

The Beacon

Ashwick, Oakhill & Binegar News



JANUARY 2021

Cover photo: Janus (see page 5)



**BEACON
TRINITY**



Church Services – January 2021

We hope to return to our regular pattern of worship in St. James, All Saints, and Holy Trinity. However, if restrictions due to Covid-19 change it may affect what we do. This pattern continues to be the easiest to be Covid secure with our resources and buildings.

January 3rd	10am	Communion in St. James, Ashwick
January 10th	10am	All-age worship in All Saints, Oakhill
January 17th	10am	Communion in St. James, Ashwick
January 24th	10am	Communion in Holy Trinity, Binegar
January 31st	10am	All-age Communion in All Saints, Oakhill
February 7th	10am	Communion in St. James, Ashwick

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instagram.com/beacontrinity

Bill Bolton (Billbo)

It is with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Bill Bolton (Billbo) on Sunday, 13th December in Pondsmead Care Home, Oakhill. He was an inimitable character, held in the highest esteem and great affection by many of all ages in our community. R.I.P. Billbo.



David Moon

Sadly, we also lost David Moon on Tuesday, 15th December, a resident at Pondsmead Care Home, Oakhill. David was for many years the loyal organist to our churches and an integral part of our community. Unfailingly good-humoured, he was known and respected by many. R.I.P. David



I read a news item last month that said due to climate change much of the UK is unlikely to have sub-zero temperatures by the 2040's. Our dream of a white Christmas, sledging and snowmen will be just that, a dream.

Whether it is true or not it is one more sign of the changing world we live in. As I write, I have no idea of the impact of Brexit, but I do know that Covid-19 has caused a great deal of suffering in 2020 and it continues this year.

It was great to see so many people doing everything they could to make Christmas a fun time in spite of restrictions. The photos from around the village are just one sign of it. Maybe next year we should have a "Best outdoor Christmas lights" competition or Festive street of the year! (I was impressed by Chapelfield as so many residents made an effort with outdoor lights).

As we look forward, we need hope. There is a light, in terms of the vaccine, which promises to help get life back on track. For some however, it will never be the same again. My faith teaches me that God is not a vaccine that keeps us safe from a virus or protects us from pain, but rather, God gives us the strength to get through and a hope for life beyond what we see in front of us. That is what we remember at Christmas. Not so much about a baby born 2000 years ago but the nativity being a sign of God's love and His promise being the healing and redemption of the whole of creation.

My wish and prayer for 2021 is that we can all pull together as we restart things. The local community and social life; regular worship, weddings, baptisms and funerals; normal schooling; local business and so much more.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard', is located at the bottom left of the page.

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

Mary Williams 1919–2020

Mary lived happily in Flowerstone, Binegar for more than 30 years, participating in many village activities and attending her beloved Holy Trinity church.

Thanks to the support of good friends and neighbours Mary was able to live on her own until the age of 95 when she moved to The Laurels Care Home, Draycott, where she was looked after with great kindness. Mary passed away in November at the age of 101 and is now reunited with her husband Ivor.

Sue and family would like to thank everyone for their kind messages and donations to Mary's chosen charities.

Thanks also to the Reverend Priestley for officiating at Mary's funeral service and to everyone who paid their respects to her on her final journey through the village to Holy Trinity church.





The Beacon

That was the year, that was! Thankfully, The Beacon was able to carry on and has survived! We deliver 850 free copies of the magazine in Ashwick, Oakhill, Binegar and Gurney Slade and are dependent for funding on the generosity of our sponsors and advertising by our excellent local businesses – do please continue to support them (and us!) in these difficult times.

We couldn't possibly produce The Beacon without the help of our team of fantastic volunteers – from the incredibly creative hard work of Lee Linford to our distributors, Graham Crane (Oakhill) and Jon Abbott (Binegar), together with their teams of over 30 local deliverers. We do need more deliverers, particularly in Gurney Slade/Binegar and Withy Lane, Oakhill, so if you are able to help please contact us – our details are on the back cover

A BIG THANK YOU also to those who contribute articles on a regular basis and we welcome items of community interest from everyone, including photographs.

We are hoping for better times in 2021 and wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year. Thank you for your support and feedback – please stay safe.

Pam and Peter Dennis

JANUS

Janus was the god of beginnings and transitions in Roman mythology, and presided over passages, doors, gates and endings, as well as in transitional periods such as from war to peace. He was usually depicted as having two faces looking at opposite ways, one towards the past and the other towards the future.

CREDIT: ISTOCK.COM/OJIMORENA

Christmas Trails and Advent Windows

What a wonderful effort by all our villages – the lights certainly shone out for Christmas this year and how we needed some cheer! Thank you so much to all those who organized the events and everyone who gave us so much pleasure by decorating their homes and gardens. Make sure you look at the selection of photos on Ps 6-7 – and we're only half way through December! We still have Badger and George escorting Santa and Mrs Christmas around Oakhill to look forward to!

Pam and Peter Dennis

This month's cover...

The month of January takes its name from the Roman God – Janus. Let us all now "Look Forward".

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

It takes a considerable amount of effort and dedication to compile and manage a parish magazine every month, year in, year out.

*Pam and Peter also deserve recognition and a big 'thank you' for the tremendous amount of work they continue to do to ensure the magazine keeps going strong! **Lee Linford***



Light Fest & Advent Windows





With thanks to everyone involved in creating such a splendid festive display throughout our villages. Thank you also to all those who have sent in photos, particularly John Law for his photowalk images taken around Binegar. Don't forget to visit www.oakhillchristmas.org to see all 24 Advent windows around Oakhill.

Support your local church...

2020 has been a hard year for everyone, and we realise that all charities have suffered financially. The church is no different. We have had no weddings or large celebration services and no fund-raising events.

The local churches are funded by the local congregation and money raised locally.

All Saints, Oakhill, St. James, Ashwick and Holy Trinity, Binegar are now one parish - Beacon Trinity. This means we work together as a church community to run our church buildings and the ministry of the church.

We look forward to 2021 and being able to meet people and serve the community as usual but for now we would like to invite you to make a New Year Gift to your local church.

The above QR code will take you directly to our online giving page where you can choose what amount you would like to give.

Thank you and we hope and pray that we are all able to find some peace and joy this Christmas.

Richard Priestley



Oxford English Dictionary (OED)

Each year the OED publishes a report, featuring its 'Word of the Year'. For example, in 2018 the word was 'toxic' and in 2019 'climate emergency'. However, 2020 presented a different sort of challenge, of which you will all be aware, so the report gave us "Words of an Unprecedented Year", to reflect 2020's "ethos, mood, or preoccupations". Here is a sample of their suggestions:

Bushfires

Acquittal

Covid-19

Lockdown

Social distancing

Mail-in

Cancel culture

Reopening

Black Lives Matter

Superspreader

BIPOC – black, indigenous and other people of colour

Moonshot

Belarusian

Net zero

Grenville's Ramblin's...

With the trauma of the last year still with us, yet looking with hope to the year ahead, my mind came up with the idea that the words and thought of the Biblical 13th chapter from St. Paul's first letter to the people of the church at Corinth might not go amiss.

I use the quotation from the New International Version of the Bible.

- 1 If I speak in tongues of men and of angels, but have no love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.
- 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.
- 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.
- 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.
- 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.
- 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.
- 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.
- 8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.
- 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part.
- 10 But when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.
- 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man (adult), I put childish ways behind me.
- 12 Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.
- 13 And now these three remain; faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love.

Grenville Reakes



The January Garden

EAST MENDIP GARDENING CLUB

January is the beginning of the gardening year – a time for fresh starts, renewed energy, and grand plans for the twelve months ahead. It is mostly about keeping things trim and tidy and getting ready for the coming year, but there is still plenty to do.

Not the most glamorous of jobs but important if not already done, clean pots, tools, water butts and greenhouses. A good start for a great growing season.

Start planning what you want in your garden in the coming months. Now is the time to order seeds and plants from the comfort of your armchair.

Check any stakes, supports and ties and that other winter protection is still working.

This is the time of year when our wildlife really needs our help, put out food for hungry birds, keep fresh water topped up and continue to leave some areas of the green uncut for shelter until the spring.

Prune wisteria by cutting back summer side shoots to 2 or 3 shoots.

Prune rose bushes, cut back to just above an outward facing bud and remove any dead or crossing branches.

Remove old hellebore leaves to reveal new blooms as emerge.

Deadhead winter pansies to stop them setting seed and encourage new flowers.

Prepare the ground for early peas by placing a cloche over the soil to help warm the soil a few weeks before sowing.

Prune blackcurrants, gooseberries and redcurrant to maintain a productive framework.

Force rhubarb by placing an upturned bucket over the crown. Tender pink stems will be ready in about eight weeks.

Plant Britain –BBC COUNTRYFILE

Countryfile launches Plant Britain, an ambitious two-year challenge aimed at galvanising everyone in the nation to get planting - no matter where you live or how large or tiny a space you may have - to help combat climate change and at the same time, boost our wellbeing and wildlife.

Matt Baker is in Cheshire, planting the very first trees in what will become the Countryfile Plant Britain wood, while Anita Rani is in her home town of Bradford, helping residents of the Canterbury Estate to plant trees in their front gardens and at the local primary school. Anita is also on her home turf in Hackney, discovering how her local area is going green with help from voluntary organisation Tree Musketeers.

Margherita Taylor is at Wytham Woods in Oxfordshire, discovering exactly how trees capture carbon. Steve Brown is in Neath, south Wales, to learn which trees to plant in which location, while John Craven discovers a micro-forest close to his home and plants a simple window box to demonstrate how you can still do your bit even if your outdoor space may just be a window ledge. Ellie Harrison climbs high at Westonbirt Arboretum in Gloucestershire, finding out how trees function as a vital life support system for Britain's wildlife.



There are also special messages from such well-known tree lovers as HRH The Prince of Wales, Dame Judi Dench and Brian May.

Countryfile Plant Britain wants to get everyone planting in a big, ambitious two-year project where we can all do our bit in the battle against climate change and to help wildlife and our own well being.

We launch with the goal of planting 750,000 trees – one for every UK primary school starter in 2020. From inner city estates to some of Britain's most breath-taking landscapes, it doesn't matter where you live. And however small a space you've got to plant, we can help. What about your own micro-forest in a window box?

And while we kick off with trees, over the next two years we'll also be looking at fruit, veg and flowers. So whatever you plant, be sure to log it on our interactive map. And don't miss out on our special planting ballot which gives you the chance to plant trees with Countryfile presenters at Woodland Trust sites across Britain.

Please ensure you don't trespass on private land and that you have permission to plant from the land owner.

Please follow the covid travel restrictions and guidance in place in your area.

Oakhill & Ashwick Local History Group

The Oakhill Brewery – from early Newspapers

The Oakhill Brewery was established by Jordan and Perkins in 1767; local newspapers had started in this area only a few years earlier. The Brewery figured in news items from the beginning – most often in the Bath Chronicle but also in other papers from surprisingly far away. The Brewery did not then advertise in the papers, and sadly – for those interested in the beer itself – there was absolutely no mention of the process of brewing or even of the kinds of beer they supplied. Here are some examples of what the newspapers did cover:

Bath Chronicle – 14 Mar 1776

“Oakhill, 8 March: Notice is hereby given that the Co-partnership between James Jordan, Richard Perkins and George Blake of the City of Bath, Brewers, is by mutual consent this day dissolved, and that all persons who have any demands thereon, are desired forthwith to send their accounts to Mr James Jordan of this place, who will pay the same, and those who are indebted to them are desired to pay either of the said co-partners. NB the brewery and spirit trades are now carried on as usual by James Jordan and John Billingsley.”

We do not know when George Blake joined the original two partners, but he did not stay long. At the time of this notice he was just about to go bankrupt. Perkins, who had become interested in canals and coal, chose to seek pastures new, so John Billingsley of Ashwick Grove became the new partner.

Saturday's Post, London – 22 Feb 1796

“On Friday se'nnight, at night, as the two sons of Farmer Perkins of Stoke Lane near Shepton Mallet (the one about 20 and the other 14 years old) were returning from Dorchester with a load of Barley for Messrs Jordan and Billingsley of Oakhill, it is supposed they both got into the waggon to avoid a heavy storm... the horses being left to themselves...the waggon overturned into the river where the lads were presently discovered with the load of

barley on them, it was near three hours before they could be taken out.”

The description of this sad event is followed by 'Another Dreadful Warning to drivers to be cautious about leaving teams to themselves'. Neither the waggon nor the horses were injured. At least one other fatality is recorded in the period, of a young man driving an Oakhill Brewery waggon which overturned.

Dorset County Chronicle – 4 June 1829

“Dreadful Catastrophe by Fire, on Monday last ...Leigh-upon-Mendip was visited by the most calamitous conflagration ever remembered in the neighbourhood... Great praise is due to the numerous inhabitants of this and the neighbouring villages, and to Messrs Jillard and Co, the Oakhill Brewery, who, without solicitation, in the promptest manner, sent their Fire Engine a distance of 3 miles...”

54 people became homeless as a result of this fire. This was before the days of public fire engines, so many companies such as the Brewery formed their own. The fire engine was the property of the Brewery and their employees made up the crew.

Bristol Mirror – 28th July 1821

“At Shepton Mallet the day [of the Coronation of George IV] was ushered in with bells ringing and colours flying ... and a procession to the Church where a most excellent Sermon was preached...the procession then returned to the field where a sumptuous feast of roast beef, plum-pudding and strong beer was served, partaken of by nearly 4,000 persons. After the dinner, a variety of amusements took place. Messrs Jillard and Spencer of the Oakhill Brewery sent up and gave to the populace on Mendip-hill, a quantity of strong beer, and a large bonfire was then kindled which might be seen in most directions for 20 miles around.”

After the past year I think we could all do with a bit of that!

Lin Thorley

WEATHER REPORT: NOVEMBER 2020

From Roemead Farm.
Written by
Gerald Esain.

The temperature was
a little above average.

Highest reading 15.0°C on the
1st of November.

Lowest - 0.1°C on the 27th.

Total rainfall 83mm, well below average for
this site and the driest for 9 years.

BINEGAR SCOUTS

JANUARY 2021



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). The end of the term and a second lockdown has seen us all back on Zoom for a few weeks, but didn't hold us back.

Beavers and Cubs had a night face to face turning themselves into dancing glow stick men. They also made a wreath to lay for Remembrance Sunday. Once on Zoom they had an evening celebrating Christingle, and another making chocolate festive cake pops! We aren't sure if more chocolate went onto the pops, into mouths or around the kitchens during the meetings.

Scouts had great fun with a debate evening, which saw Darth Vader being thrown out of our 'hot air balloon'. To complete their World Faiths badge they also made and decorated Di's to celebrate Diwali. They also had a go at making flavoured flapjacks, which were well received by all the family tasters.

Do you have a young person aged 5, 6 or 7 who may be interested in joining our Scout 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

January 2021 CCS Agents News

As Village & Community Agents, we know this time of year can be really tough, so I'd like to share a little of what we are doing to help people during the winter months. The New Year is upon us, and here at CCS (Community Council for Somerset) we are very busy with the Somerset Food Resilience Taskforce, in partnership with Somerset County Council. We are working together to increase food security for residents in Somerset.

Across Somerset, CCS Village Agents and volunteers delivered nearly **1,000 meals** to families in need to help prevent holiday hunger during half term, and have also recently delivered **nearly a tonne** of donated potatoes to people in need, distributed through 10 community groups. We are delivering regular food boxes to clients on a weekly basis and often distribute donated goods such as books, household cleaning products, and much more that people need! Now we are on the hunt for anyone in their local community providing meals or access to food. **Is this YOU?** Do you want to start helping those locally in need?

We can help! With funding, advice, equipment & ingredients!

Part of the CCS group, our Smart Communities team could provide you with the tools to set up a food bank, collection services or funds to purchase Fridges, Freezers and other equipment to help you store food safely, and help stock them for people in your local area.

Raj Singh, Acting CEO of CCS said: "We have had full support from all of our community here in Somerset helping us feed individuals and families throughout the pandemic. Please get in touch and join our movement, you will be warmly received."

One volunteer said: "I feel for people who are struggling right now. I'm a professional person and I've retired now but in the early 90's I found myself in a similar position through no fault of my own when the business I worked for collapsed suddenly after a government problem. As a single parent I found myself going to bed hungry and it's no fun."

So, if you are already helping your community or want to start to today and have an idea let us help it turn into a reality. Visit: www.ccslovesomerset.org.uk/food Or call **01823 331 222** if you are interested, or email ccssmartcomm@somersetcc.org.uk

Talking Cafes Online

We are still unable to bring Talking Cafes back to physical venues and we miss all our clients so much! However we are still live streaming every day at 11am on Facebook and cover a wide range of topics, from Debt to Mental Health – and all previous sessions can be watched anytime, anywhere via the Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/talkingcafesomerset/>

If you are not on Facebook you can now watch previous Talking Cafes on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5golPHD91le4VDI5NMJdrQ> !

You can comment on the YouTube videos if you have any questions and someone will get in touch with an answer. We hope you enjoy them, let us know what you think!

Julie Brown: **07985 680262** julieb@somersetcc.org.uk

CCS Village, Community & Carers Agents are in your 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. We can offer advice and support to find local groups and activities available in your 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 me to find out who can advise you.



News from the Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall Committee



Firstly we'd like to wish everyone a Happy New Year!

As we look forward to 2021, the Village Hall Trustees are focused on some key initiatives to improve the facilities and fundraising opportunities - primarily for the creation of the new kitchen/ Community Café. As this will be the most extensive programme of works progressed in many years, we are taking the opportunity to get our charity governance in order and aiming to gain the Hallmark Level 1 accreditation which will demonstrate our ability and strength as a charity committee.

Alongside all of this we also intend to improve our environmental position, starting with the planting of a number of new trees along the field perimeter on the opposite side of the field to the building.

Fundraising remains a key priority for us, and we would like to remind everyone of the everyday ways to support us:

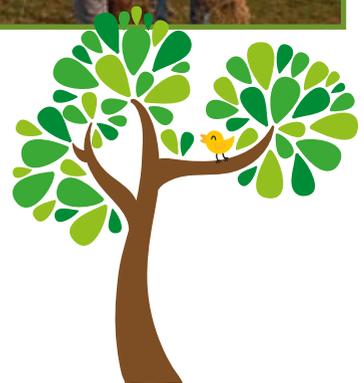
1. If you shop via Amazon - please consider using the Amazon Smile site and selecting "Ashwick Village Hall and Recreation Ground" as your Charity of Choice - Amazon will pay us 0.5% of the value of your qualifying purchases, at no additional cost to you.
2. Similarly if you have oil-fired central heating, please check out Boiler Juice, who will donate 25p to us for every 100 litres purchased if you select "Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall" (ID#35276) as your 'Community'.
3. And if you are planning a spring clean of your wardrobe, please remember our new textile bank - for every tonne of qualifying clothing, textiles, pairs of shoes and handbags, C&G Collections will pay £300 to the Village Hall and they will also make a donation to the 8 Billion Trees Foundation. Thank you to everyone who has already donated - please keep it up!

Thank you to everyone who has supported us throughout 2020 - we look forward 2021 and hopefully easier times for everyone,

**Andy North, Chair,
Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall Committee**

Tree planting at the Recreation Field

Members of the VHC, Parish Council together with Reverend Richard and a few villagers, planted eleven native trees on Saturday, 12th December along the Recreation Field perimeter as part of the Committee's environmental strategy to increase wildlife and support the 2021 wildflower meadow, which has been planted thanks to a successful application for a grant from the Mendip Hills AONB Fund. Species of trees planted include Birch, Maple, Hawthorn, Rowan and Crab Apple.



Photographer: © Mark Adler

BISHOP PETER'S January Message



January takes its name from the Roman god, Janus, who is usually depicted as having two faces, looking both to the future and the past. At the start of a New Year it is good to do the same.

2020 will sadly be remembered as the year disrupted by COVID-19. Cracks in our care for each other have been revealed and it has had a disproportionate effect on those already vulnerable or deprived. It showed us that those who are most essential to our needs, those who clean and serve and care, are often those valued least in our economy. However, we also saw extraordinary acts of kindness and compassion, as churches and communities worked together to provide comfort, support, and practical care.

So, what of 2021? The temptation may be to forget what we have learnt, to paper over the cracks, ignore what has been uncomfortable and to seek comfort in the familiar. I hope we don't. 2020 opened our eyes to the harm caused when people are excluded on the basis of race, ability, gender, sexual orientation, or wealth. Jesus calls us to a better way. Jesus broke the bounds of exclusion, refusing to accept the social norms and speaking to Samaritans, women, Gentiles, tax collectors and sinners. He teaches that the first shall be last and the last first. He reconciles humanity to God through his death and resurrection.

As we look forward to 2021, we need to think again what it means to follow Christ and to build our lives and communities based on mutual love, respect, and service. 'For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

May we all know the Lord's leading and guiding as we step out into a New Year.

With my warmest greetings,

Bishop Peter

Tales of old

Henry Russell. served as Rector from 1580 to 1616. Having gained three sources of church income, he became a *pluralist* and that was a weakness of the Anglican Church. Russell's life displays two other Church weaknesses: *patronage* and *presentation*.

Before Henry VIII's Reformation, most *presentations* (appointments) to church livings were in the gift of churchmen – prebendaries, bishops or abbots. When the monasteries were 'dissolved' and the church 'reformed', many *presentations* fell into the hands of lay people. They were mostly gentry who also acquired monastic lands, making them rich. They became *patrons*.

Once *presented* to a benefice, the clerk (e.g. a rector) was given a life-long freehold and income with exclusive possession of the church. The *Patron's* right was to nominate the priest who would enjoy that living. This had some unhealthy consequences. A patron might appoint a relative or favourite or charge for the *presentation*. A cleric seeking a living might have to pay a large sum to get one. Some mortgaged their benefice, paying annually towards the price of their *presentation*.

Presentations now had value and were bought and sold. Lawyers and churchmen wrote on how to be a good patron, but a market had developed. Two-thirds of *presentations* in our Diocese were in the gift of private individuals.

In 1580, Russell was *presented* to Binegar by Prebendary George Cooper. In 1594, however, a layman, Johannes Swane, presented him to the living of Tyneham, Dorset.

Patronage was the most important means by which the Church was controlled. Who controlled appointments decided on the theology preached and economic role of the Church in the parish. In Somerset, the gentry presented to most parishes, severely limiting the power of the Diocese to reward. Patronage widened the gulf between the higher clergy and the parish clergy, each looking to different sources for reward. Ironically, patronage would also strengthen Puritanism where a patron was a Puritan.

Richard Higgins

January inspiration

images by the Beacon Photography Group



The Beacon
Photography Group
meets online, every
Wednesday evening
at 7.30pm.

We welcome new
members – contact
Jon Durrant on
01761 232520 to
find out more.



Initials on images denote copyright as follows: AL (© Andy Ladhams); BV (© Barbara Voules); DB (© Denise Bailey); DC (© Dave Chown); DW (© Derek Webb); FH (© Fiona H.); IDo (© Ian Donnelly); IDr (© Ian Drake); JD (© Jon Durrant); JH (© John Hoskins); JL (© John Law); JM (© Julie McDonald); PE (© Pat Emery); RS (© Robin Slater); TH (© Tom Husband)



FH



IDr



AL



JD



PE



JM



BV



DW



IDo



Ashwick Parish Council

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

Council Members

Following our last Zoom Council Meeting the Council now has full membership. Our Councillors are: Roy Bailey, David Barlow (Chair) Julia Barrett, Becky Battagel, Phil Briscoe, Sarah Emery, David Gilson, David Hine, Lizzie Lewis (Vice Chair), David Thorley and Bryan Wells.

War Memorial

The Council has received notice that Mary Cheshire and Pauline West wish to stand down from caring for the flower beds around the War Memorial. For some years now these two ladies have tended the beds ensuring they look attractive and cared for. Thank you very much for the time and care given. Is there anyone in the community who would like to volunteer to maintain the village tribute to those who have defended our country in times of war? If so, please contact the Parish Council to register an interest.

High Croft Quarry

A number of parishioners have registered concerns over noise from High Croft Quarry. Both Binegar and Ashwick receive notifications from one user of the quarry, Events Horizon, which has been very supportive and informs those interested prior to their activities via the WhatsApp Quarry Alert. Alerts have recently also been posted on the Village Facebook pages. If you wish to be added to the WhatsApp group, you should contact Paul Cheetham (07432091705).

If the activities do cause concern and are detrimental to your health or that of your animals, both Ashwick and Binegar would suggest you contact the Environmental team at Mendip District Council. You would need to provide:

- Name and Address and telephone number
- The address where the problem is coming from
- The nature of the problem
- When and for how long the problem has been occurring
- How the problem is affecting you.

Contact details:

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Best wishes for a Healthy and Happy New Year in 2021



Binegar and Gurney Slade Parish Council News

Tree Planting Binegar Bottom

Up to 150 trees have been planted at Binegar Bottom in a joint venture between Mendip District Council and the Parish Council.

The tree 'whips' were kindly donated by Mendip and have been planted at the south west of the village.

Mendip undertook a review of the land and established that native species such as Oak, Sycamore, Beech, Hazel and Goat Willow would be best suited and fit well with other existing trees in the area. The planting took place during the first week in December coinciding with the UK's largest annual tree celebration – National Tree Week.



The tree planting scheme contributes to the Parish Council's 'Climate and Ecological Emergency Pledge' and helps to replace the increasing number of ash trees the area is losing due to die-back. It will also, as the trees mature, contribute to flood prevention further down in Gurney Slade.

The planting was attended by Haylee Wilkins, Assistant CEO and Group Manager for Neighbourhood Services, and Cllr Tom Ronan the portfolio holder for Strategic Policy and Climate Change.

Highcroft Quarry

The Parish is aware of the concerns that have been raised regarding explosions and gun fire in Highcroft Quarry. Parishioners are advised to contact the Environmental Health Officer at Mendip District Council if they find that the noise and activity is detrimental to their health and wellbeing. The Parish Council has been in contact with one regular user who has set up a WhatsApp group to give notification to interested parties in advance of their activity.

Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council will next meet virtually on Tuesday 2 February at 7:00pm.

WISHING YOU ALL THE BEST FOR 2021

Keep Safe

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

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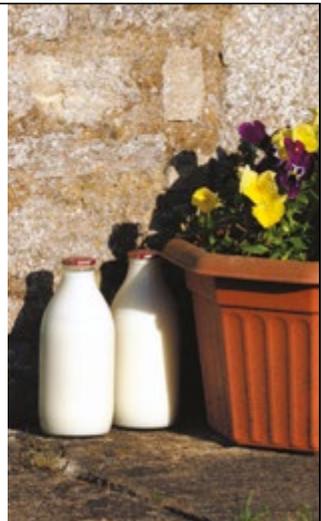
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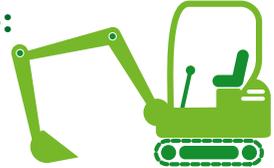
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Safeguarding Officer:

Branden Heselton:	safeguarding@beacontrinity.church
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Parish Church Wardens:

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Binegar	Patsy Scadding: David Stone:	patsy.scadding@beacontrinity.church / 01749 841163 david.stone@beacontrinity.church / 01749 840300
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Hon Magazine Treasurer - Peter Dennis 9 The Acorns Little London, Oakhill, BA3 5BT Tel: 840526
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