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50p

Life

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LIFE MAGAZINE EDITOR

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Articles for the June edition are due by **Sunday 14th May**

Editorial Notes

Thank you to the contributors of the photographs for the back page of this month's magazine, a good number of Benefice folk and dogs ventured up Lollover Hill with the crosses on Good Friday, on the second Sunday in the Mission Church there was plenty of artwork being produced inside, and outside the 'prayers' were being burnt on a fire, (a symbolic way to let go of our worries and let God take care of them). Whilst in Street Parish Church, Mike Bergner is pictured at one of the Easter Experience displays which were set up for Elmhurst School children. Lastly members of the benefice churches can be seen enjoying a drink outside at the Castlebrook Inn after the Easter Monday walk, (see pages 17&18). A short shower however soon had the drinkers inside and Pam and I returned to our car to be greeted by a lovely rainbow over the hill at the back of the pub which is shown on the front cover. Roger.



The Coronation Walk



The next benefice walk will be on Bank Holiday Monday May 8th. Led by Tim Hindle it will be a 2 hour walk around the Tor but not up to the top but there will be some uphill walking, possibly some muddy fields so suitable footwear advised. Meet at Middlewick farm car park Glastonbury at 10am or 9-40am at the Mission Church if you require a lift. There is a cafe at the farm for a drink afterwards. Tim.

Rector's Letter

Let us pray....

Dear Friends,

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition present your requests to God.” (Philippians chapter 4 verse 6).

During this month there will be a specific focus on prayer with ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ (TKC) running from the 18th – 28th May. This global prayer initiative seeks to draw people together from different communities, backgrounds and churches to pray. At its heart, through TKC, we are encouraging church family to ‘pray for 5’ people who are not yet Christians. This might seem a daunting prospect, especially if you are not sure who you should be praying for. One place to start might be within our families and friendship groups amongst whom there are probably many for whom we could pray.

Of course, prayer is not restricted to a set 10-day period, prayer should be what we naturally do all through our lives to sustain us in the faith in the same way that breathing keeps us alive and yet, prayer is something that many Christians seem to struggle with. We live in a world which increasingly seems to have little time for God with so many other agendas taking centre stage which surely makes the call to pray all the more urgent. Busyness, distractions and family pressures are some of the many reasons given for not praying. Yet, the late Desmond Tutu (Archbishop of Cape Town) famously coined the phrase ‘too busy not to pray’. He was without doubt a very busy man in public life and yet carved out private time to be with God. Jesus himself, constantly withdrew from the crowds to be alone with his father in prayer.

Some of the most encouraging times in my Christian life have been in those intimate times with God in praying alongside others, seeking God's will, listening to his voice, responding to his call. Praying alone can feel a slog, so why not consider, also using TKC as a springboard, forming a prayer triplet (or similar) meeting online or in person – such opportunities can be huge encouragements and places of mutual support as we navigate an ever-changing world with all its pressures and complexities.

With my love & prayers, Ana

What's going on?

A couple of people have mentioned to me recently that they would like the chance to read the PCC minutes and papers.

It is really encouraging to know that others are thinking and praying as our Parochial Church Councils meet. However, before we put anything in place, it would be useful to know how much interest there is in seeing these regularly and what the best way is of making them available.

Please could you contact your PCC secretary (details elsewhere in this magazine) and let them know your thoughts.

Ana Lawrence

Offering a break this summer

Following the success of our two day 'holiday at home' last year, we are considering offering something similar (but with a different name) this August. I'd love to hear from people who would be interested in getting involved in this be it through offering an activity, preparing and serving refreshments, being a welcoming presence or something else.

Please contact me as we begin to plan.

Ana Lawrence

Walton Matters

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens. Through the praise of your children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set into place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? Psalm 8. V's 1-4. N.I.V.

Quiz evening.

Thank you so much to those of you from across the benefice who joined is on the 31st March for the quiz evening. A big thank you also to Rachel and Richard who were quiz masters and pitched everything just right for us all to enjoy a competitive but not disheartening evening. We raised £230 for church funds. Well done everyone.

What a busy Easter it has been but what fun to join in such a successful Easter experience and 2 messy Church events. It was obvious how much the children were enjoying themselves so thank you to all who were involved.

The Easter services were also enjoyed and appreciated from Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday, each different as we followed Jesus on his journey to the cross and on to his resurrection. Some sombre and others lively and joyful. Thank you to all our wonderful clergy who made it possible.

A big thank you to all who came on Holy Saturday and made the church look so lovely for Easter day. We do appreciate the work and skills you all have and how good it was to sit together over coffee and hot cross buns during the morning. Thank you all so much.

Concert. Thank you to Compton Dundon for organising such a lovely concert with Gregory Steward singing so beautifully for us all. A really enjoyable time to share with you.

The Coronation

We are looking forward to celebrating our Kings Coronation in May. Whilst we will have the Saturday to watch the event on tv, Sunday the 7th will see us celebrating with our high tea. There has been a change of venue, and we will be hosting this at the village hall. We are joining with the Parish council and the village hall committee for more fun and celebrations, but the tea will still have the same format. We will be in the hall for the afternoon and tea will be served from 3-5. The place will be yours for the afternoon as we still plan to show highlights on a screen. As well as a scrumptious tea, there will be refills of tea or coffee. We would appreciate it if you could book this via Liz Selway on 210236 or Sandra Gristock on 446211. Anyone from Church will also reserve a place for you and pass it on to Liz or myself. As this could potentially be much busier, we don't want anyone to miss out as places could be filled quickly.

Flower rota.

6th May. Sandra Gristock.

20th May Jane Doyle.

Sandra Gristock

-----CONGRATULATIONS-----

Mike and Brenda's Golden Wedding Anniversary

Mike and Brenda Bergner were married at St John the Baptist Church in Glastonbury on the 5th May 1973. They went to Torquay for their honeymoon and returned to live in Glastonbury for a year before moving to RNAS Yeovilton where Mike was an Aircraft Engineer in the Fleet Air Arm. They moved back to Glastonbury in 1980 and had two children, Richard and Frances. The family has grown and there are now four Grandchildren. They enjoy family, walking on the levels and church. Roger.

The Bishop's Letter

Remember Jesus too

Writing about the celebration of Holy Communion almost eighty years ago, Gregory Dix posed the question 'Was ever another command so obeyed?' It's well worth searching online for his whole answer. An edited quote of his response reads:

For century after century, spreading slowly to every continent and country and among every race on earth, this action has been done, in every conceivable human circumstance, for every conceivable human need. Men have found no better thing than this to do for kings at their crowning and for criminals going to the scaffold; for armies in triumph or for a bride and bridegroom in a little country church; for the wisdom of the Parliament of a mighty nation or for a sick old woman afraid to die; while the lions roared in the nearby amphitheatre; on the beach at Dunkirk. And best of all, week by week and month by month, on a hundred thousand successive Sundays, faithfully, unfailingly, across all the parishes of Christendom, the pastors have done this just to make the *plebs sancta Dei*—the holy common people of God.'

The first of Dix's scenarios will be played out before us at the coronation of King Charles III. At the heart of the ceremony, amidst all the pomp and circumstance, the oaths and declarations, the regalia and crowning, will be the celebration of Holy Communion. The words used will be just the same as those spoken in our parish churches Sunday by Sunday. From Communion, the King and Queen will be sent out from Westminster Abbey to live like us the prayer we say at the end of many of our services. They will offer 'their souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice, sent out in the power of [God's] Spirit to live and work to [God's] praise and glory.'

The command that the King, Queen and all of us obey is Jesus's direction to 'Do this in remembrance of me.' So, as you watch the Coronation, please remember Jesus too. For he is the one who comes to us as a servant; the king of Kings.

Bishop Michael

New ways to give

With the support of the Diocese, contactless giving terminals have now been installed in all our churches with Holy Trinity Walton, The Parish Church and the Mission Church in Street now having terminals installed for a trial period, alongside the one installed last year in Saint Andrews Compton Dundon.

These operate exactly the same way as the contactless giving machines that you will find in most shops, restaurants etc and give the facility to make a donation to the life and ministry of our church even if you do not happen to be carrying cash at the time. The machines will suggest possible donation amounts but those using the system are free to change these.

We hope these provide another way for both church members and visitors to support our parishes financially.

Kevin Lawrence

On behalf of the benefice stewardship team

Celebrating Easter through the floods

Through the wonders of WhatsApp, Easter greetings have been exchanged between Street and our link parish of Mfuwe in Zambia.

Father Samson Mwanza, the parish priest at Mfuwe, particularly asked for our prayers that flooding, following recent heavy rains in Zambia, would not prevent him reaching his congregations. Living near to the Somerset levels it is a possible problem we are perhaps all too familiar with!

Kevin Lawrence

For the benefice Charitable giving group

My Faith Journey

My faith journey is one that ebbs and flows and is recalled in the memory in images.

Growing up, God and the Church were always there.

Sunday School, plays as an angel with a black eye having fallen off my pony, a dog with furry ears made from sheepskin gloves and a crepe paper daffodil at Easter.

Confirmation at 14 with girl friends in white dresses with short skirts.

Decorating the Parish Church for Easter, Harvest and Christmas. And always 8 o'clock communion service.

Holidays were spent with my grandparents; my grandpa was an active non-conformist and to this day I don't like long sermons!

Then marriage and family took over and my faith ebbed. Church was for Christmas, Mothering Sunday, Easter and Remembrance. Friend's weddings and children's baptisms, but not regular worship.

But when our daughter became ill faith flowed back and her favourite place with God was Wells Cathedral, lighting candles, listening to the organ and hearing Gods word. Wells Cathedral is still important to us.

After she died 12 years ago God was there for me and Wednesday Communion at the Mission Church was my lifeline to healing.

Now, as in my childhood, I come to church with my mum.

God has always been there for me as a continuous conversation, but it ebbs and flows with ease.

I'm not talking to myself, I'm talking to God!!

Catherine Atkins

Dartmoor Delights

Thank you to Jane for an interesting insight into some of the places that are just off the beaten track on Dartmoor. After seeing the photographs on the screen in the Mission Church we moved to the Kitchen/Meeting Room for tea, cake and lots of discussion.

Future 'Afternoon Teas' gatherings will be on the third Thursday of the month at 2-30pm and anyone is welcome to come along.

Delyth Wride and Team

Afternoon Teas

THURSDAY

18th May

2-30pm

Mission Church

Street

Welcome to Everyone

Jeff Brewer will be doing a presentation on

'A Year with Honey Bees'

Rector's Reflections at our APCM's

At our recent APCM meetings, I shared some reflections which you can read below.

The Rector's Annual report is something of an overview which you can find in the agenda, minutes & reports document.

Can I warmly encourage you to read both this and the other reports in this document; these have all been written by church members which essentially build up a picture of the life and ministry and indeed witness of all our churches.

Now what I offer here are some broader and more personal reflections on the year that has passed & the year to come.

At the outset of my remarks, can I just say what a joy it is to be here serving as your rector.

I think if I am honest with you, 2022 has been the most 'normal' year for me since I joined you in 2020 – we haven't had to talk about covid quite so much although it hasn't gone away.

As your rector, I am here first and foremost as a minister of the gospel and someone who was called here to help you to look 'outwards'. This is, like it or not, something that I will keep reminding you of because it is what I am passionate about and what you called me to. The church exists, after all, to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world. Among our many and various other priorities and activities, important though they are, to look outwards in God's name, must be central to who we are, our DNA, as it were.

Since our 3 PCCs day away now some 18 months ago, we have launched a new benefice mission & vision statement: 'To worship God, love our communities & grow in faith.'

At the start of this year, this statement was unpacked in a short sermon series with each aspect explored in greater depth & detail. In summary, firstly to

Worship God – authentic, reverent & life-changing worship should be central to who we are focussed on Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. My prayer and heart is that we are a people who come to church expectant that we will encounter Jesus and to go out again as changed / transformed people. Whether on Sundays, midweek or at other times, our worship of God is an integral part of being a Christian – it marks us out in a pluralistic world, demonstrating our conviction that ‘Jesus is LORD’.

Love our communities – As a people who are loved by God, we are, in turn, called to love others. That love is not restricted to people like us, to people who believe what we believe or indeed to people who may just give something back in return. If in any doubt about that, just look at who and how Jesus loved. Whilst ‘we heat you eat’ our warm space had a slow burner of a start, over the months a community gradually formed. Companionship & fellowship were two of the hallmarks that emerged and looking ahead, we continue to discern how this might go forward, possibly in the shape of a new missional community. It’s too early to say. Another aspect of reaching out is in the area of listening and there will be opportunity later in the year to take part in a short listening course to equip us better to listen to others actively within our networks and communities – not just because it is a nice thing to do, but because we are called by God. Sometimes loving our communities will be more challenging and may involve tough love – it’s not always nice and fluffy – this was certainly not Jesus’ way.

Grow in faith – Paul famously described the Christian journey as a race in which we are always striving towards the goal. Racing requires effort and so does growing in faith. It is good that we

already have a couple of house groups in place. I am keen that as churches and individuals we go deeper with God, this may involve being part of a prayer triplet, engaging with Thy Kingdom come, digging deeper into our Sunday sermons, going on training courses which I know a number of you are already doing. Our Christian faith is about stepping out into deeper waters – just as Peter stepped out of the boat & took a risk for God.

Finally, I really want to take the opportunity to thank people – but always concerned in doing this that someone gets missed out – so if I don't mention you personally, please don't take it personally! Thank you to the wardens, treasurers and all those others who help in the running of our services as well as those whose work is often unseen. Thank you to my clergy colleagues, readers, lay worship assistants, PCC Members, administrator and caretakers. Thank you to all of you, whether I have mentioned you above or not, for being the church family here at SWCD Churches.

Ana Lawrence

Thank You

'I would like to thank you for all your support over the last 8 years that I have been Churchwarden. I truly appreciate it. We went through some difficult times together including the vacancy and then Covid but it was wonderful to see how much help we gave each other. It was a difficult decision for me to make to stand down as Churchwarden I have thoroughly enjoyed it and met some lovely people and learnt a lot. However, I felt the time now was right. Thank you for the lovely flowers that Ana presented to me at the APCM. I would like to send my best wishes to the next Churchwarden. Diane Gray

Celebrating, Protecting and Restoring

Creation, the wonder of nature and the responsibility to care for it, is evident throughout the Bible. In Genesis God creates all things and assigns the task of caring for creation. In Revelations the New Jerusalem 'is in some sense a return to Eden – its river and its trees of life (21:2) recall the garden, but they also recall Ezekiel's vision of the river of life ... turning lifeless waters into habitats swarming with abundant life (47: 6–12)' (Bauckham: Bible and Ecology).

What does the responsibility to care mean for us today? Caring for Creation is recognised as part of Mission of the Church of England. By pointing out the beauty of nature and caring for it we point others towards our loving creator God. Destruction of habitat and loss of species is a spiritual as well as a natural disaster; in harming the natural world we are harming ourselves. We can watch series like Wild Isles but they are no substitute for experiencing things for ourselves. We need to appreciate the wonderful world we have been gifted and protect, preserve and restore it. Ideas for doing this are widespread and can be found on the internet or from books in the library.

Many organisations, religious and secular, have taken up this challenge. To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Queen's coronation in 2013 a project was established to protect existing and create new natural wildflower meadows. Reflecting this English Heritage have pledged that, in celebration of King Charles's Coronation this month, they will develop 100 wildflower meadows on historic sites throughout the country. Meadows are an important habitat not just for wildflowers but also for birds, mammals, insects and a myriad of other organisms vital to the natural world and to human life. This is why the Eco Church group is encouraging a wildlife friendly approach to the management of our churchyards. During the summer there are a number of events in our churchyards which will highlight aspects of what we are doing. Please come along to find out more.

Sue Ripley (Street) SWCD Eco Church Group

Easter at St Andrew's, Compton Dundon

Our Easter weekend began on Good Friday with a moving service in church, including Ana's talk, intercessions and the classic hymns 'There is a green hill far away' and 'When I survey the wondrous cross' evoking Jesus' suffering on the Cross for our sins. It was good to welcome worshippers from across the Benefice, who then joined us for the traditional walk up Lollover Hill to place the three crosses. We stood together at the foot of the crosses to hear a reading and prayer, which felt very moving and really demonstrated the anguish of the Cross for all who were there.



On our return to the village, we enjoyed coffee and hot cross buns at The Old Vicarage garden in the sunshine; thank you to Judy for her kind hospitality.

Easter Day was another well attended service. Diana read us her moving account of the events leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection. The children's craft activity and Easter egg hunt was very much enjoyed by those who participated.

After the service we savoured Pauline's delicious Easter simnel cake with our coffee, the decorations representing the 11 loyal disciples.

A wonderful Easter weekend.

Pat King





A Musical Evening in Compton Dundon

At the end of March, we were treated to a wonderful musical evening at St Andrew's Church, with the visit of the tenor singer Gregory Steward. I have been privileged to follow Gregory's progress since he began performing whilst at Wells Cathedral School and it was a joy to see him embarking on his professional career in his first year following graduation.

Gregory's programme included a selection from Italian opera as well as songs from musicals such as 'Carousel,' 'South Pacific,'

'West Side Story' and 'Les Miserables.' Particular highlights for me were 'Maria' and 'Bring him home,' but all were sung so musically and with passion.

After an interval where wine and nibbles were served, Gregory continued his programme with more well loved songs, including 'O Sole Mio' (maybe known better as 'Just one cornetto!') There was much well deserved applause at the end of the concert and everyone was keen for an encore. The evening concluded with a spine-tingling account of 'Nessun Dorma,' the mellifluous sound resonating around the church. Thank you to Gregory for a delightful evening and we hope to see him again, perhaps with his sister, who is also currently being classically trained as a singer.

Pat King.



EASTER MONDAY BENEFICE WALK

After a weekend of glorious sunshine, there was constant heavy rain during the night before our Benefice walk in Compton Dundon (just like the previous one!) Following a morning check on the proposed route up through Combe Hill woods, it was decided to redirect the walk on to less muddy, slippery paths.

Thank you to Helen and Hugh for the suggested new route. We began on the Compton Street side of the village, and after climbing the steep hill and crossing a stile (one gate vaulter!) we emerged on a grassy path with views across to Dundon Hill and Lollover Hill with the three Easter crosses in situ. From this point we gradually walked higher through woodland until we reached the ridge with even better visibility, the main road as a sliver in the far distance a testament to how high we had climbed.

Our next stopping point was the Hood Memorial, standing 110 feet high and commemorating Vice Admiral Sir Samuel Hood (1762-1814), who had 'the grandest qualities of human nature' and 'most amiable virtues,' according to the inscription. To the North Glastonbury Tor could be spotted and the Mendip Hills on the horizon. All downhill from here on the way to a much needed thirst quencher at 'The Castlebrook Inn.'

All in all, a most enjoyable late afternoon scenic walk, with great company, and avoiding the rain that returned later. Looking forward to the next one.

Pat



SAYING THANK YOU

Each year, each of our parishes support charities as part of our giving. It is always encouraging to hear where our money has been used and therefore I am sharing, as an example, a recent letter we have received from Ripple Effect (formerly Send a Cow), one of the charities supported by Street Parish

Dear Friends at the Parish of Street,

Thank you so much for supporting Ripple Effect by donating an incredible £1,908, so we can stand with families in rural Africa. Please pass on our thanks to your congregation for helping transform the lives of farmers like Therese who lives with her six children in rural east Rwanda.

Therese lives in a region of Rwanda which experiences prolonged droughts, worsened by the climate crisis, and which often lead to crops failing. By working alongside Ripple Effect, Therese is learning techniques to help her grow food on her land despite the effects of the climate crisis. Therese's favourite training was building a keyhole garden (a raised vegetable bed) as she very quickly started growing a variety of crops with enough to feed her family and surplus to sell. You can see in this photo that she is proudly showing some of the food she is now able to grow on her land. What is more, she now shares her knowledge with her neighbours. This is the ripple effect!

"I am happy that my life was changed because of the trainings. This also inspired me to teach others about how to make kitchen gardens. Now most of my neighbours have kitchen gardens!" Therese, Rwanda.

Your donation will support more farmers like Therese to fight hunger and the climate crisis. Thank you for helping families like Therese's to grow a brighter future. We are truly blessed to have your support.

The PCCs from each of our parishes will be considering the recommendations they have received for charities to support in 2023 during this month and we will update you on those decisions in due course. In the meantime, please continue to pray for all those who we have supported in the past.

Kevin Lawrence For the Benefice charitable giving group

To be like Jesus

'... WE BECOME MORE AND MORE LIKE HIM ...'
2 Corinthians 3:18 NLT

Becoming like Christ doesn't losing your personality or becoming a mindless clone. God created your uniqueness, so He certainly doesn't want to destroy it. Christ-likeness is about transforming your character, not your personality. Paul writes, '... take on an entirely new way of life – a God-fashioned life, a life renewed from the inside and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces His character in you' (Ephesians 4:23-24 TM).

Every time you forget that character, not comfort, is God's first priority in your life, you become frustrated and wonder, 'Why is all this happening to me?' Abundant living isn't the absence of adversity, it's growth in the midst of it and victory over it!

Listen: '... As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like Him ...' 'Yes, but how does this happen in real life?' you ask. Through the choices we make – we choose to do the right thing and then trust God's Spirit to give us the power, love, faith and wisdom to do it. Since His Spirit lives inside us, these things are available just for the asking.

When Joshua stood at the Jordan River, its floodwaters receded only after he stepped in. Obedience unlocks God's power! God waits for you to act first! Don't wait until you feel capable or confident. Just move ahead in your weakness, doing the right thing in spite of your fears. That's how you cooperate with the Holy Spirit. That's how Christ-like character is developed in you.

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

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