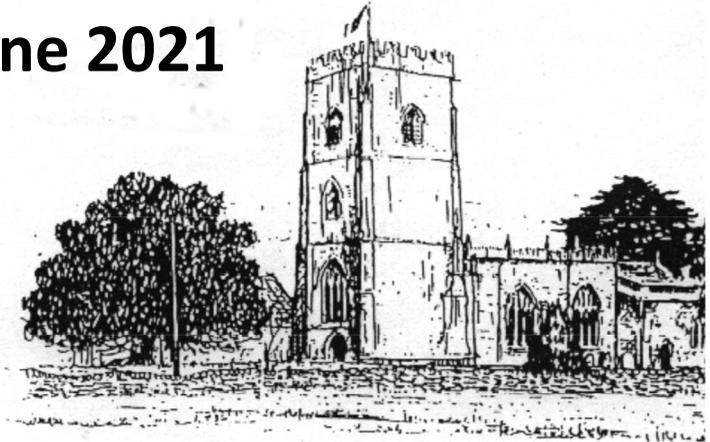


The Parish Churches of Rodney Stoke and Draycott

June 2021



SALT is back

Benefice ZOOM Study Groups

Save the date

World Environment Day

Music Matters A & M

A month in our country

A Chilly Spring

**Still the Son of a Preacher
Man**

June is bustin' out all over

Contested Heritage

**Marriage Registration
Changes**

**Mary's Recipe and Don's
Poem**

50p



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Rodney Stoke and Draycott Church Magazine Annual Report 2020-2021

Adapting to the COVID challenge

Despite the challenges of COVID, the magazine has continued to appear 10 times a year and copies have been delivered 'as normal' to all our regular subscribers. Call it exercise with a purpose. There have had to be some changes and adaptations to accommodate the changed circumstances:

- The magazine is now being printed in the Benefice Office in Cheddar rather than by the KofW printshop which has been closed for much of the time.
- The print run has been reduced to 175 copies as we have lost the 'back of church' sales at least for the duration of the pandemic restrictions.
- Some of our advertisers have fallen by the wayside reducing our income from that source.
- The subscriptions for 2021 have not been collected yet. This will be done once the various COVID related restrictions have been sufficiently relaxed.
- The content of the magazine has had to be rejigged somewhat to replace the rather random four or five pages of announcements of social events etc, which were previously one of the magazine's delights.
- By a mysterious mechanism that I still do not fully understand, our contributors – regular and occasional - have, often unasked, always managed to fill in the gaps. As the editor, I remain eternally grateful.
- It has been noted that over the last year the content has taken on a more serious hue so the editorial intent is to lighten the tone in the coming year.

Each edition remains the work of a good dozen people involved in writing, printing and distributing the magazine. They 'know who they are' and I would like to thank them one and all for their support. I would particularly like to thank Samm for her unfailing help in the printing department. It has been a lifesaver.

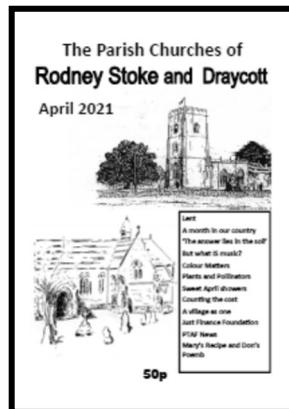
Editorial Policy

As the magazine serves the needs of two parishes, it is especially important to have a common, agreed Editorial Policy. The magazine's Editorial Policy, given below, remains unchanged since 2013:

'The magazine's purpose is to

- 1. Inform, intrigue, inspire and amuse the readership in roughly equal measure.***
- 2. aspire to be more than a glorified bulletin board while reflecting the interests and concerns of the parishes.***
- 3. provide a platform for the views of the readership.'***

Rob Walker



Pastoral Letter to the Benefice from Stuart Burns

Trinity Sunday, a major church festival, is on 30 May - about the time when this will be read.

My neighbour in my graduate hall of residence when a student in England (many years ago!) was Heeraman, a young Hindu priest from Delhi, researching religious philosophy. Whilst serving me his delicious curries, seated on his floor very late at night, he would say, "Stuart, I accept Jesus too - there are many gods - you Christians already have three gods - why can't you accept the Lords Krishna, Shiva and Vishnu too!?"



We do not have three gods, but we do worship the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. However, if my learned friend could not grasp this, then how can we? Preachers do not like Trinity Sunday, but we over-complicate it!

The Trinity is about God being relational. Take our living-through-pandemic experience for example: God as parent (neither male nor female) cherishes, watches over and also fears for us during times of crisis. God as Jesus walked alongside his friends in Galilee (with dusty, calloused sandal-shod feet), and can accompany us too as we travel through dark or lonely times. God as Spirit can give us unexpected inner courage and strength when we are weak, and help us to feel greatly loved when we are sad. Therefore I am sure that God thought up the Trinity not to bamboozle us, but rather to be able to relate to us better and to love us in multiple ways, "for we are his children" (Acts 17:28).

Yesterday I was privileged to receive another COVID vaccination, and today I feel grotty, but dare I complain? The countless millions currently ravaged by COVID in the poorest countries, with no foreseeable prospect of vaccination, are also the beloved children of a parent God. I hope this is not mere lofty idealism - but may the Spirit move us to work for global justice, because the suffering poor are the brothers and sisters of Jesus, as are we.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stuart". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Letter from the Right Reverend Ruth Worsley Bishop of Taunton

A time to learn

'I am always ready to learn although I do not always like being taught,' wrote Winston Churchill. I think many of us would echo that thought!

A huge 'thank you' to our teachers and all who support our schools! There has been a tremendous effort across our diocese to ensure our children have been able to continue their education during lockdowns. Not only have children been learning but teaching staff have also been going 'back to school' in order to find new means of communication. Governors, communities and individual volunteers have gone the extra mile too. The whole school team deserves our gratitude.

Learning online is a challenge. Those of us who are spending many hours in ZOOM online can vouch for that. It's tiring and it is not just our children who have found it so. At the end of this month we shall be celebrating the ordinations of our new priests. They were ordained as deacons last September following three months as lay curates due to the pandemic restrictions.

What a year to be a deacon! They've had a very different learning experience than would normally be expected. Not so much opportunity for the 'hands-on' but perhaps an even more profound learning possibility. I'm looking forward to hearing their stories!

We shall be repeating the new pattern of ordinations with our incoming deacons being licensed as lay curates initially this June. For them, colleges and courses have taken place principally online and they've had experience of digital worship on top of regular lectures and seminars. How might this prepare them for our 'new normal' of blended worship, with live-streaming of services in person?

As the Church emerges into this 'new normal' we all have the opportunity to learn and discover new things, new gifts, new ways of being the people of God. It is the same good God, the same story of His love to share with others, but there's a new landscape. How have you and your community responded to that? What have you learnt? And how might that learning change you and the way you do things? Do share your stories with us!

"One learns from books and example only that certain things can be done. Actual learning requires that you do those things." (Frank Herbert)

Every blessing



Ruth Worsley

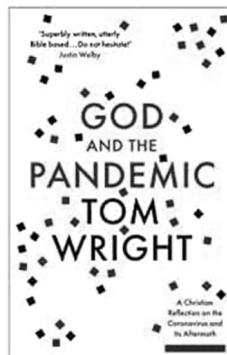
Benefice ZOOM Study Groups starting in June

Following the success of our Lent ZOOM Groups, we want more! We would love you to join us, as we grow our minds and our faith together. We plan to offer two groups with two different books.

God and the Pandemic: by Tom Wright

See https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/0281085110/ref=ox_sc_saved_title_1?smid=A3P5R0KL5A1OLE&psc=1

This short book helps us to come to terms with the pandemic, as individual Christians and as the Church. Justin Welby said this about it, "*(This book) is accessible to almost anyone asking questions, and yet it manages to be demanding for those who think they know the answers. It is superbly written, utterly Bible-based, and leaves one satisfied at having learned and yet wanting to know more. I read it in a sitting with pleasure, provocation and profit. Do not hesitate!*".



Meeting on Tuesday afternoons at 2pm, led by Hilary (Thomas) and Judith (Rose), commencing on 9 June, and meeting for five weeks. The book costs £6.

Meeting Jesus in Mark: by Marcus Borg

See https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/0281064016/ref=ox_sc_saved_title_1?smid=A3P5R0KL5A1OLE&psc=1

This book helps us to get to the heart of Jesus' message and the way of life into which that message invites us. It consists of detailed commentary on the text of Mark, requiring careful reading of the whole gospel alongside the book. This is a longer and more demanding read than the Tom Wright book, written for people like us, by an expert but not for experts. Borg wants to help ordinary people to embrace their intellect, and to allow their reason to meet with and grow their Christian faith. By understanding Mark's historical context, and also what kind of literature the gospel is, Christian discipleship will become more authentic and more confident.



Meeting on Tuesday evenings at 7pm, led by Chris (Green) and Stuart (Burns), commencing on 22 June, and meeting for five weeks. The book costs £10.

We need to know numbers for planning. If you would like to join either group, please email me (Stuart), telling me which group you will join and if I should order you a book.

Stuart Burns stuart.burns01@gmail.com

SAINT ANDREW'S AT LUNCH TIME (S.A.L.T) is back!

After a long break due to COVID, we hope to resume our monthly lunches in Cheddar Village Hall opposite St Andrew's Church in Cheddar on Monday 28 June.



We aim to start with a short "Thought for the day", followed by a bowl of home-made soup and a roll at 12.30, and then cake or biscuit and tea/coffee. There is no charge, but make a donation if you wish.

We invite anyone - those who have been bereaved, those living alone, those who want to come and chat and meet up with friends.

We hope all our "old" members will join us again and we also welcome any newcomers.

Come alone , or come and bring a friend! We look forward to seeing you!

SALT lunches after that will be on 26 July, 23 August, 27 September, 25 October, 22 November and 20 December.

Hilary Thomas –on behalf of the SALT Team

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Save the date: Thea's Ember card

This month sees the longest day of the year (21 June 21 which has also been suggested by the Government as the final stop on the roadmap for the lifting of the remaining lockdown restrictions all being well. If the numbers of COVID-19 cases stay at a safe level, life should start getting back to normal, or at least the “new normal”.



Indeed, my new normal will start with the service at Wells Cathedral on Saturday June 26th (Petertide) during which I and 16 other Deacons will be ordained Priest. We have had an ‘interesting’ start to our ordained lives – the global pandemic has posed many challenges, but it has also brought many blessings. My first year of curacy is almost over and I am called to continue my ministry in the Cheddar Valley as a “Locally Deployed Focussed Priest” offering to all the healing love and peace of Christ.

One ordination tradition, that was new to me, is the Ember Card. These are visual reminders for people to pray for someone who is about to be ordained — they are the equivalent of a ‘save the date’ invitation, though this invitation is not to a party but asking for prayer up to, during and beyond the date of ordination. Prayer is also invited for all those who travelled along with me on my faith journey... so this prayer is for everyone in our Benefice and beyond too!

Thea Oliver

Please pray for all to be ordained this Petertide amongst them

Thea Oliver

to be ordained Priest

by Ruth, Bishop of Taunton

in Wells Cathedral at 3pm on Saturday 26th June 2021.



Please also pray for

Thea's husband Richard and their family, for the Revd Stuart Burns
and the parishes and people of the Benefice of Cheddar, Draycott and Rodney Stoke
with whom Thea is continuing to serve.

Lord may we look at the past with thanksgiving, at the present with faith and at the future
with hope. May the Lord bless us all abundantly with joy, peace and hope, Amen.

A month in our country

In April I took part in a demonstration outside the Canadian High Commission in London to draw attention to the call by the Bishop of Namibia Luke Pato, supported by 30 bishops and 4 archbishops, for a halt to oil exploration by a Canadian company Reconnaissance Energy Africa Ltd in the Okavango River Basin. The Okavango River Basin has an area of over 200,000 square miles and the river, which flows for over 1100 miles, is the fourth longest in southern Africa. It terminates in the land locked Okavango Delta where, like the Dead Sea, its flow is dispersed mainly by evaporation and transpiration creating a unique oasis of biodiversity as well as being home to the indigenous San People.

The Bishops want the international community to support Namibia, Angola and Botswana in developing renewable energy systems and safeguarding this precious ecosystem *'based on the principle of restorative social and environmental justice'*. They ask that the G7 countries *'stop all oil exploration activities in the Okavango Delta, criminalise ecocide and fund alternatives for countries like Angola, Namibia and Botswana to whom the Global North owes a climate debt'*.



This month much attention is focusing on the forthcoming (10-13 June) G7 summit in Carbis Bay, Cornwall. The G7 summit is important as the world prepares for the G20 Summit and COP26. We hear lots of green talk and are 'drowning in promises' but will the world's leaders ever step up and safeguard beautiful and abundant life? In 2019 Oxfam spoke of the G7's Deadly Sins saying *'G7 leaders regularly pay lip service to the dangers of extreme inequality, yet they are actively fuelling inequality at home and across the globe'*.

Along with many others, I will be travelling down to Cornwall while Christian Climate Action will be walking a 38 mile pilgrimage from Newquay over 4 days. Many organisations including Christian Aid, Tearfund, RSPB and The Wildlife Trust are already working together to demand action on COVID, the climate and ecological crisis, poverty and injustice. Solutions are proposed that put the poorest, the hardest hit and nature first - see crackthecrisis.org and 'wave of hope'.

Ben Buse

Music Matters A or M ?



When it comes language in church, are you an ‘ancient’ or a ‘modern’? Do you instinctively respond ‘and with thy Spirit’ or, ‘and also with you’?

Perhaps you’re someone who is happy to bring the everyday vernacular into Services, or do you long to keep some sense of mystery through the traditional language of formal Worship?

Could it be an age-thing? The older generation, raised on *The Book of Common Prayer*, may tend to veer towards the older texts (the vernacular of the day), whilst the younger generation can often feel uneasy with that form of language.

It’s a challenge that hymn writers and hymnbook compilers have struggled with for years – not just with words, but also the matching tunes. 160 years ago, a group of clergy and musicians faced that same problem; the title of their book reflected that – *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. Today, our churches use the 7th generation of that same book, and as you thumb through the texts, it’s easy to see the dilemma they faced in the late 20th Century.

Should previously written texts have been updated, and if so, on whose authority did they make those alterations - and is that something new? Not a bit of it – it’s been going on for years. In 1739 Charles Wesley wrote *Hark how all the welkin rings* – later altered to *Hark, the herald angels sing* – and that’s just one example of many!

So what has all this got to do with music?

At Draycott, we organists not only play, but also choose the hymns for our Services, consciously treading the path between traditional and modern. We think a great deal about suitable words to match the theme of the Service, and while there are some good modern texts and tunes in our book, there are several more out there that didn’t make it.

Here’s one - part of a personal favourite by the Rev. Caryl Micklem (1925-2003):

*Give to me, Lord, a thankful heart, and a discerning mind.
Give, as I play the Christian’s part, the strength to finish what I start
And act on what I find.*

*Jesus, with all your church I long to see your kingdom come:
Show me your way of righting wrong. and turning sorrow into song
Until you bring me home.*

Barry Rose

World Environment Day

World Environment Day is celebrated on 5 June every year, and is the United Nations' main way of encouraging awareness and action for the protection of the environment. We might think such concerns have only recently become of interest, but in fact the first World Environment Day was in 1974. Early themes were Marine Pollution, Overpopulation, Sustainable Production and Wildlife Crime. More recent subjects have been Global Heating, Climate Change, and the Environmental Emergency.

The idea is to provide a theme for major corporations, NGOs, communities, and governments to adopt, to promote environmental causes. 143 countries participate each year, and nations take it in turns to host it.

The theme for this year will be Ecosystem Restoration, with a special focus on creating a good relationship with nature. From forest to farmland, and rivers to coasts, all ecosystems face threats but can provide benefits if they are regenerated and properly maintained. This year's event will also mark the launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030. The coming ten years have been identified by scientists as the critical timeline for action to avoid the worst excesses of climate change. The Director of the UN Environmental Programme writes:

'There has never been a more urgent need to restore damaged ecosystems than now. Ecosystems support all life on Earth. The healthier our ecosystems are, the healthier the planet - and its people. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration aims to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and in every ocean. It can help to end poverty, combat climate change and prevent a mass extinction. It will only succeed if everyone plays a part.'

Ahead of World Environment Day, the UN Environment Programme has produced a downloadable practical guide to restoring our planet . The guide provides tips for individuals, communities, businesses and government agencies, showing how we can all revive the natural spaces around us. It shows how to design your own restoration project, green your home, business or school, and change any unsustainable habits. Find out more at <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/looking-help-restore-natural-world-heres-your-guide> .

Nikki Devitt





Throughout the spring a cock pheasant stalks with dainty determination through the garden to visit the bird feeding station. His first appearance is around 5.30am when he wakes everyone up with a raucous korr-kok alarm call. He is an elderly bird with a balding head and a tail which falls well short of the usual 18" on a younger cock pheasant. Ah well, it comes to us all. Nevertheless he has two wives and occasionally chases off another interloping male with determination. The species was introduced, perhaps by the Romans, originating in Asia from the Caucasus to China. Despite being part of our rural scene for centuries they still look exotic and somewhat out of place.

It is always a red letter day when the first house martins are seen flying over the fields and stocking up on insects before they settle down to nest. Despite the cold spring they arrived on time and about two weeks earlier than last year. Weather records tell us that there has been more frost during April this year than any year since the fifties and together with one of the driest spring periods on record the

farmers and growers are already in trouble.

Those of us who grow flowers and vegetables for interest and leisure have also had to face problems. Having more time than usual without commitments I have sown many pots and trays of seed on almost every window sill in the house. In hindsight I started these too early and now they have to be carried outside during the day to harden off and get maximum light and air, then carried into the barn or porch every night because of the threat of frost. Some have had to be transplanted to larger pots while we wait for warmer nights. However, everything is thriving except the Tithonias from Mexico, sunflowers are already two feet tall and the Cobea Scandens are climbing up the walls. Until there is promise of rain there is little point in sowing hardy annuals outside in the hard dry soil.

The forecasters warned us of strong winds and heavy rain at the beginning of May, though this was only half right as the strong breeze blew off the tender new hawthorn leaves but left the bird bath empty. As our six water butts run dry the good news is that the farm's borehole has been restored to working order with a new pump installed by Follarton Water Services of Barnstaple. It took most of the day with a large block and tackle to haul out the old pump and heavy cast iron piping from a depth of 120ft.



Climate change may do its worst and we must adapt, but I wish it was more predictable. Like tender plants we may need hardening off gradually to the changing conditions. *Ann Percival*



Still the Son of a Preacher Man

“Do you eat cucumber sandwiches all the time?”

“Do you say prayers before every meal?”

“Do you say ‘more tea Vicar?’”

And, if I retaliated in a football match, “why did you do that? You’re a Vicar’s son!”.

To which, in short order the answers are: ‘never’, ‘no’, ‘only occasionally, as an ironic joke’ and ‘because I’m human and if you kick me, I’ll kick you back. Given the opportunity’.

There have long been preconceptions and misconception about life growing up in a Vicarage. As a youngster, one’s contemporaries always assumed this rendered you some kind of feeble, sainted, unworldly figure, out of touch with all that was going on. Until they got to know you.

The then-ubiquitous hit song *Son Of A Preacher Man* was regularly brought out, on learning of my father’s profession. Rather like actors or comedians who have their catchphrases shouted at them by people who believe they’re the first to have ever come up with such an idea.

Far from buffering the dwellers from life’s realities, Vicarage life provided early and regular insights into the ways of the world. Regular callers included gentlemen of the road, who always seemed to convert the few shillings they were seeking for ‘a meal’ into an alcoholic repast; two prostitutes called Nancy and Judy, who liked to talk to dad because he was non-judgemental; a deranged individual called Mr Sheridan who regularly ranted and pointed his ever-present umbrella, convince on the bass of no evidence whatsoever, that there was a torrid affair blazing between the local priest and his 88 year old wife. (Dad was then 38).

Nor was the vocation the ‘God bless you’ sinecure so many supposed. Often summoned by a call in the night, the example of someone who’d seen our number in the book and saw Dad putting his suit on over his pyjamas driving to Acton, before being confronted by an axe-man was one of the most extreme.

Not to mention the time when my younger sister let a strange man wait in the study. We later found out he was an escaped murderer. All of which sounds absolutely fantastical but was nevertheless true. Never let anyone tell me such an upbringing provided a cloistered world view!

Ade Macrow

The return of Patricia's Pantry June is bustin' out all over



Just beyond the bounds of the former Miramichi town of Newcastle, about two miles up the Chaplin Island Road, lies a brook, for many years populated by beavers.

The young lad who often swam in the stream was a vicar's son. Though an inattentive student, he had great practical nous, and by twenty had been a



local newspaper distributor, a drugstore clerk, and an apprentice at law, although he failed his first law examinations. He later sold insurance, ran a bowling alley, and managed a friend's campaign for office in Alberta. Reportedly, while fishing in a rowboat and hungover following a raucous twenty first birthday, he decided to turn from fecklessness. "Hell, I've had enough of this," he declared, before turning his energies to making money.

And make money he surely did. He was soon selling bonds, and creating enterprises in steel, energy, banking and the like. By thirty, he'd become a multimillionaire. In 1910 he became a UK MP for Ashton-under-Lyne, and the following year was knighted. Six years later he became a peer, taking a name from the backcountry woods of his youth: Lord Beaverbrook. Often referred to in Britain simply as "The Beaver," he is among Miramichi's most famous sons.

His British footprint is well known: Canadian government representative to Britain and Minister of Information during the First World War, and during the peace the owner of the Daily Express, the Evening Standard, and the founder of the Sunday Express. When war came again, he became Lord Privy Seal and Minister of Aircraft Production.

In New Brunswick, he is recalled as a great benefactor, investing in scholarships, the expansion of the University of New Brunswick, and in the arts. And to Miramichi too. To Newcastle he left a library, the town hall, and to both Newcastle and its sister town of Chatham he gave cherished sports arenas that are still in steady use. He collected folklore and songs, contributing to the Miramichi Folksong Festival, the longest running folk festival in North America, and bequeathed public parks that preserve Miramichi's earliest European settlements. *Tricia & Murray Heckbert*

CONTESTED HERITAGE IN CATHEDRALS AND CHURCHES

The Church of England has recently published a lavishly illustrated but carefully worded report on what it calls Contested Heritage. This is its response to Black Lives Matter and the toppling of the Colston statue in Bristol. It is plainly a difficult subject because much of the wealth lavished on its churches and

infrastructure in the past can be traced back to slavery and exploitation, some of which has continued to the present day.

As someone who has always been fascinated, amused and occasionally horrified by the wordings and possible meanings of inscriptions, memorials and notices in public places, I thought I would share with readers some of my 'favourites'.
Rob Walker

Royal Engineers Memorial in Rochester Cathedral



Rochester Cathedral is full of military memorials, some sad, some triumphant and some both. This one is essentially the Royal Engineers casualty list for the entire 1800s and the print shows the unveiling of the Afghanistan panel, with due ceremony, in 1883. A close examination of the names shows that many were of Indian heritage and all were considered to be of equal status on the memorial at least by the Royal Engineers. For me this was an important life lesson.

Inscription - Memorial to John Digby, 3rd Earl of Bristol in Sherborne Abbey

This is an impressively large baroque marble memorial and the part of the inscription that had stuck in my mind was ".....generous and condescending to his inferiors.....' . Here it is in full with the original spelling.

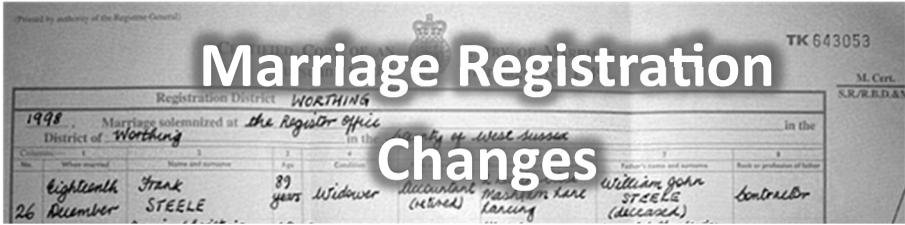
Here lyes John Lord Digby Baron Digby of Sherborne and Earl of Bristol, titles in which yr merit of his grandfather first gave lustre and which he himself laid down unsully'd. He was naturally inclined to avoid the hurry of publick life, yet carefull to keep up the part of his quality was willing to be at ease but scorned obscurity and therefore never made his retirment a pretence to draw himself within a narrower compass, or to shun such expence as charity, hospitality as his honour call'd for. His religion was that which by law is established, and the conduct of his life shew'd the power of it in his heart. His distinction from others never made him forget himself or them; he was kind and obliging to his neighbours, generous and condescending to his inferiors and just to all man knid. Nor had the temptations of honour and pleasure in this world strength enough to withdraw his eyes from that great object of his hope which we reasonably assure ourselves he now enjoys.

Lilleshall Memorial commemorating the First Duke of Sutherland (1833)



The memorial is 21m high on the top of Lilleshall Hill which is now part of Telford in Shropshire. The Duke was a great business magnate and the backstory is that his tenants were persuaded to contribute £1000 (£122,000 in today's money) for the monument. The inscription reads:

**..... THIS MONUMENT IS ERECTED
BY THE OCCUPIERS OF HIS GRACES SHROPSHIRE
FARMS
AS A PUBLIC TESTIMONY THAT HE
WENT DOWN TO HIS GRAVE WITH THE
BLESSINGS
OF HIS TENANTS ON HIS HEAD**



Changes to the way in which marriages are registered began on 4 May 2021. The Government has introduced a single electronic marriage register to make the system simpler and more efficient. The new registration process will enable all marriages to be recorded and stored online. These regulations to amend the Marriage Act mark the biggest changes to the marriage registration system since 1837. As the changes were being considered, it was also an opportunity for the General Register Office (GRO) to enable the details of mothers to be included on the marriage certificate for the first time in England.¹

It is good news that, following a vigorous campaign, both parents' details now appear on marriage certificates but it is disappointing that the above paragraph implies it was something of an afterthought. But it may not be such good news that couples will no longer leave the church with a copy of their marriage certificate. If they need a hard copy, they must now apply to the Registrar General. A souvenir certificate with no legal standing at all can be provided on the day but there are many situations where officialdom requires a physical certificate which may make this modernisation ineffective.

When I married in 1973, the handwritten long form certificate turned out to be something of a lifesaver. As we got into the car outside St Cuthbert's in Wells, the curate who had just married us panted up and pushed the certificate into our hands saying something like 'You left this behind. You might need it' How right he was.

The following day we went to Bristol Airport to fly to Dublin for our 'Aer Lingus 7 day self-drive B and B break' honeymoon. It was in the early days of The Troubles and the Special Branch was checking identities. One of Aer Lingus's selling points had been that no travel documents were needed so we had brought nothing suitable with us. But then Rob, my husband found the marriage certificate in his pocket and handed it over. They were more than a little baffled. No one else it seemed had ever presented such a document so about 10 minutes was spent conferring and puzzling through the curate's scrawl as the queue lengthened. Then, hesitantly, out came the classic o'Well I suppose if it is good enough for the Bishop of Bath and Wells, then it is good enough for me' and we were through.

Sue Walker

¹ from the Diocese of Bath and Wells website .

Mary's Recipe and Don's Poem

Loveliest of Trees

Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
Is hung with bloom along the bough,
And stands about the woodland ride
Wearing white for Eastertide.

Now, of my threescore years and ten,
Twenty will not come again,
And take from seventy springs a score,
It only leaves me fifty more.

And since to look at things in bloom
Fifty springs are little room,
About the woodlands I will go
To see the cherry hung with snow.

A E Houseman(1859-1936)

Honey & Orange Glazed Chicken



4x175g boneless chicken breasts
1tbsp oil
4 spring onions, chopped
1 garlic clove, crushed
45ml clear honey
60ml fresh orange juice
1 orange, peeled & segmented
30ml soy sauce
Fresh lemon balm or flat leafed parsley to garnish
Baked potatoes & mixed salad to serve

1. Preheat oven to 190°C. Place chicken breasts in a shallow roasting tin & set aside.
2. Heat the oil in a small pan & fry the spring onions & garlic for 2 minutes until softened. Add the clear honey, orange juice, orange segments & soy sauce to the pan, stirring well until the honey has dissolved.
3. Pour over the chicken & bake, uncovered, for about 45 minutes, basting with the honey glaze once or twice until the chicken is cooked. Garnish with the lemon balm or parsley & serve the chicken & its sauce with baked potatoes & a salad.



PCCs of Rodney Stoke and Draycott

Your churches – May update



As lockdown restrictions ease, your churches continue to resume normal activities step by step. We are holding Sunday services in church at 9:30 in Draycott and 11:00 in Rodney Stoke on most weeks . These mainly alternate between Holy Communion and Morning Prayer (please check rotas).

The churches are open for individual visits during the week. In Rodney Stoke, St Leonard's is open every day between about 9am and 5pm, and in Draycott, St Peter's is open on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays only, also in daylight hours. Both churches are still taking extra Covid precautions, with additional church cleaning and social distancing, hand sanitiser proved, and face masks worn in the churches at all times.

We hope that the School will shortly be able to resume meeting for assemblies and other activities in Draycott church, also.

ZOOM Services

ZOOM services for the benefice continue. Sunday services are at 11:30 am and will alternate between Morning Prayer and Holy Communion. In the week we will continue to have Zoom services at 8:30 pm on weekday evenings, and 10:00 am on Saturday.

If you would like to join any of these services, please could you email the Rector for joining instructions and to be added to the email circulation list – stuart.burns01@gmail.com.

Please note that these arrangements are reviewed regularly and may change in the course of the month; the most up-to-date information will be posted on the website: www.rodneystokewithdraycott.org.uk.

Services and Readings

Sunday Services June 2021

	Cheddar	Draycott	Rodney Stoke	ZOOM
6th June Trinity 1	10am Morning Prayer	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Morning Prayer	11.30am Morning Prayer
13th June Trinity 2	10am	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion	11.30am Morning Prayer
20th June Trinity 3	10am Morning Prayer	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Morning Prayer	11.30am Holy Communion
27th June Trinity 4	10am Benefice Holy Communion Service St Andrew's Cheddar			

Readings June 2021

	Psalm	First Reading	Second Reading
6th June Trinity 1	130	2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1	Mark 3: 20-end
13th June Trinity 2	92: 1-8	2 Corinthians 5: 6-17	Mark 4: 26-34
20th June Trinity 3	107: 23-32	2 Corinthians 6: 1-13	Mark 4: 35-41
27th June Trinity 4	30	2 Corinthians 8: 7-end	Mark 5:21-end

Benefice Diary June 2021

Wed 2	11am	Holy Communion	Nave, St Andrew's
Wed 9	11.30am	Mothers Union Holy Communion	Nave, St Andrew's
Wed 16	11am	Holy Communion	Nave, St Andrew's
	7pm	St Leonard's PCC	Symes Home, outside
Tue 22	2pm	Wedding Rehearsal	St Andrew's Church
Wed 23	11am	Holy Communion	Nave, St Andrew's
Thur 24	11am	Wedding Meeting	Den
	6pm	Wedding Rehearsal	St Andrew's Church
Fri 25	11.30am	Wedding	St Peter's Church
Sat 26	2pm	Revd Thea's Ordination	Wells Cathedral
Mon 28	12.30pm	St Andrew's at Lunch Time (SALT)	Cheddar Village Hall
Wed 30	11am	Holy Communion	Nave, St Andrew's

FROM THE REGISTERS:

Funerals:

Our prayers are with those who mourn the death of:

Joyce Spencer, Keith Paige, Martin Pearson, Clive Lukins. RIP

The Bells of St Leonard's

St Leonard' bell ringers Sophie Courtier and Judy Pearce were interviewed by Tiggy Trethowan about the bells of St. Leonard's for podcast 39 of Draycott Diaries (<https://www.draycottdiaries.com>) which also includes an extended interview with long term Rodney Stoke residents Jo and Colin Symes.

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www.tree-surgery-somerset.com



Home Communion

It is one of the great privileges in ministry to be able to bring communion to the elderly and housebound or those who are temporarily unable to get to church due to injury – do let us know if you, or someone you know, would appreciate this aspect of the Church's care. Contact the Parish Office on 01934 742535.

BENEFICE cheddardraycottandrodneystoke@gmail.com

RECTOR Stuart Burns
Email stuart.burns01@gmail.com
Home phone 01934 743649

Please note: Stuart's home tel number has a call-screening facility to stop nuisance calls; the system asks you to say your name and then press # and wait briefly ; Stuart then hears who it is and allows the call which adds your name so that next time you will go straight through; please bear with this; once added the first time you won't have to be 'processed' again! There is also an answering machine on this number.

ASSISTANT CURATE Thea Oliver 07767892313 (Thurs & Sun)
revthea@outlook.com

BENEFICE OFFICE 01934 742535

LAY/LICENSED READER Dr Chris Green

BAPTISM COORDINATOR Julie Hope 01934 742234

CHEDDAR www.standrewscheddar.org.uk

Churchwardens: Margaret Gelder 01934 710573 Paul Tullett 01934 743281

Deputy Wardens: Peter Lythgoe 01934 744074

Deanery Synod Reps : Margaret Gelder, Dawn Hill

Treasurer: Dawn Hill **Secretary:** Sylvia Hall

Cheddar Village Hall Bookings: Richard Scourse enquiries@cheddarvillagehall.org.uk

DRAYCOTT www.rodneystokewithdraycott.org.uk

Churchwarden: Chris Green 01749 870554

Deanery Synod Reps: Tricia Lumley, Thea Oliver

Treasurer: David Cheetham **Secretary:** Chris Green

RODNEY STOKE www.stleonardsrodneystoke.org

Churchwarden: Megan James 01749 870555

Deanery Synod Reps: Jo Symes, Colin Symes

Treasurer: Sue Walker **Secretary:** Ben Buse

Church Hall Bookings: Sue Walker 01749 870611

MAGAZINE EDITORS

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