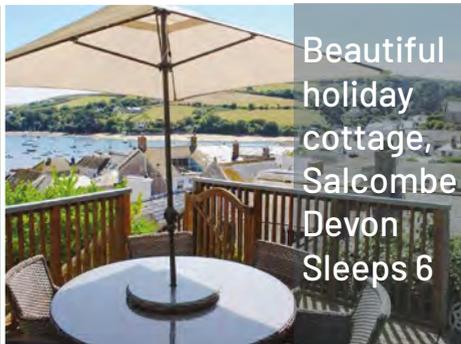
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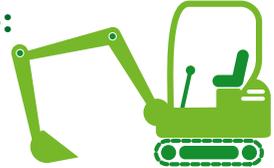
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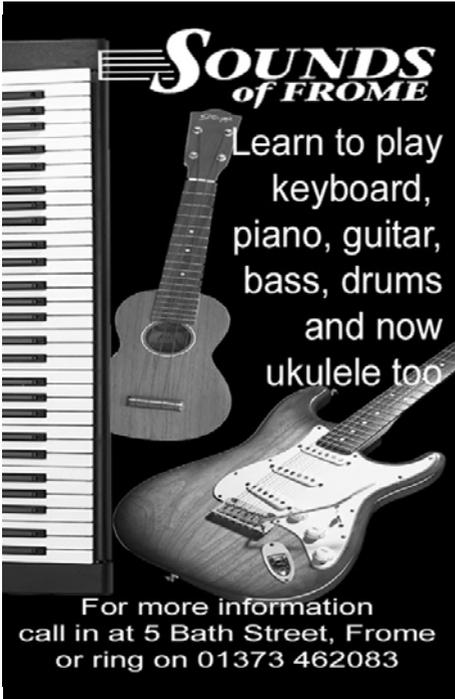
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prices are based on one session - a minimum of 6 is required and the average is approx 9

Quote mag02
when calling

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A beacon of welcome, acceptance and hope centred on Jesus.

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