

Editorial Notes

This month's 'Life' contains articles on Climate Change including all of Manna, which has a letter from the Assistant Bishop, Trevor Willmott on the same subject. On page 14 David Yemm writes the first of a series on how we can help the environment, starting in your own garden, and in Walton matters on page 6 you will find they are going 'wild' also. It all begins on the cover pages.

Recently we took advantage of the nice weather and walked up to Collard hill, home of the Large Blue Butterflies, on route we passed through the lovely uncut grass on Ivythorn Hill with hundreds of orchids, one of which is pictured on the back cover alongside a dragonfly, hogweed?, and a common blue butterfly, no large blue photographs this time. Grasses and bramble encircle the view of Beacon Hill at Compton Dundon making up the picture for the front cover

Do you struggle to read this magazine because of poor sight? Would you like to receive it in A3? I have started to print copies to order in this much larger format and would be pleased to get a copy to anyone who wishes to receive a copy. Please contact me.

Inside Covers Please note that the date for all August articles to be in by is Sunday 18th July, thus the magazines will be available on Thursday 29th July. Also any alterations required due to the recent A.P.C.M s will be corrected on the inside covers in the August Life magazine.

I must end this month by thanking all of you who sent us cards for our Golden Wedding Anniversary and the lovely flowers that were presented to us 'from our Church Friends', we spent an hour opening all the cards as there were so many. Thank you all for your kind wishes. On the day before we spent a lovely time in our garden with our children and grandchildren which was a great joy after all the restrictions of the past months. Then on the day we visited Hestercombe Gardens and enjoyed a meal in the Stable Restaurant. We are now looking forward to an anniversary holiday on the Isle of Wight which was our Honeymoon destination all those years ago.
Roger Harmsworth

Rector's Letter.

"Come, all you who are thirsty" Isaiah 55. 1

Dear Friends,

As you will see elsewhere in this magazine, subject to the lifting of Covid 19 restrictions, we are looking forward to welcoming you to an 'open house' in the Rectory on 17th July. Kevin and I are acutely conscious that, arriving as we did in the middle of a pandemic, most of the social things associated with the arrival of a new rector couldn't happen. Albeit nearly a year later, we are looking forward to beginning to put that right.

We love hospitality, whether a simple cup of coffee or a nice meal out it's always good to spend time together. In our recent 'reimagine' sermon series, one of the themes we explored was hospitality. Even if much had to stop during lockdown, much else continued and it helped us to realise that offering hospitality should be far more than dusting off the best china or booking up the best restaurant. Our recommended summer reading, also reviewed elsewhere in this magazine offers seven ways to welcome like Jesus. Can I highlight three themes, each of which I unpacked more fully in my talk which you can listen to again online via our website if you did not hear it the first time. Hospitality can be generous. Whether we have much or little, a dining table that seats twelve or the corner of a tiny flat matters less than our generous heart attitude. We can give others our time, our talents our practical skills, our energy, our words and so much more as the most generous hospitality that someone could ever receive.

Hospitality can be compassionate. Reach out to those who maybe can't or won't reciprocate.

Hospitality needs to be persistent. We fear rejection and being told 'no' and all too easily can be tempted to give up. If God is putting someone on your heart, be encouraged to keep at it – try not to give up. Just because they said 'no' 5 years ago, does not

mean they'll say 'no' again.

Whether we are welcoming people to our homes, our churches or our lives, let's follow Jesus' model of generous, compassionate and persistent hospitality.

See you on the 17th, with blessings and my prayers,
Ana

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## **CELEBRATING OUR ZAMBIA LINK**

The Diocese of Bath and Wells has a longstanding and fruitful link with the Anglican Dioceses in Zambia, stretching back over 40 years. The link includes both parishes and schools and has involved visits to each other's communities, financial gifts together with prayer and encouragement of and for one another. Those who follow Diocesan news will see a particular focus on this link on the coming days as the Diocese marks 4 July as 'Zambia Sunday'.

Street parish has, in recent years, developed its own link with Mfuwe, a thriving Anglican parish in the Eastern Diocese of Zambia. Over the last three years, regular financial support has allowed the parish in Zambia to build a house for their parish priest, Father George, and we continue to pray for them as we know they pray for us.

As many of you know, Ana and I have a particular love for Zambia. I first visited the country over twenty years ago and we have both enjoyed several visits since. Our experience is of a warm welcoming people with a vibrant faith, yet a country with significant issues around poverty, climate change etc.

Mfuwe parish is at the heart of the South Luangwa game park, one of the most prestigious in Africa. Many in the local church family there depend on the visiting tourists for their living and the Covid 19 pandemic, with global restrictions on travel and tourism, has dealt their livelihoods a severe blow, with many workers losing their jobs. It was good therefore, to be able to send part of our 2020 Harvest Festival offering to Mfuwe, with the church encouraged to use these resources to meet families' needs locally.

Those of you on Facebook should try and 'friend' Bishop William, the Diocesan Bishop for Mfuwe, to keep up to date with all that he does and particularly his passion for tree planting as a way of tackling climate change and soil degradation in Zambia. There is much to encourage us and challenge us in the work he is doing.

If you would like to know more about Mfuwe or the Diocesan Zambia link, please contact me or check out the new Zambia link pages on the Diocese of Bath and Wells web site.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters at Mfuwe, for recovery from Covid 19 restrictions and continuing hope and joy in Jesus.

Kevin Lawrence.

## **A weekend of welcome...**

If Covid 19 restrictions have been lifted, we are planning a weekend of welcome across the benefice from 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> July. On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July, Kevin and I would like to invite you to an open house at the Rectory between 3 and 7pm. Drop in anytime during the afternoon, we'd love to see you.

Due to Covid and ongoing risks, on this occasion, we sadly don't think we can offer shared food and drink but please bring your own if you want to. Even if it won't feel quite normal, we are looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible.



Then on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July, you are encouraged to invite friends, neighbours and family to come 'back to church'. Maybe they used to come? Maybe they have got out of the habit of coming? Maybe this is an opportunity to invite them to come for the first time? Each of our services will have a special focus on welcoming people back although please reassure people that no-one will be singled out! Special invitations will be available shortly.

Ana Lawrence

## **Walton matters**

Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to him on the ten stringed lyre. Sing to him a new song; play skilfully and shout for joy. For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his

unfailing love. Psalm 33. V's 1-5. NIV.

It was lovely to read Suzie's write up about the outside Pentecost service at Walton and to particularly think about worshipping with music and dance. Many of the psalms talk of worshipping with dance and stringed instruments so I was drawn to this psalm to head our piece this month. It goes on to talk of the heavens and the seas and he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do. With us all talking about and aiming to become eco churches, and the G7 summit being held in Cornwall, it seems that God is leading us and reminding us that his way is the best way. The psalms are full of praise and a joy to dip into.

Our churchyards have seen 'no mow May' and I can't believe how long the grass can grow in a month with all the rain we had. It seems the council were adopting the same regime as the grass verges were left to grow too. This gives other plants and wild flowers chance to make an appearance. Hopefully we will be able to make a plan of action in a few months as we see what plant life we do have, and how best to encourage it.

The friends of Walton Church will have met on the 17th June to discuss our fundraising events as we will know how the opening up of the covid restrictions are going. I hope to be able to give you some news in next month's magazine, but we have been asked by some villagers to host a garage sale event as we did many years ago. We will arrange a meeting solely to discuss this event and to get additional help with the organisation of it but we look forward to being able to welcome you in the not too distant future, as you wander around the village and have a well deserved stop at the Church for coffee and cake.

**Flower rota.**

**Sandra Gristock.**

10th July. Hilda Grint.

24th July. Jo Pain.

## **Compton Dundon News**

**Good Neighbours**

Following this weekend there will be an announcement about the easing of lockdown dates.

Although it may not be as soon as we would have wished, there is now real hope of a time in the Summer when we can mix more freely with one another and begin to live life to the full as we once did.

The series of 'Reimagining' themes has been preparing us for this time. Now that all of the St Andrew's congregation has received both vaccines, we are gradually feeling more confident about social situations. Our Communion services have made a very special and welcome return. Singing too has been possible and we have been (mostly) blessed with sunshine as we gathered outside each week to join in the final hymn, surrounded by hills and fields dotted with flowers and animals. Here I am again tempted to describe our lovely countryside church setting!

Whilst we can now finally envisage a way out, the pandemic has not been all negative: indeed many neighbourly acts of kindness, both great and small, have flourished in the village. During the initial lockdown, when we were taking our permitted daily stroll, conversations were had and new people were met as we all found ourselves in the same unfamiliar situation. The Parish Council members as points of contact regularly received phone calls answering queries or from those simply wanting to talk. Similarly church members reached out by telephone or initiated doorstep chats with both known neighbours or people newly moved here. Across the Benefice our churches have been serving others with many practical tasks, including shopping, collecting prescriptions or maybe even fish and chips! Following our Zoom coffee mornings, we are now holding fortnightly morning coffee gatherings outdoors in Compton Dundon gardens to share news and support one another.

The 'Reimagining' series has included the themes of 'Community,' 'Hospitality,' and this week 'Relationships.' The reading from Colossians includes the words 'because of his deep love for you, you should practise tender-hearted mercy and kindness to others.'

(Living Bible, Colossians 3, verse 12.) May we continue to be good neighbours and let the love and peace of Christ guide our lives.

Pat King.

## **APCM Reflections**

### **I shared the following reflections at our recent APCM's.**

Gathering on an evening like this, of course it is right that we look back on the year that has past – and 2020 has been an incredibly difficult and challenging year in so many ways, for us individually, as churches and as a wider community. Much of it has been framed in terms of what we have not been able to do, and we are still acutely conscious of such limitations.

One feature of the pandemic has been the increased use of online worship – worshipping on Zoom for many months. In many ways this has been positive in terms of building the benefice, meeting one another across our different churches has been a blessing. We have learned much about online church, nationally as well as locally and I am keen that we continue to maintain an online presence – whether monthly services, prayer meetings etc.

- House groups have moved online and again this has worked well and kept people connected.
- We set up some intentional pastoral phoning ensuring that everyone in the benefice received one if not more than one phone call from a member of the church.
- Website – has been developed last year and has been refreshed. This is a way into the life of our churches for many who are exploring and looking around.



- Occasional offices have been somewhat curtailed for Covid reasons, but there are increasing numbers of Baptism enquiries, and during Covid we have conducted standalone baptism services due to numbers and social distancing, but the intention is to reset them into the main Sunday services restrictions permitting. We have also something of a backlog of postponed weddings.

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- Children and Young people's work has inevitably been limited and curtailed, but there has been provision in the Mission Church of activity bags for children who have come to church.

As well as giving thanks for what has been, the APCM is also an excellent place to look forwards.

Much to look forward to, but 3 things to highlight:

- Focus on reaching new generations – it's been exciting to see Little Stars re-start, but I want us to think about new and creative ways we can be reaching out to the next generations, and this is something we would love to develop and build on – there are many in roads and connections to be made with our local families and a significant form of outreach.
- Being Family – one of the things that the pandemic has taught us is the value of community and I want to do more with our pastoral care, bereavement care and serving those in need in our wider community family.
- Looking Outward – in the Parish profile you told me that you wanted help to look outwards and I want to keep us focussed on being a church that prays for, expects to see and welcomes new people.

There is much more – eco church, charitable giving, use of our buildings, stewardship, and making sure that we are the best that

we can be in areas like safeguarding, policies, worship, weddings etc. I am excited and I hope you are too.

Ana Lawrence

## Sonia Beaty's Birthday Challenge

I am 50 this year and to mark the occasion I have decided to run the Exe Estuary 50km (31 miles) on 10th July. This is a massive challenge for me but I am determined to do it. Unfortunately the original route that I signed up for has had to be changed so I am now doing a far hillier route than expected! The route takes me 5 miles on the River Otter at Budleigh Salterton then off towards Exmouth, Lypmstone and Topsham, then back again.

I mentor a young carer through a local charity, PROMISEworks (<https://www.promiseworks.org.uk/>) so have decided to raise funds for their valuable work. PROMISEworks is a local charity making a big difference in Somerset by offering mentoring services to disadvantaged children across the county.

If you would like to make a donation, this is my Just Giving page <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/james-beaty>  
Or, if you would rather give a cash donation, please just pop an envelope under my door in the Mission Church.  
Prayer support on the day will be very much appreciated.  
Thanks, Sonia Beaty.



# SWCD Book Club

The new SWCD Book club choice is *Sensible Shoes, A Story about the Spiritual Journey* by Sharon Garlough Brown, Available on line or from 'all good bookshops' do pick up a copy and contact Ana Lawrence to join the book club, the next meeting of which is on 18 August, More details to follow in Lifeline

Kevin Lawrence

## Recommended



**'Extraordinary hospitality for ordinary people' by Carolyn Lacey, Good Book Company £7.99**

As part of our Re-Imagine sermon series we recently looked at Reimagining hospitality. As Covid 19 restrictions begin to fade and more things begin to become possible, grab a copy of a stimulating (and wonderfully short) book that may inspire, challenge and encourage you.

Subtitled 'Seven ways to welcome like Jesus' this newly published Christian paperback is not only full of practical ideas and thought-provoking questions, but the author is also refreshingly realistic about what is possible. Carolyn Lacey not only talks about how we might reimagine our hospitality, but also about why we might do so; taking action in response to the extravagant welcome and hospitality that we, as Christians are offered. Seven chapters take us through some ideas as well as some all too familiar questions and potential pitfalls.

I would highly recommend you get hold of a copy and enjoy it as a summer read.

So, who fancies a pint then....

Kevin Lawrence.

## **Attracting wildlife into your garden**

As part of our Christian life and caring for the beautiful world God gave us to look after, taking care of the smaller creatures in our local area by providing food and places for them to live is a good way to start. The modern way of living tends to exclude parts of the ecosystem which we rely on for our own lives, such as insects which pollinate the flowers on fruit trees and many of the plants which provide our food. By making small changes to our lives we can make a big difference. Over the next months editions of Life will suggest a way to make that small change. It is up to you and your circumstances if and how you join in our efforts to promote a “greener” and more environmentally friendly world as God intended.

The first suggestion is to make a garden more interesting, especially to children. You could consider changing a well manicured part of a lawn into one of these three alternatives which would benefit nature and attract different types of wildlife.

1. The easiest way is to let an area of your well manicured lawn grow naturally.

Cut the area of grass in spring, collecting the cuttings in the grass box for composting if possible and then, using a spring tine rake, get rid of as much moss and thatch (dead grass) as possible, then scratch loose the surface soil without too much disturbance of the grass.

Buy some wildflower seed, a mix of excellent seed for flowers that attract bees, butterflies and hover flies is available from most reputable seed suppliers, and sprinkle them evenly over the prepared area.

All you have to do then is wait for the seeds to germinate, flower and provide their nectar to attract the insects, leave them to die back, self seed and give you even more colourful flowers next year. The bees will pollinate any fruit trees in the garden and the hover flies decrease those aphid pests naturally.

2. Use an area of the lawn as a bird feeding station, preferably close to shrubs or trees which will offer a safe

approach for the birds and a refuge from predators. To attract the greatest variety of birds you will need to offer a variety of foods in hanging feeders and at ground level, plus a bird bath for drinking water and bathing. Providing one or two nesting boxes and maybe a bug-hotel increases the level of interest.

3. This one takes a bit of hard labour, make a wildlife pond. When planning a pond to attract wildlife you need to consider the needs of the wildlife you wish to bring into your garden and where it is positioned to give the best view point from a comfortable viewing position. Again if birds are one of animals you wish to attract they need cover in the form of trees and/or shrubs for their safety.

A wildlife pond does not require to be deep, 30 to 60 cm. is plenty deep enough to allow for a shelf 10 to 12 cm. below the water surface at the side of the pond to grow water plants such as iris and typhia. One edge of the pond needs to be a slope to let amphibians like frogs get into and out of the water and also for birds of different sizes to drink and bathe.

There are many preformed plastic or fibreglass pond liners or flexible liners which mould to your own design. The hollow for either needs to be lined with sand before positioning to give a barrier between any sharp stones. There are excellent books available from the library to advise on construction, filling with water and planting. The best thing about a wildlife pond is that you do not need electricity for a pump or filter.

Fish should be avoided because they will feed on any eggs and tadpoles that you want to watch develop.

Whatever you decide to do, it will be much more interesting watching God's creatures and their antics than watching grass grow and then having to mow it.

Any queries to David Yemm on [daveyemm@outlook.com](mailto:daveyemm@outlook.com) and I will help if possible.

From your Eco-Church Team.

# Manna

## Join us on the Pathway to Net Zero

In the run up to COP26, the UN Environment Conference that takes place in Glasgow in November 2021, churches are being encouraged to consider how they can take steps to care for our planet.

David Maggs, the Environment Champion for the Church of England in Somerset says, “In 2020 our new environmental strategy was approved. The Covid pandemic forestalled a major launch of the strategy, but as things start to return to normal we hope we can start to help people consider how they and their church can help care for creation. While we recognise many churches are still not open and not everyone is able to meet in person, there are still many ways to get involved.

“Already this year over 300 people from across Somerset have taken part in Wilder Churches training, a joint initiative with the Somerset Wildlife Trust as well as Churches Count on Nature Week and we really hope we can continue to build momentum and ensure that church communities across Somerset are doing all they can to care for this wonderful planet God has provided us with.”

From the first of July you can simply committing to pray on the first of each month. Or register with Eco Church to see how sustainable your church is and to commit to making improvements. The Church of England has a Practical Pathway to Net Zero tool, a good starting point for churches trying to move towards ‘net zero’, a position where there is a balance between the carbon emitted into the atmosphere, and the carbon removed from it.

For more ideas and inspiration keep an eye on the Diocese of Bath and Wells website and social channels.

## **Bishop's Message**

### **God's gift to humankind**

By Trevor Willmott, Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Bath and Wells

The leaves of the trees will be for the healing of the nations. Rev. 22.2

A few days spent recently in the Lakes gave us a much anticipated opportunity to visit the new RHS garden, Bridgewater, near Manchester. Created in the ruins of the much overgrown walled garden of a long gone great house, the garden is the result of co-operation between the RHS and the City Council.

While the Paradise Garden with its pools and flowing water reminded me of the river of life in the Revelation, it was the therapeutic garden which captured my imagination. A number of charities working in inner Manchester with people whose lives are deeply affected by issues of mental health and social deprivation had approached the RHS to explore the possibility of creating a working garden to be grown and maintained by the various communities involved. The result is stunning both visually and mentally.

To aid the development the partners decided to allocate some of their limited financial resources towards the appointment of a full time occupational therapeutic gardener. Talking with her and reading the display boards around the garden we discovered that for many of those involved not only was this their first experience of gardening but more importantly the physical work and

interaction is giving them a hope and purpose in life in ways that nothing else had been able to achieve.

The Revelation speaks of a world transformed and made new by God; the very stuff of the earth, trees and water, bringing new life to what was tired and old. The Scriptures remind us that the earth is God's gift to humankind to be tended and cherished; to be used for the good of all.

But let the last word be that of the therapeutic gardener "we can care for others; we can care for the earth. All we need is a vision and the will."

With my blessing

+Trevor

## **News in brief**

### Relay to COP26

In the run up to the COP26 climate change talks taking place in Glasgow in November, members of the Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN) are walking from the G7 venue, Carbis Bay in Cornwall to Glasgow to raise awareness of the urgent need for action not words in caring for God's creation. The relay will see them pass, stopping at Wellington (8<sup>th</sup>), Taunton (9<sup>th</sup>), Bridgwater (10<sup>th</sup>), Axbridge (11<sup>th</sup>), Wrington (12<sup>th</sup>), Keynsham (17<sup>th</sup>) and Bath (18<sup>th</sup>).

Find out how you can support them or get involved at [yccn.uk](http://yccn.uk)

### Schools' lightbulbs moment

10 church schools in Bath and Wells are undergoing major works to upgrade their lighting system as part of a commitment to



reducing their carbon footprint. In the first year alone it's estimated the move will save the schools a combined 45.93 kilowatts and around £18,963.

Stephen Bamford, Headteacher of Kilmersdon School, one of the schools involved, said: "It demonstrates that as a school and as a diocese, we are determined to reduce our carbon footprint and help the environment and community in every way we can."

### Churches Count for Nature

In June, St Edward's Chilton Polden was one of our churches which took part in the national Churches Count for Nature. Co-organiser Anita Hayne said, "We heard about it at the Wilder Churches events with Somerset Wildlife Trust and, as we have just got our Bronze Eco Church award, we wanted to get involved. We found 120 different species of plants and animals, including slow worms and different kinds of bees. We started small this year but made some community connections and plan to do it again next year."

### **Interview:**

#### Time to step up

Dr Peter Brotherton, is Lead Director for Climate Change at Natural England, the government's agency for the natural environment, and Environment Officer for Peterborough Diocese.

What has climate change got to do with the Church?

Climate change will be felt most by the countries who have done the least to cause it. That's a Christian issue. We are meant to be stewards of God's creation and we are failing and must step up and play our part to support biodiversity and for climate change.

How are climate change and biodiversity linked?

Climate change is making the ecosystems we rely on to become less able to deliver what we need from them, in turn making climate change worse. 15 per cent of the emissions causing climate change are by land use change driven by human consumption.

Is biodiversity loss already affecting us?

Nature isn't providing us with what we need in the UK already. Our air isn't as clean as it should be. Our towns and homes flood more than they should. In some areas our soil is depleting and blowing away.

What can we do?

Many of the most nature rich places in urban areas – and there are species in Britain found only in churchyards so we do have a special role to play. We can make a difference by protecting and nurturing their biodiversity and by speaking up. If the church doesn't speak about the environment, at a time when children are more conscious than ever that their future options are disappearing as a result of environmental changes, we will become irrelevant.

Can individuals make a difference?

It can seem an overwhelming, global problem but lots of little bits of action will matter. What we do as congregations and as individuals collectively adds up to a lot. Anything we can do to reduce how bad climate change gets has to be a good thing.

Thinking about action for nature as action for nature and for people is empowering. People should feel powerful and can

make a big difference by telling those in power how much caring for the environment means to them.

Read the full interview at [www.bathwells.anglican.org/time-to-step-up](http://www.bathwells.anglican.org/time-to-step-up)

## **Your Quiet Time With God**

**'HE WENT OUT INTO THE MOUNTAINS TO PRAY, AND  
PRAYED ALL NIGHT.'**

Luke 6:12 TLB

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Why do you need a quiet time with God each day? Because Jesus did, and He's your example: 'He was up long before daybreak and went ... to pray' (Mark 1:35 TLB). The truth is, we make time for what we value most, for the people we love most, for our highest priorities, and what we find most rewarding. Notice, Jesus seldom prayed for anybody in public. Why? Because He'd already done His praying before He got there! He made deposits each morning so that He could make withdrawals all day long. And the busier He got, the more He prayed. Did He know something we don't? Jesus had no difficulty choosing between the crowd's agenda and His Father's will. 'I can do nothing on my own. I judge as God tells me. Therefore, my judgment is just, because I carry out the will of the one who sent me' (John 5:30 NLT).

Why do spiritual leaders sometimes fall? Because they get caught up in the work of the Lord and neglect their relationship with Him. Throughout history, anyone who has been greatly used by God was a person of prayer. Martin Luther said, 'I have so much to do that I must spend the first three hours each day in prayer.'

Ceaseless activity will drain you and leave you vulnerable to Satan's attack. The sign on a church bulletin board says it all: 'Seven prayerless days make one weak Christian.' So the busier

you become, the more time you need  
to spend with God. Simply stated: if you're too busy to have a  
quiet time with God, you're too busy!

*From the daily readings in 'The Word for Today'. This booklet of devotional readings is published every three months and is available free of charge through the generosity of supporters, from: UCB Operations Centre, Westport Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 4JF. Tel: 0845 60 40 401. Email: [ucb@ucb.co.uk](mailto:ucb@ucb.co.uk)*

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