

The Parish Churches of Rodney Stoke and Draycott

July 2021



Safeguarding awareness

And when they had sung a
hymn....

Taizé

Reimagining the Levels

Another month in our
country

A Fine Day Out!

Dropping in for that Special
Birthday

Still the son of a Preacher
Man

Patricia's Pantry

Mary's Recipe and Don's
Poem

50p



The Laurels Care Home

Vaccinating our residents against Covid-19

The Laurels provides the kind of care we'd want all of our loved ones to receive. If you're concerned about how your relative is coping and would like them to have more support, The Laurels provides family-led care in a friendly and homely environment. The Covid-19 vaccine will be offered to all those in our care, allowing them to live safely and as they wish.



01934 742 649



Westfield Lane, Draycott,
Cheddar, BS27 3TN



www.countrycourtcare.com



Cheddar & District Funeral Directors Limited

*A family owned and run business
Offering a 24 hour Professional Service*



* Private Chapel of Rest

* Home Visits

* Burial and Cremation

Ian Taylor-Rowlands Dip FD. LMBIFD

CHEDDAR 01934 742958

Redcliffe Court, 3 Redcliffe Street, Cheddar, Somerset. BS27 3ND.

Email: cheddardistrictfunerals@outlook.com

Website: www.cheddardistrictfunerals.co.uk



Golden Charter
Funeral Plans 

Basic Awareness in Safeguarding - an online course for church volunteers



Safeguarding

“Safeguarding is the responsibility of us all”

If you are a church volunteer it is recommended by the Diocese that you undertake the Basic Awareness Safeguarding course (previously C0), and this is a necessary requirement for anyone working with children.

The course is available via a Church of England website and should be accessible if you have a computer, and have successfully logged on to ZOOM during the past year. Unfortunately there are no face-to-face courses available at the moment for those who are unable to manage online.

As you are probably aware, we are trying to ensure that as many of our church members as possible receive safeguarding training, as part of the C of E policy on protecting children and vulnerable adults - many thanks to those who have already completed the training.

This introductory course on the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults is designed for **all** church volunteers, particularly if you have not attended a Level 1, 2 or 3 safeguarding course already, and it takes about an hour to complete.

Some members may wonder why they are expected to participate in a course on safeguarding, but it is considered by the Diocese to be an essential introduction, since there is a strong likelihood that you may come into contact with either children or vulnerable adults whilst carrying out your church activities. It is important that you know what your legal responsibilities are if you witness something or are told about something which may need a safeguarding response.

The course is particularly relevant for all of the following groups and compulsory **for all volunteers working with children e.g. in Messy Church, Holiday Club, Storytime or Toddler Groups.**

Choir members

Sidespersons

Music group members

Bell ringers

Servers

Flower Arrangers

PCC Members

If you email me at reevejm@btinternet.com I will send you detailed instructions for accessing the on-line course and I would be grateful if, on completion, you would send copies of your certificate to **Samm Richards, our Benefice Administrator, at cheddardraycottandrodneystoke@gmail.com and also to me, Jim Reeve, at reevejm@btinternet.com for our records.**

If you need to take the Foundation Course (C1), for those who hold positions of responsibility for the safeguarding of others within church settings, this can also be completed online.

Thank you to everyone for your co-operation in taking part.

Jim Reeve Benefice Safeguarding Administrator

Pastoral Letter to the Benefice from Thea Oliver

Whom shall I send?

This Summer my vocation brought me to be ordained priest, but our own unique journey through life responding to God's loving purpose for us is different from the person sitting next to us. Some of us live out our vocation by being married and/or having a family. Many people respond to God's call through the work they do, and not only in the obvious ones like education or caring professions. There are as many ways of hearing and answering God's call as there are people in His world, and most people have several occupations making up their vocation. Our responsibility as Christians is to listen and hear how God is calling us. By Baptism we are gathered into the one flock following the Good Shepherd and are called to share and live out the Good News. Maybe a good place for us all to start is by responding to the C of E's Five Marks of Mission which are to:



- proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- respond to human need by loving service
- seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
- strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Archbishop Rowan Williams helpfully said that we should “see what God is already doing and join in”. Of course, we recognise that God does not exclusively work through Christians; we have seen numerous examples of this throughout the pandemic in the service individuals have given to others by reaching out to offer help and support to those in need who were strangers before lockdown. I believe that these practical actions are signs of the Holy Spirit at work though anyone and everyone. It is therefore essential that we, who call ourselves Christians, also allow the Holy Spirit the opportunity to work in and through us too. So, that when we sing the Hymn “I the Lord of Sea and Sky” we might truly mean “is it I Lord?”

Many blessings, *Thea*

Letter from the Right Reverend Trevor Willmott, Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Bath and Wells

God's gift to humankind

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

A few days spent recently in the Lake District 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 Royal Horticultural Society (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 that 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 Willmott*

Music Matters

And when they had sung a hymn...



In the Gospels of St Matthew and St Mark, the accounts of the Last Supper end with the words “And when they had sung a hymn, they went out into the Mount of Olives”. The Gospels don’t say which hymn it was that they sang that evening, but we know that the Jewish hymnbook consisted of the set of 150 songs that we call the Book of Psalms. The hymns set for the Feast of the Passover were a group of praise songs, centred on Psalm 116: *I love the Lord because he hath heard my voice and my supplication.*

Our hymnbooks contain a number of psalms in metrical (rhythmic) English versions. One well-known example is **O God, our help in ages past**, which is a translation of psalm 90; *Lord, thou hast been our refuge from one generation to another.* Another is **O worship the King, all glorious above**, a translation of psalm 104: *Praise the Lord, O my soul: O Lord my God thou art become exceeding glorious.* And a third **All people that on earth do dwell**, a metrical version of psalm 100: *O be joyful in the Lord all ye lands.*

Some of the psalms are so popular that they have been newly translated many times. Perhaps the best-loved of them all is psalm 23, *The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing*, which appears as **The King of love my shepherd is, The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want, The Lord my pasture shall prepare and The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want. He makes me lie in pastures green**, a fairly new hymn by Stuart Townsend. There are probably a few more versions that I don’t know.

Back to the Last Supper: I don’t think there is any well-known hymn-version of psalm 116. Poets are still writing new translations of the psalms, and I think a congregational version would be very welcome. *David Cheetham*



Filming in St Peter’s

Here is Barry Rose being interviewed in St Peter’s for a forthcoming documentary concerning the 40th anniversary of the ‘Charles and Diana’ Royal Wedding. Barry ‘did the music’.



Many people have come across the music of Taizé. Since about the 1970s it has become quite familiar in English services or in 'Taizé style' worship. The style was created by the late French composer, Jacques Berthier, whom I was fortunate enough to meet once at Taizé. Musically, it depends on a very Bach-ian chord structure and the repetition of a 16-bar phrase many times, decorated by instrumental descants, often with added solo verses taken from the Psalms or from the words of Jesus in the Gospels. The purpose is not to entertain (nor even to inform or educate) - but to create a way of praying together, contemplatively, through this musical experience.

The Taizé songs, as used in France, are repeated many times - sometimes for as long as 7 or 8 minutes each - so that there is a sense of endlessness to the prayer very different from that which most of us are used to when we use our own hymns. ('Verses one to nine omitting verse three.' !)

Taizé is an ecumenical monastic fraternity in Burgundy. It was founded in 1940 by Roger Schutz, then a young Swiss theological student who died at Taizé at the age of 90 in 2005. I know three things about this inspiring man: his huge love of Baroque music, his very mystical and quiet (publicity shunning) personality, and a total commitment to the poorest or most deprived people of the world (he made many visits throughout his life to live with them and to share their lives). His writings, all translated into English, are extraordinarily compelling and express an intimacy with the Christ with whom he lived every day of his life. This, despite his many books and journals, was never better expressed than through the music at Taizé.

I visited Taizé a number of times back in the day, and linked with Brother Robert, who was then the director of music, to prepare new chants and to gather a few instrumentalists (from different countries) who could play the descants. At Taizé the chants are (Covid permitting) used by several thousand people at a time - who attend the daily services of the community from all over the world, especially in the summer. It is an experience which can never be forgotten.

Michael Taylor



Reimagining the Levels

Do you remember the devastating effects of the floods on the Somerset in 2013-14, on individuals, communities, the economy and the environment? Well, the floods demonstrated the pressing need for a more joined-up approach that looks at the causes of, and solutions to, flooding across the entire catchment. And the floods were actually the spur to form a group now known as 'Reimagining the Levels' (RtL).

RtL is a group whose members all live locally: individuals with an interest in conservation, people representing community groups and landowners all united by a love of the Somerset Levels and Moors landscape, and by their concern over its future. They include farmers, conservationists, landscape architects, arboriculturalists and social enterprise advisers, so they have a formidable array of skills and experience to tackle the challenges facing us.

Initially their work was advisory and aimed at influencing local government, and farming practices. For example they prepared reports on the poor decisions made by some local planning authorities, which have allowed development in locations liable to flood risk and/or have failed to provide adequate flood management infrastructure, and they have pointed out specific examples of poorly maintained urban and rural flood defences. RtL also report that farming policy has encouraged the impoverishment of agricultural soil, increasing the speed of soil run off and the likelihood of downstream flooding. They advocate improving soil condition via changes in agricultural land use and management with less maize and continuous cereal production.

Since 2018 they have run a project known as 'Trees for Water'. This is in partnership with the Environment Agency, Somerset Rivers Authority, The Woodland Trust, Somerset Wildlife Trust, and the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group. Woodland cover over the Somerset Levels is low, but there is good evidence that planting more would help prevent downstream flooding, as well as providing other benefits by improving wildlife habitats and increasing biodiversity. So RtL set up a group of volunteers to provide the expertise and energy to plant trees in appropriate sites.

Even despite Covid constraints, the group planted 19,000 new trees at various sites last season (November to April). If you want to volunteer, see their website at <https://reimaginingthelevels.org.uk/> .

Nikki Devitt

Another month in our country

I write as a court found the accommodating of asylum seekers at Napier barracks to be illegal. Archbishop William Temple, instrumental in creating the welfare state, said *“It is axiomatic that love should be the predominant Christian impulse and that the primary form of love in social organisation is Justice”*. Pope Francis speaks of fraternity *“once this health crisis passes, our worst response would be to plunge even more deeply into feverish consumerism and new forms of egotistic self-preservation. God willing, after all this, we will think no longer in terms of ‘them’ and ‘those’, but only ‘us’ ”*.

Looking forward, and noting that 30 July is the church’s William Wilberforce day, I’d like to recall recent speeches by Pope Francis and Justin Welby. Justin speaks of the church becoming a *“carrier of freedom”, and “a place of dance, of joy and hope”*. He speaks of seeing the world as *“a dynamic and rapidly changing swirling mass of bodies, cultures and existence, a complex ecosystem blown into life by the Holy Spirit”*. He observes the world is *“both more connected and more isolated. It knows far more and relates far less”* and asks *“how does the church dance as inequality is more visible and growing”*. Justin states *“last year has changed the world, the next 50 years will do so even more. Science will change war and peace. Climate change will move vast populations”* and concludes that the church *“may choose to let the Spirit of God equip it as it is driven out into the changing world, or may seek protection by hiding behind what it has always known”*.

Pope Francis speaks of fraternity *“the Holy Spirit enables us to embrace everyone, to build communion in diversity, to unify differences without imposing a depersonalized uniformity. In encountering the diversity of foreigners, migrants and refugees we have an opportunity to grow as a Church and to enrich one another.”* He concludes *“we are called to dream together, fearlessly, as a single human family, as companions on the same journey, as sons and daughters of the same earth that is our common home”*.

Ben Buse



**Would you enjoy a friendly chat, a bite to eat
and a time to appreciate being with others?**

**Try the SALT lunch at Cheddar Village Hall
12.30— 2.00 pm Monday 26 July.**



At last, with great excitement and a sense of adventure, we set off on our first day out for a long time. All the best excursions begin by turning off the A371 just outside the village, driving north along Westfield Lane and gradually ascending to the top of the Mendips. Whether we are visiting relatives in Kent, or catching the ferry to France, this is the way we invariably go. On this occasion the destination was a secluded part of the valley of the River Frome, which forms the boundary between Somerset and Wiltshire, in the tiny hamlet of Iford.

Passing through such small villages as Kilmersdon, of Jack and Jill fame, and Faulkland with its lavender farm, the countryside was at its June best with verges of red campion and waving grasses and fields of mown hay or newly sown maize and beans for fodder. With only a mile or so to go the road became extremely narrow with high banks and few passing places, continuing for what seemed an eternity before we saw the valley of the River Frome below.

To reach our destination we drove across a fine old bridge built in about 1400, repaired in the 18th Century and surmounted surprisingly by an imposing statue of Britannia. This and the manor house facing us indicated that the secluded valley had seen a long history of habitation. Indeed, since roman times, successive generations have left their mark, but it was the 15

year period before the First World War, when Iford Manor was bought by the architect Harold Ainsworth Peto that drew us here to see the gardens that he created.

From a steep and unpromising valley he made possibly one of the most beautiful gardens in England. His genius was in combining stone with plants in the most satisfactory proportions, with neither dominating the other. His stone ranged from broken fragments of antiquity and huge earthenware pots to complete statues which he had collected over the years on his travels as an architect. It was on these travels in Europe that he became influenced by the Italian garden style of stone terraces, clipped evergreens and formal water features. To these he added the softening effect of the English style of planting of roses, climbers, herbs and perennials found in traditional flower gardens. It is a winning combination.

From the entrance courtyard, redolent with the scent of wisteria and the sound of water falling onto a shady pool, to the spiritual peace of the cloisters, and then, following paths and water rills climbing up to the great terrace with its iconic statue of the wolf suckling the twin infants Romulus and Remus we felt we had escaped to another country.

Who would have believed that Italy was less than an hour's drive away over the Mendips with no passports or vaccination certificates required.

Ann Percival



Dropping in for that special birthday

June 6th is the anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy. But for the family of Dr Richard Dingley OBE, KStJ, KMN, ASDK, of Draycott, it is 'Daddy Day', as it is his birthday. And this year, Richard turned 90. To mark this very special day, his family arranged a truly special event for Richard, and all the people of Draycott, to enjoy. At 5pm exactly, five parachutists, led by Gareth Mooney of the RAF Sport Parachuting Display Team, made their jump above the Draycott recreation field. We were treated to a spectacular display of precision parachuting, complete with coloured smoke and aerobatics, and on landing on the 'rec' they presented a very surprised Richard with a birthday card, and the RAF's congratulations .

The parachuting was a tribute to Richard's own past exploits. After medical training, he joined the RAF and served in Malaya, during the Malayan Emergency of 1948 - 1960. During this campaign he made many parachute descents into the Malayan jungle as part of the

RAF Far East Air Force Parachute Rescue Team. They rescued downed aircrew and supported Special Forces operations on deep jungle penetration missions. Among the many hazards he had to face was getting snagged in the forest canopy by the parachute, many feet from the ground. For that reason, the parachutists stood on their equipment for the descent, the better to break through the canopy without personal injury.

After the RAF Richard worked for a year at the St. John's Eye Hospital in Jerusalem (1960–61) before joining the Colonial Office as the Principal Consultant Ophthalmologist in British North Borneo, now Sabah. He transferred to Malaysian Government service at independence in 1963, retiring to Draycott in 1986. Once back in the UK he continued to practice, doing locums in hospitals such as Barnstable, clinics in Cheltenham, Bath and Bristol as well as performing laser eye surgery with Optimax in Bristol. He also made numerous visits to the Far East on 'Mercy Ships', charitably funded hospital ships with a mission to bring vital surgery to poor communities. On these visits he performed hundreds of cataract and other sight-restoring operations to people who would have otherwise been disabled by poor vision. He finally fully retired on his 80th birthday - the last of his class from King's College London.



Gareth Mooney, team leader- RAF Sport Parachuting Display Team- making his final approach

The Draycott connection for Richard was through his wife, Sylvia - his parents-in-law were Stanley & Sarah Wood who lived in the village from the 1950's onwards. In the village, Richard was active in village life as a member of the Parish Council, a Trustee for the Card Trust and a Governor of Draycott & Rodney Stoke School. He also enjoyed singing and was an active member of Cheddar's Male Voice Choir.

We in the church have our own particular reasons for appreciating Richard. He is a lifelong Christian, and at the age of 18 (whilst still at school), a lay preacher in the Methodist church. Before going to Sabah, he became a Lay Reader in the Church of England, permitting his ministry of preaching and leading worship to continue in a country with no Methodist presence. His Christian ministry has been active throughout his life. Since coming to Draycott he has served the church in many different ways - as lay minister, as churchwarden, and as secretary to the PCC. Since suffering a stroke in 2019 he has finally hung up his blue reader's scarf. However Richard has been a pillar of the church throughout, and we do celebrate and appreciate this on behalf of St Peter's and also the many other parishes he has served during his long life.

Richard currently lives in Draycott with his grandson Tristan. He has two surviving children, Hannah, and John. He sadly lost both his daughter Lois and wife Sylvia in 2016 who both are buried in Draycott. His brother-in-law, Bernard Wood still lives in Draycott.

We do wish Richard many more happy years living among us. We would like to extend our thanks to John Dingley, and to the whole RAF team involved on the 6 June, for putting on such a splendid spectacle - and for lifting all of our spirits.

Chris Green



Richard celebrates with the jump team and the drop zone team



Still the Son of a Preacher Man

You had to hand it to both the Mormons and the Jehovah's Witnesses. A huge metal sign with dimensions of four feet long and three in depth boldly proclaimed, in capital black letters on a white background, that the house was St. Saviour's Vicarage. (268 Alexandra Park Road next to the Post Office). Nothing daunted, they would still regularly turn up in impeccably-groomed pairs on the doorstep. Hats off for their supreme optimism.

A source of amusement for me when young was the palpable frisson of excitement at others' houses, whenever the doorbell or telephone rang. Living in a home where each day was frequently punctuated by the sounds of both, the ringing of either was far from a novelty.

Amusement was rife at my grammar school, when the fourth form English teacher, Mr. Huke, set 'Life In A Vicarage' as a homework essay. Unlike my classmates, he was unaware of my status as "the son of a preacher man" and, reading out some of the submitted entries, he included my offering. His somewhat dismissive remark of "that's very amusing, Macrow but utterly far-fetched" was the signal for a loud roar of laughter from all others.

A lesson learned was when an off-hand comment by Dad during a service, revealed he was partial to bananas. It saw him turned into a mini-Fyffes depository himself, as his regular Monday to Friday afternoon visits to parishioners far and wide saw him plied with the fruit from well-meaning people. It would have seemed rude to refuse any.....

A remark made at the beginning of a sermon received the stunned reaction Dad anticipated, when he began "I must confess, that I have spent many hours in the arms of another man's wife". Pausing for a beat or two, he added "...she was called my mother". Long-forgotten what his sermon was about, though.

Ade Macrow

The return of Patricia's Pantry
The English Winter—ending in July,
To recommence in August.



A for the axes, and that youse all know / B for the boys that can use them
also / C for the chopping which now begins / And D for the danger that we do
stand in / And how merry are we...

So begins Lumbermen's Alphabet, flagship tune of the the Miramichi Folksong
Festival, the longest continuously running folk festival in Canada. Every August,
aficionados gather to hear the flair the Irish, Scots and English brought in their
voices to work in the woods.

The Festival emerged after Lord Beaverbrook urged local folklorist Louise
Manny to preserve local songs. Beaverbrook soon had recording equipment
brought from England to a Newcastle hall, and found someone who could
make records. Recording of
the decades old songs then
began in earnest. By 1958, the
Festival had started to share
and preserve the river's songs
and folklore.



Along with it came several
rules. Lumbermen's Alphabet
is a cappella tale, as all local
songs initially were. Duffy's
Hotel, a tale of boarders's
adventures from an
establishment far up the river

in Boisetown, always has its last line spoken. And there will always be a
kitchen party at the Blackhorse Tavern, kitty corner to the concert hall. Since
1988, when festival fixture Perley Hare dropped dead at the tavern after his
festival set, concertgoers and performers gather to remember and toast him.

New is merging with the old. Miramichi Men, a modern anthem, is a firm
favourite: "Come all ye good people, and give me some time / A tale I will tell
you of a day long gone by / To northeast New Brunswick, in song we will
speed / And sing of the men up the Miramichi...

During Covid the Festival tacked online. You can check out my brother, Steve
Heckbert, singing Duffy's Hotel on YouTube, for example.

And as Lumbermen's wraps up, so do I: U for the uses we put ourselves to / V
for the valleys we run our roads through / W for the woods, which we leave in
the spring / And now I have sung all I'm going to sing / And how merry are
we...
Tricia and Murray Heckbert



**RODNEY STOKE & DRAYCOTT WI
SECRET OPEN GARDENS**

11am to 5pm

Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 July

Over 10 private gardens ranging from newly formed gardens, to mature gardens packed with plants & larger hill-side slopes with vines.

WI teas, lunch and coffee are dotted around the route'

Ample parking available at St Peter's Church, Draycott and Brangay Farm, Rodney Stoke BS27 3UL with full walking route between the gardens of about 1 mile each way.

Programmes/Route Maps available in person from any open garden on the day or the Draycott Community Shop.

Programme covers entrance for both days: Adults £5 Under 16s free with accompanying adult. Well behaved children and dogs on leads welcome.

M J SHEPPARD

Independent Family Funeral Directors &
Monumental Masons

Private Chapel of Rest
24 Hour Personal Service
A friendly professional service

Mark Sheppard BA(Hons) Dip.FD LMBIFD
Funeral Director



Cheddar

01934 742885

Cornerways, Church Street,
Cheddar, BS27 3RF

www.mjsheppardfunerals.co.uk

Mr Peter Everett DO MRO

Registered Osteopath

12, Woodborough Road

Winscombe

BS25 1AA

01934 844764

**Home visits by
arrangement**

News from Supporters of St Peter's Church (SOSP)

Coming Events

Recently some of the SOSP team were able to gather outside and enjoy coffee and a chat! Sadly, not quite our usual Coffee and Cake! With the sun shining and a coffee in our hands it felt as if some normality was beginning to return, so we set our thinking caps on and discussed some provisional plans for the Summer and Autumn. We have really missed meeting everyone at our First Saturday of the month Coffee and Cake mornings. We are aiming to re start these in October, hopefully along with a Harvest Lunch.

We will be having a Tombola Stall at the Strawberry Fayre; any donations of prizes will be gratefully received. Future events also include our usual Christmas Festival, this year based on Animals of the Nativity and a Christmas Fayre. Watch this space for more information or email Karen - karenpercival100@btinternet.com Meanwhile, we will be busy cleaning the coffee machine and looking for new cake recipes to be ready for your enjoyment.



Mary Watt, Chair of the PTA writes:

‘Dear all involved in SOSP,

On behalf of Draycott and
Rodney Stoke First School PTA,

I would like to thank you for your donation from the
money you raised through the Easter competitions
(£80) .

The donation is very much appreciated and it will be
put towards one of our end of term events. ‘

Draycott Annual Church Meeting 2021

On 26 May we held our Draycott Annual Parochial Meeting in the church. And although we wore face masks and were socially distanced, it was wonderful to meet again face to face - a sign of the easing of lockdown restrictions, and of our gradual return to normal church activities.



With the usual reports there was much for us to reflect on. As for so many organisations, the Covid emergency has profoundly affected us post March 2020:

- Sunday services cancelled for twenty-two of the Sundays in 2020; when they resumed, congregation sizes were less than half of the pre-lockdown ones
- No school services held in church (these resumed in school on their return)
- No additional social and fund-raising activities
- Church locked during the day for over half of the year
- Significant losses to church finances.

However, we have also much to be thankful for. The gap in church worship has been largely filled by worship online, on ZOOM (where we joined our sister churches in the benefice, Rodney Stoke and Cheddar). In fact, across the three churches, more people attended an act of worship each week during the lockdowns than before (a national pattern). And ZOOM services have continued even as worship in church has resumed. This was made possible by a strong benefice worship team headed by our Rector, Stuart Burns, including two retired clergy, a curate (our very own Thea Oliver), two lay readers and six lay worship assistants. Our links to the school have been maintained throughout by Stuart, Nikki and Thea, who continued to lead assemblies during lockdown, over ZOOM.

At Draycott, we are also especially fortunate in our accomplished musicians Barry Rose and David Cheetham. During the lockdowns they recorded much music - including a carol service for Christmas, and hymns used in ZOOM worship - and when lockdown permitted, supported a small choir to sing during Sunday services.

This year has already seen many hopeful signs. Congregations are increasing, and more activities are planned. When you read this, Thea will have been 'priested', with great rejoicing. Our churches, like our communities, are emerging from a difficult period with new optimism.

Chris Green

St Leonard's Churchwarden's Report May 2021

'As usual, our sincerest thanks are due to the many people who, as individuals or members of the team, have helped us to keep the church alive and well during these unusual times. There are too many of them to thank individually, but I would like to mention in particular the following:



- Stuart and the Cheddar, Draycott and Rodney Stoke Benefice Team, including Samm.
- My fellow PCC members.
- Sophie Courtiour who has agreed to take over as Tower Captain, and the Axbridge Bellringers who oversee the general maintenance of the bells.
- The Wills family and Rob Douglas, who now take care of the church clock.
- Sue and Rob, Robin and Tim, who have agreed to help me as responders to intruder alerts from the roof alarm call centre.
- Sue Wild, Sue Walker, Trudy, Alan, Val, Ann and Caroline & Richard who take weekly turns to unlock and re-lock the church now that it is open to the public once again.
- Vicky Andrews and her team of flower arrangers.
- All the sidespeople who helped keep the church active during the pandemic by roping off sections of the pews.
- Charlotte, the bugler who played the Last Post from the top of the tower at our outdoor Remembrance Day gathering.
- All those who helped decorate the church for the walk-throughs on Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday.
- Jenny, Alan, Maurice and Ann who keep the churchyard in good order.
- Jane, who keeps the communion set in good shape.
- Colin, who helps us with all the routine maintenance activities in and around the church.
- Honor for the beautiful Christmas cards
- Chris and Nik for the restoration of the West Door
- Steven who is the Parish Safeguarding Officer
- Richard Oliver who is our Health and Safety Officer
- Rob for the Magazine
- Our organists Michael, Joanne and Barry

The people in Rodney Stoke who are involved with St. Leonard's in an 'official' capacity number 54. By 'official' this means that they have volunteered to be committee members or are on lists or rotas, choir members, bellringers, cleaners, flower arrangers, key holders, organists or have a specific role such as magazine editor, parish secretary, health and safety officer, safeguarding officer.

Of course there are many willing helpers who will turn out when asked to help with events, these are not included in the 54.

And there are at least a dozen folk who are involved in our church life from nearby villages - Draycott, Cheddar, Westbury, Axbridge, Wookey and even Bristol. '

Megan James

Mary's Recipe and Don's Poem

Nature

O Nature! I do not aspire
To be the highest in thy choir,
To be a meteor in thy sky,
Or comet that may range on high;
Only a zephyr that may blow
Among the reeds by the river low;
Give me thy most privy place
Where to run my airy race.

In some withdrawn, unpublic mead
Let me sigh upon a reed,
Or in the woods, with leafy din,
Whisper the still evening in:
Some still work give me to do, -
Only - be it near to you!

For I'd rather be thy child
And pupil, in the forest wild,
Than be the king of men elsewhere,
And most sovereign slave of care;
To have one moment of thy dawn,
Than share the city's year forlorn.

Henry David Thoreau 1817-1862)



7tbsp sesame oil

6 shallots, peeled & cut into quarters

450g/1lb cooked chicked, cubed

1tbsp soy sauce

2 carrots, diced

1 celery stick, diced

1 red pepper, deseeded & diced

175g/6oz fresh peas

100g/3½oz canned sweetcorn, drained

275g/9½oz cooked long grain rice

2 large eggs, scrambled

Chicken Fried Rice

1. Heat a wok over a medium heat, then add the oil. Add the shallots & cook until soft, then add the chicken & 2 tbsp of the soy sauce & stir-fry for 5-6 minutes.
2. Stir in the carrots, celery, red pepper, peas & sweetcorn & stir-fry for a further 5 minutes. Add the rice & stir thoroughly.
3. Finally, stir in the scrambled eggs & the remaining soy sauce. Serve immediately.

Services and Readings

Sunday Services July 2021

	Cheddar	Draycott	Rodney Stoke	ZOOM
4th July Peter the Apostle	10am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion	11.30am Holy Communion
11th July Trinity 6	10am Morning Prayer	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Morning Prayer	11.30am Morning Prayer
18th July Trinity 7	10am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion	11.30 Holy Communion
25th July James the Apostle	10am Morning Prayer	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Morning Prayer	11.30am Morning Prayer

Readings July 2021

	Psalm	First Reading	Second Reading
4th July Peter the Apostle	125	Acts 12: 1-11	Matthew 16: 13-19
11th July Trinity 6	85: 8-end	Amos 7: 7-15	Mark 6: 14-29
18th July Trinity 7	23	Jeremiah 23: 1-6	Mark 6: 30-34, 53-end
25th July James the Apostle	Acts 11: 27-12:2	2 Corinthians 4: 7-15	Matthew 20: 20-28

A huge thank you to everyone who kindly helped to deliver envelopes this year, it was much appreciated. The collection was £863.61. About 600 envelopes were delivered and 60 returned. The envelopes do generate a lot of wasted paper and after speaking to a number of people, the conclusion is from next year envelopes will no longer be delivered. Instead, it would be wonderful if a few events could be hosted. SOSP has agreed to host the Big Breakfast again, which was very successful in 2019, and a soup lunch. If you feel able to host a coffee morning, lunch, bring and buy sale etc. please contact Karen Percival, our Christian Aid Rep, at karenpercival100@btinternet.com or 01749 870067. Thank you for your support!



Benefice Diary July 2021

Benefice Diary July 2021			
Thur 1	6pm	Wedding Rehearsal	St Andrew's Church
Sat 3	1.30pm	Wedding	St Andrew's Church
Wed 7	11am	Holy Communion	Nave, St Andrew's
Wed 14	11.30am	Mothers Union Holy Communion	Nave, St Andrew's
Wed 21	11am	Holy Communion	Nave, St Andrew's
Sun 25	1pm	Baptism	St Peter's Church
Mon 26	12.15-2.30pm	St Andrew's at Lunch Time (SALT)	Cheddar Village Hall
Wed 28	11am	Holy Communion	Nave, St Andrew's

Sunday Services at St Peter's July 2021 at 0930

Service	4 July Communion Thea/Stuart	11 July Morning Prayer Ruth/Hilary	18 July Communion Thea/Ben	25 July Morning Prayer Alan/Julie
Organist/music	Barry/David	Barry/David	Barry/David	Barry/David
Readers	John/Gill	Chris/Sarah	Lynda/Nikki	Tricia/Jeff
Sidesperson	Gill	Pat/Chris	Pat/Chris	Gill
Cleaning	Karen/Samm	Chris/Pat	Heather	Tricia
Flowers	Claire	Lynda	Lynda	Tricia

Sunday Services at St Leonard's July 2021 at 11.00am

FROM THE REGISTERS:

Marriage:

We ask God to bless the marriage of: Isaac Whitcombe and Lindy Neave

Baptism:

We welcome into the Church family: Lorraine Yuen Lai Grover Ng.



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.

Westbury Community Shop and Post Office

Run by the Community for the
Community

Groceries-Newspapers-Off
Licence

Fresh Locally Sourced:

- Bread-cakes-pastries.
- Dairy-eggs-cheeses
- Fresh meat & poultry
- Delicious pies,
savouries
- Cooked meats-bacon
- Fruit and vegetables

Phone Orders Taken



Post Office services include:

- **Banking:** Services available for all major UK banks.
- **Travel Money:** Euros in Stock, other currencies by next working day
- **Bill Payments:** Council Tax, Utilities, DVLA

To find out about volunteering
Phone: 01749-870296

Follow us on Facebook:



Email: Westburysubmendiocommunityshop@gmail.com



HOOD'S TREE SERVICES

All aspects of tree work undertaken with full public liability cover.
For a free, no obligation quote contact Chris Hood NPTC Cert ND Arb

Tel: 07738 678874, Email: chris@tree-surgery-somerset.com,
www.tree-surgery-somerset.com



Mobile Police in attendance at Draycott Memorial Hall

Come and meet our PCSO with the latest state-of-the-art police e-bike on:

5th July at 12.00 - 13:00

2nd August at 12:00 - 13:00

7th September at 12:00 - 13:00

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

Cheddar: Margaret Gelder e: margaretgelder@hotmail.co.uk

Rodney Stoke & Draycott: Rob Walker e: editor.rsdparishmag@gmail.com

Deadline for Magazine copy is 11th of each month