





Church Services - January 2022

Sunday, 2nd January	10am	Communion	St. James, Ashwick
Sunday, 9th January	10am	Family Worship	All Saints, Oakhill
Sunday, 16th January	10am	Communion	St. James, Ashwick
Sunday, 23rd January	10am 4pm	Communion 4th@4	Holy Trinity, Binegar Ashwick Curch Rooms
Sunday, 30th January	10am	Candlemas	All Saints, Oakhill

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Every year I try and write something different. However, I can't remember what I wrote last year! How are you approaching the New Year? For many it's just another day. I thought I would just tell you how I am looking ahead.

Firstly, I am praying for all those who are still suffering from the affects of Covid-19. I know some who have lost family members and others who are suffering Long Covid. Then there are those whose business or livelihood has been affected. I am, like most I am sure, hoping that 2022 will see the world take control of the pandemic and that the vaccination programme worldwide will mean that Covid-19 at least becomes the same as flu. (I could write more on it but will leave it for discussions in the pub!)

Second thing, as I look to 2022, is my values. I think caring for others and caring for the world in which we live is very important. Many people I who know well are aware of how I feel as I wear my feeling on my sleeve. Sometimes I can be a little grumpy, and it is not pleasant to be around. (Anyone else like that?). So, in 2022 I intend to bring more joy and thankfulness into all parts of my life, this will hopefully make a difference in my family and community. It's about thinking of others before myself.

Then there is the world. I want to do my bit to care for creation which means working out how to reduce my carbon footprint. Where does my food come from, and my clothes? Do I need to drive everywhere? I am excited about our new orchard in Binegar but that is planning for the future. Buying locally grown veg and locally reared meat is something I can do now. I am humbled by those (especially young) people who take their time to buy ethically sourced products and am aware I can do better.

Death of

So that's where I am starting. How about you?

Community corner



The Editorial Team of The Beacon (including our outstanding Artworker, Lee Linford) wish all our advertisers, sponsors, contributors and readers a very Happy New Year and we hope you have the best of times in 2022. We can only produce the magazine free of charge because of the financial support of our loyal advertisers and generosity of our sponsors, we have no other income! We are also indebted to the many people who voluntarily deliver the magazine direct to your door every month and to Graham Crane for organizing the monthly distribution of 850 copies! Please keep those contributions and photographs coming - we rely on you to keep us informed!

(Artworker's note! Thank you for your kind words, Pam and Peter. Not forgetting, of course, all the hard work and organisation your good selves put in each and every month to ensure this publication has been possible for so many years!! Happy New Year!)

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Rich and Ruth Miles on the birth of Eliana Grace.

Holy Trinity Church Flowers:

January 22nd – 30th inclusive – Anne Caley February 5th – 13th inclusive – Jenny Eyres February 19th – 27th inclusive – Julia Hill

Volunteers Needed!

All Saints Church, Oakhill is looking for volunteers to help keep the interior of the church clean and tidy. This would involve low level dusting, vacuuming, occasional floor washing, etc. If you are able to help for a couple of hours on an ad

hoc basis, please contact Peter Dennis on 01749 840526 for further details. Ideally, we would like a few volunteers to enable us to set up a cleaning rota!



Binegar Christmas Tree

Thank you to Diane Abbott for photos of the raising of the village Christmas tree in Binegar and to the four Johns, Paul and Tony for putting it up!





Your local clubs & groups

Why not try something different this year and meet new people? There are a number of clubs and groups running locally and you are assured of a warm welcome:

Whist Drive

Mary Dampier - 01749 840649

Knit & Natter

Carole Simmons - 07980 979365

History Group

David and Lin Thorley - 01749 840200

Gardening Club

Mark Manley - markamanley81@googlemail.com

Photography Group

Jon Durrant - 01761 232520

Baby & Toddler Group

Elsbeth Ralls - elsbethpriestley@me.com (Currently full but please contact if interested. Day changed from Tuesday to Thursday.)

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend

The 2 Parish Councils, 2 village Halls and church are working together to plan for the celebrations across the villages over the extended Bank Holiday weekend next June. There will be a meeting on Thursday 20th January in Binegar Memorial Hall at 7pm for anyone interested in helping shape the festivities. If you have ideas and would like to help please just turn up on 20th January.

In addition, there are a wide range of activities taking place in our Village Halls: Ashwick & Oakhill - 01749 841688
Binegar & Gurney Slade - 01749 840764

Tai Chi

Tai Chi in Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall resumes after Christmas on Monday, 10th January at 2 pm.

This month's cover...

This month's photograph of a winter scene was taken by Jon Durrant. Please send photos for the cover (portrait orientation, in colour) to: magazine@beacontrinity.church Thank you.



This time last year...
© Jon Durrant.

WEATHER REPORT: NOVEMBER 2021

From Roemead Farm. Written by Gerald Esain. November for most of the month was mild with temperatures above average.

The highest reading was 13.1°C on the 10th.

Lowest was -1.0°c on the 29th. It was very windy
on the 27th. Rainfall for November was only
38.7mm, the driest at this site in 40 years. Previous
driest November was 1985 with 60.0mm.

January Message Ruth Worsley; Bishop of Taunton



The light of a star to guide us

What will 2022 bring I wonder? Two years ago, Covid was just a vague murmur coming from the East. How could we have known it would have such an impact or for so long?

How might this year be different? Well, there is much to look forward to. We expect to have a new diocesan bishop joining us. We will be celebrating 70 years of the Queen's reign. The World Cup is on... and we have a chance! And then there are all the other excitements of anniversaries, milestones and hopes and dreams we all have.

As we begin this new year my mind turns to those Eastern travellers long ago who saw a star in the sky, set out on an uncharted journey which took maybe up to two years, and eventually found a King. Not the sort of king expected but One who opened up new horizons for the whole world. One who offers us love, forgiveness and a way back to God.

At this time when we are asking questions that search for deeper meaning, this seems a story which resonates. What sort of journey will you take this year? At a recent clergy pre-Advent retreat we were reminded that it is not so much us walking with God but rather God walking with us. So, no matter what twists and turns the road takes, or even if we slip from following in God's Way, He will never give up on us and will never let us walk alone.

This year, as last, we shall be seeking to dwell on some words from scripture and allow them to permeate into our being. The following verses from that passage, seem to offer us the light of a star to guide us as we navigate our journey in the year to come.

'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.'

Philippians 4: 4-7

May you know God's presence and grace as He walks with you into this New Year!

With love

Bishop Ruth

Binegar Parish Council Wish all Parishioners



And the Very Best for 2022

Your Councillors .

Jon Abbott, Philip Blatchford, John Bridges, Cath Law, Phill Roberts, John Scadding & David Stone.

&

Parish Clerk Diane Abbott

www.binegarpc@hotmail.co.uk

Tales of old

In 1647, George Hellier bought Whitchurch and Benagre manors. He and his father had hedged their bets in the Civil War. As metal traders, they supplied Royalist and Roundhead forces. Because Parliament was short of funds, it was in debt to almost everyone. The rules of the day discounted double the value of a debt from the asking price of a property on sale from Parliament. There is no record of how much George paid for Whitchurch Prebend but it was probably a bargain.

The purchase came with the privileges of the now-abolished cathedral Prebendary. George calls himself the "elder of the parish of Benagre". The record styles him an "armiger", entitled to a coat of arms but not a title – above a yeoman but not yet a nobleman. He bequeaths to his son (George, of course) all rights to the "Advowson Presentation and Right of Patronage of the Parish Church of Benagre". It was now the Helliers, not the Church, who appointed rectors. The restored monarchy reinstated Prebendaries in 1660 but history is silent on whether they played a part in the Hellier appointments.

In 1666, George presented Lancelot Wharton, a married man from Durham. He was active locally. Appointed Preacher, he then became curate at Holcombe and at Chilcompton as well as rector here.

Not all was rosy with the Helliers. There were family disputes over wills and land ownership. Relations with his mother's Hooke family soured as they sued each other. They went to court nineteen times.

Worse, in 1688, George's son Humphrey, named after his maternal Hooke grandfather, sued his father over a Hooke bequest of £300 (about £30,000 now) that George had withheld. George was now old but not prepared to give in to Humphrey's demand. His will of 1689 left the bulk of the estate to his eldest son, George. It divided the rest between his wife and children but not Humphrey. He did leave Humphrey an annuity, Parker's and Ellis's tenements in Binegar and houses in Bristol but only provided Humphrey withdrew his lawsuit and claims within one month of his father's death.

Humphrey, it seems, complied since the Churchwarden's accounts record he paid rates for both tenements in 1697 and 1705. The Churchwardens also record the death of George (the father) in 1691.

Richard Higgins

Grenville's Ramblin's...

I was looking for something to ramble about for the New Year that is upon us once again, when my mind came up with the news about the sculpture recently installed in niche on the corner of the west front of Wells Cathedral. This sculpture, resembling a fairly tall, oddly shaped stack of odd sized and shaped blocks, apparently made of some kind of metal has been given the title of 'Doubt'

Although it has received a certain amount of acclaim from some members of the public, I, not being very much into modern art, tend to see it as rather a waste of time effort and material; then again everybody to their own thoughts!

Then having said that, I must say that I find it very strange to see a symbol that in effect advertises 'Doubt' installed on the front of the Cathedral, dedicated to faith in God and Christian worship.

Well, not a lot of inspiration so far for the New Year I suppose, so having another go my mind came up once again with that ancient prayer accredited to St. Francis of Assisi.

Lord, make us instruments of thy peace.
Where there is hatred let us sow love
Where there is injury, pardon.
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy

O divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

It seems to me that this prayer has much to offer us as we think about some of the problems that face us and the world about us in the year ahead!

Grenville Reakes

The January Garden

EAST MENDIP GARDENING CLUB - JANE EVANS

January is the beginning of the gardening year - a time for fresh starts, renewed energy, and grand plans for the months ahead.

Jobs in the garden are mostly about keeping things tidy and getting ready for the year to come. If you're itching to get growing, there are bare root roses to plant, first early potatoes to chit and sweet peas to start off. Other flower seeds that require a long growth period before flowering are antirrhinums, begonia, dianthus, geranium and lobelia, start them now with gentle heat.

Celeriac and celery can also be sown in a heated propagator and broad beans in a cold frame or unheated greenhouse. Use a bright sunny windowsill indoors for herbs and salad leaves.

Start rhubarb seed in a heated propagator.

Plant bare-rooted fruit trees, blueberries and raspberries, providing the soil isn't frozen or waterlogged.

January is the perfect time to prune roses. Cut back to just above a bud and remove any crossing or dead branches.

If your honeysuckle is very overgrown cut back hard to encourage healthy new growth.



Cut back ornamental grasses before new growth begins - cut back to within a few centimetres of the ground.

Remove old hellebore leaves - this will make new blooms visible as they emerge this spring.

Trim damaged, diseased and the oldest stems of brightly coloured willows, thin out overcrowded stems.

·····

Dead-head winter pansies to stop them setting seed and prolong the flowering season.

Remove yellowing leaves from winter brassicas -they're no use to the plant and can harbour pests and diseases.

Prepare the ground for early peas, place a cloche over the soil to help warm up the ground for a few weeks before sowing.

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

Force rhubarb plants by placing an upturned bucket or bin over the crown. The tender pink stems will be ready in about 8 weeks' time.

Order fruit bushes, such as currants. and plant in a well-prepared bed in a sheltered position.

Shred your Christmas tree and add it to compost bins. Alternatively, the stripped-down branches make great pea sticks.

Remove heavy snow from greenhouses and cold frames to prevent glass being damaged.

Brush heavy snow off hedges and conifers to prevent branches from snapping under the weight.

Avoid walking on the lawn if covered in snow or blanketed by a heavy frost to prevent damage.

Note any winter-flowering annuals that are currently in bloom for re-ordering next autumn.

Put your new year enthusiasm to good use by cleaning pots, tools, waterbutts and greenhouses in preparation for spring. Not the most glamorous of jobs but will set you up for a great growing season.

Plan your vegetable plot, consider good crop rotation to prevent pests and diseases building up in the soil.

Think about dedicating a bed to perennial vegetables such as asparagus, rhubarb and artichokes and order the crowns and tubers for spring planting.



Continue looking after wildlife put out food for hungry birds and continue to leave some areas of your garden uncut for shelter until the spring.

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

For their first meeting of the year East Mendip Gardening Club will meet on Tuesday 25th January at 7.30p.m in the Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall, with Colin Higgins (Higgy) and his illustrated talk "Nature as your neighbour" further details from our Chair Mark Manley markamanley81@googlemail.com

Oakhill & Ashwick Local History Group

The Memoirs of Elsie Hilliar (nee Emery) 1897-1994. Part 3 – Lin Thorley

Another instalment of Elsie's narrative, told in her own words, this time describing the residents and businesses on Fosse Rd during the early years of the twentieth century.

Edwin James came here to open a butcher's shop next to the Inn [he arrived from Wells shortly before 1871, when he was a lodger at the Oakhill Inn]. He had [the shop] built on to the house, and also the yard next to it to keep the cattle in when he bought them. Opposite, across the road, the old farm buildings [of Oakhill Farm] were turned into a slaughterhouse [now Cobblestone Cottage] where they used to do all the killing, the cows and the sheep. He was the only butcher in the district, and it was quite a thriving business. He kept horses and traps to take the orders out around. He employed three men. He was a bachelor.



Fosse Road from what was then called Prospect Cottage, 1890's. Showing some of the old farm buildings (on the far side of the road); beyond them what is now the vicarage (which replaced the farm); the slaughterhouse was beyond that.

My father told him it was time he got married, he had a housekeeper there, it was time he married her. Her name was Emily and his Edwin, and my mother's name is Emily and my father's Edwin. So, they went off and got married at a registry office one Saturday morning and came back and shocked everybody in the village [1896]. He was a very jolly man, and like my father, he would join in everything in the village. He always wore very tight trousers and we wondered how he got them on and off. We never knew.

After he was taken in [? not sure what this means!] a farmer's son named Willis from Evercreech took over. He was also a bachelor and carried on the business with the men who were there, until the time came when he was not allowed to do any more killing there in the slaughterhouse, and they had to be taken down to Pylle to be slaughtered. He sold it to the Co-operative. Ford's Stores had by then been taken over by a private co-operative and they worked together. It was called the Co-operative Butchery. That lasted a long time until the Radstock Co-operative took over the stores and the butchery and shut the butchery up. The Stores carried on for some time, but in due course the Radstock Co-operative shut that up and it has now been taken over by Dark Brothers Flectrical (it is now the Upholsterer's].

Tom Vagg started the foundry in Fosse Road [set back from the road, almost behind the pub] and used to make different ironworks, and he made all the covers for the drains for the Rural Council, and all the heavy ironwork which was to be done. Occasionally he used to shoe horses, but the farrier was Offie Moon who had his forge on The Batch and he was a full-time farrier [the Bath Road near the Oakhill

Inn was known as The Batch]. Tom Vagg did wheelwrighting there too. It goes back a good way the forge there. We used to go in and watch, and pump the fire for him sometimes... He had one son and three daughters.

He lived at Townsend House in Oakhill where he had his offices, we used to go up there a lot. Mrs Vagg was an invalid in a wheelchair for over twenty years. I always remember her, she used to have a handkerchief on a stick to wipe her nose. They had to lift her about all the time. She was doubled up with rheumatism. [Tom Vagg] had one son who helped him in the business; as long as he carried a spanner about in his hand he was supposed to be working... One daughter

married Ernie Moon at Ashwick, another daughter married at Crewkerne, and Flossie, a daughter married George Green, who before had Blake's Farm down the Stoke Road, a very big farm which was farmed by Tom James....

The other farms coming up along the Stoke Road – Tanyard Farm, which used to be the tannery years ago. Quite a big tannery there. But when Strachey came here, he put his gamekeeper in... it was run by Kipper Green (as we always called him) until his son Harry took over and it was one of the biggest farms in the district. He was wrapped up in the Farmer's Union. And they had a dairy there and made cheese. *To be continued*.

Oakhill & Ashwick Local History Group: 2022 Programme

January 19th	The Battle of Sedgemoor - 1685 Lt Colonel James Porter
February 16th	Benefits, Brass and the Gertest, Grandest Day Philip Hoyland
March 16th	The Founding of the SAS Lorna Almonds-Windmill
April 20th	Treading the Wards – A Nurse's Tale Lottie Dale
May 18th	Quiz & Social Evening – inc Wine & Nibbles Incorporating the AGM
June 15th	Guided Tour of Glastonbury Abbey (TBC) Meet at the entrance to the Abbey

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings are held in the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. Non-members welcome (@£2). For further details call David or Lin on 01749 840200.



Ashwick Parish Council Update

December 2021 - David Barlow & Kate Egan (ashwickparish@hotmail.co.uk)

Happy New Year for 2022!

In the lead up to Christmas it was a real delight to see the village becoming festive with parishioners decorating windows and gardens - Thank you!

PLANNING

At the December meeting, the councillors had two planning applications to consider:

2021/2363 - Erection of a single storey side extension - Rose Cottage, Ash Lane, Nettlebridge

2021/2503 - Demolition of 2 existing dwellings, a single storey garage, and a single storey stable building and the construction of a new single storey office building - Myrtledene, Chapel Lane to Stockhill, Gurney Slade.

It should be noted that Mendip District Council are obliged to seek comment from the Parish Council but may not agree with our recommendations!

Grit Bins

Following an inspection, the Parish grit bins should now be full, in readiness for the winter. The damaged bin on Ashwick Hill leading down into Gurney Slade is to be replaced.

The Parish Council is to discuss the proposal to have a social media presence. This would give further feedback on local issues, residents' concerns and interests while communicating information about Councillors' activities.

Councillors have been invited to a working party between Binegar Parish Council, the Village Halls, and the Church to help put together a programme of events to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The first meeting took place on Thursday, 9th December 2021.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 12 January 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. Agendas can be found on the village notice boards and the Ashwick Parish website www.ashwickparish.org

Your Councillors are: Roy Bailey, David Barlow, Phil Briscoe, Andy Clemence, Jessica Elliott, Sarah Emery, David Gilson, David Hine, Lizzie Lewis, David Thorley and Bryan Wells.



News from the Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall Committee



Everyone on the Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall Committee would like to wish our patrons, past present and future, a Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful and restful Christmas, and, like us, are looking forward with optimism to this year.

2022 is already set to be a busy and exciting year for the Village Hall Committee, and there is plenty to keep us busy and much to be excited about.

Firstly, we are part of a joint Parish working party (covering Oakhill, Ashwick and Binegar) starting to prepare for the Platinum Jubilee and looking to create a cohesive community celebration over the long Bank Holiday weekend at the beginning of June. As details are arranged, we will of course let you know, so watch this space!

As well as this, we are working with the School and the Church on the return of the ever popular and much missed Village Festival (all being well, to be held in July 2022). Plus, of course, we aim to make a start to the building work we have been fundraising towards throughout 2021, in particular the creation of the new larger and more accessible kitchen, and a community café seating area.

Fundraising in 2021 made excellent progress towards our £80,000 target for our rejuvenation project, and we would like to thank everyone who supported our Christmas Market at the end of last year - stallholders and customers alike. The event was very well attended and we had wonderful feedback on a great

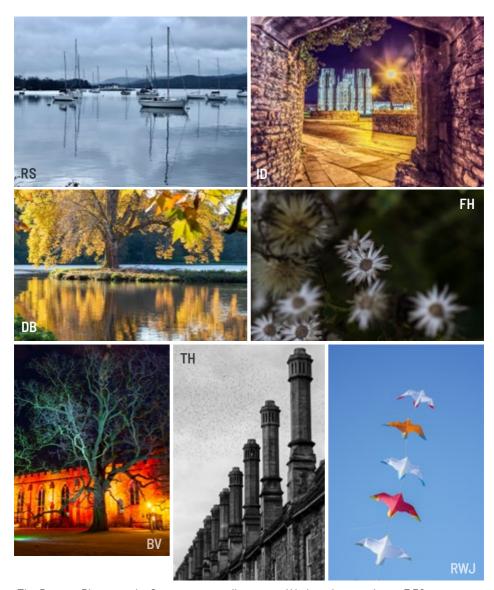


mix of wonderful stalls. Even the heavy snow and power cuts that morning didn't keep people away, and the event raised an incredible £1,042.60. Thank you again to everyone for your continued support - it is very much appreciated, and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

Kim Hare, Vice Chair - Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall Committee

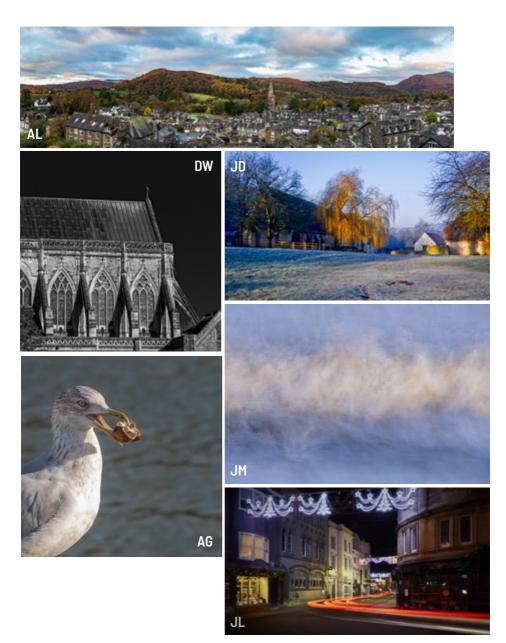
Life through a lens

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.

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'Address to a Haggis' is traditionally recited on Burns Night (25th January) after the haggis has been brought in and set on the table.

Address to a Haggis

Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face, Great Chieftan o' the Puddin-race! Aboon them a' ye tak your place, Painch, tripe or thairm:

Weel are ye wordy o' a grace As lang's my arm.

The groaning trencher there ye fill, Your hurdies like a distant hill. Your pin wad help to mend a mill In time o' need, While thro' your pores the dews distil Like amber mead.

His knife see Rustic-labour dight, An' cut you up wi' ready slight, Trenching your gushing entrails bright, Like onie ditch: And then, O what a glorious sight, Warm-reekin, rich!

Then, horn for horn, they stretch an' strive:

Deil tak the hindmost, on they drive, Till a' their weel-swall'd kytes belyve Are bent like drums: Then auld Guidman, maist like to rive,

Bethankit hums

Is there that owere his French ragout, Or olio that wad staw a sow. Or fricassee wad mak her spew Wi' perfect scunner, Looks down wi' sneering, scornfu' view On sic a dinner?

Poor devil! see him owre his trash. As feckless as a wither'd rash, His spindle shank a guid whip-lash, His nieve a nit: Thro' bluidy flood or field to dash, O how unfit!

But mark the Rustic, haggis-fed, The trembling earth resounds his tread, Clap in his walie nieve a blade, He'll make it whissle; An' legs, an' arms, an' heads will sned. Like taps o' thrissle.

Ye Pow'rs wha mak mankind your care, And dish them out their bill o' fare. Auld Scotland wants nae skinking ware That jaups in luggies; But, if ye wish her gratfu' prayer, Gie her a Haggis!





Smart Communities Ltd has launched a NEW stand-alone website demonstrating its community focused services for the Southwest of England. Smart Communities provide community and economic development, strategic planning, sustainability, future planning, evaluation / research as well as offering training and events for both community and corporate clients.

Visit: https://smartcommunities.online/

With over 90 years' working at the heart of communities as Community Council for Somerset (CCS) and since 2018 as Smart Communities the trading arm CCS created with a charity ethos as all profits feed back into Somerset via the charitable core work and projects of CCS.

We also have our own social media channels which can be found here:

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/smartcommunitiesItd

Twitter: https://twitter.com/communitiesItd

Linkedin: https://www.linkedin.com/company/72093929/admin/ Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/smartcommunitiesItd/



Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall



The Village Hall on Zion Hill is a great local venue for parties, wedding and christening celebrations, clubs, societies, meetings and fundraisers. Recently refurbished and redecorated, the main hall has a capacity of 125 (70 seated). Hire includes use of a fully-fitted kitchen, tables and chairs, and hall piano.

Other Facilities for hire include a meeting room (up to 20 seated), football pitches, changing rooms with showers and various sound/lighting equipment.



Amenities include large car park, recreational field, toddler playground, BMX track, Truespeed Ultra wifi and projector screens in the hall and meeting room.

Availability and Booking Information: www.ashwickparish.org (Amenities > Village Hall) or Email: aandovillagehall@gmail.com or Phone: 01749 841 688

Ashwick Church Rooms

The Church Rooms at Ashwick are available for hire and are the perfect venue for smaller functions - from children's parties to intimate country weddings. The Rooms have a large well-equipped kitchen, full disabled and baby changing facilities and is centrally heated throughout. To view the Rooms, or for details of our competitive hire charges, please contact:

Caroline Stevens Tel: 01749 840170 e-mail: caroline.stevens@beacontrinity.church

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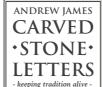


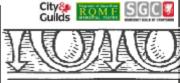
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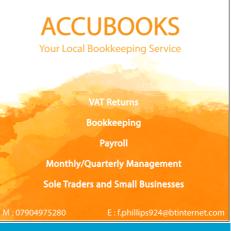


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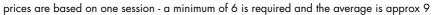
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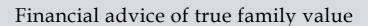
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