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FROM THE EDITOR

LOOKING FORWARD to the 'pet service' at Buckland Dinham next weekend (a week or so ago by the time you read this!). We have three dogs, all wire haired dachshunds, but we're only taking one of them. Not sure how she will behave with other dogs around her but it will be very interesting to see which pets others bring. Dogs and cats are the obvious but I'm also expecting to see rabbits and guinea pigs and maybe budgies, canaries and parrots and possibly even the odd snake. Watch this space! Peter



THE CUSTODIAL SENTENCES IMPOSED on many of those involved in the recent riots in communities across our country have highlighted, yet again, the issue of criminal justice and the pressures and strains within the prison system. The seemingly ever-increasing size of the prison population; the appalling conditions within many of our older prisons, especially those in our inner cities; the almost total lack of provision for education and rehabilitation and an apparent unwillingness by those elected to Parliament to

Editor: Peter Corbett mellsmag@hotmail.com

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Deadline for NOVEMBER is FRIDAY

OCTOBER 18TH but do check!

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consider whether the whole of our justice system needs a radical overhaul have all resulted in much media comment. But one part of the prison system which has not been mentioned is the invaluable role played by those who serve as Chaplains. Prison and restorative justice have been a constant thread almost throughout the whole of my life beginning with my first visit while still in my teens to what was then called a Borstal.

Since then, I've had the privilege of working with chaplaincy teams across the whole of the prison estate. I've witnessed at first hand the extraordinary work done those teams, lay and ordained, of all faiths, working together to witness to God's love in Christ and caring for all those in the prison system, both staff and prisoners. I've often said to those on the outside, if you want to know what true collaborative ministry looks like in practice, look no further than a chaplaincy team. While each member remains true to his or her particular faith, the

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barriers which often divide people of faith have no part in that shared work of witness and service.

Sadly, all too often, the work of Chaplaincies not just in prison but in all aspects of our human life, in education, hospital, mental health, care homes and many other places, is barely known – that is, until we need their care. But Chaplaincies are the yeast which leaven our society. The light which shines in the darkness. Society, as we long and pray for it to be, would be the poorer without them.

Bishop Trevor Willmott

Assistant Bishop for the Diocese of Bath and Wells

JOTTINGS FROM A COUNTRY CHURCHYARD

THE DAYS AROUND THE autumnal equinox are always my favourite time of year. Almost every year, this is a spell

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of mellow, calm, sunny weather regardless of what preceded or followed it. I look forward to it and I love it!

This year autumn has arrived while we have still been waiting for summer. All we seem to have had is a few 'taster' days of promise unfulfilled. And now the school terms have begun and most people's summer holidays are past we are assured by the forecasters of a week at least of this beautiful warm blue-skyed weather. And to mark the true beginning of autumn we, in Chantry, have just celebrated our Harvest Festival service followed by our harvest supper – a 'bring and share' at my house, Bird Shadows. This is always a joyful occasion and usually gathers together many local village friends who are not

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Church services in October

	6th October	13 th October	20 th October	27 th October	3 rd November
	October				
Chantry	10.00am Group Service: Pe: Service with Holy Communion	11am: Matins	11am Holy Communion	11am: Holy Communion	
Great Elm			9.30am: Holy Communion Robin Isherwood	9.30am Informal Service Richard King	10.00am Group Service: Holy Communion David Clark
Mells		9.30am Holy Communion David Gatliffe		9.30am Morning Prayer Janet Caudwell	
Whitley		5.00pm Harvest Service led by Hazel Tovey followed by a supper arranged by the Friends of Whitley.		9.30am Holy Communion David Gatliffe	

Hardington Vale Church Services – OCTOBER 2024

DATE	TIME	SERVICE
Tuesday 1 Oct	11.00 am	Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Holy Communion
Wednesday 2 Oct	8.30 am	Hemington , Morning Prayer
	5.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer
	6.00 pm	Tellisford , Evening Prayer
Thursday 3 Oct	6.00 pm	Norton St Phillip , Silent Prayer
Sunday 6 Oct Harvest	9.00 am	Norton St Phillip , Informal Breakfast
	10.30 am	Rode , Holy Communion – Harvest
	11.00 am	Laverton , Holy Communion – Harvest
Monday 7 Oct	9.00 am	Norton St Phillip , Morning Prayer
Wednesday 9 Oct	8.30 am	Hemington , Morning Prayer
	5.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer
Thursday 10 Oct	6.00 pm	Norton St Phillip , Silent Prayer
Sunday 13 Oct Harvest	9.00 am	Rode , Informal Breakfast
	10.30 am	Norton St Phillip , Holy Communion – Harvest
	11.00 am	Laverton , Matins
	11.00 am	Buckland Dinham , Iona Service
Monday 14 Oct	9.00 am	Norton St Phillip , Morning Prayer
Wednesday 16 Oct	8.30 am	Hemington , Morning Prayer
	5.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer
	6.00 pm	Tellisford , Evening Prayer
Thursday 17 Oct	6.00 pm	Norton St Phillip , Silent Prayer
Sunday 20 Oct	9.00 am	Farleigh Hungerford , Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Rode , Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Norton St Phillip , Informal Worship
	11.00 am	Laverton , Matins
	11.00 am	Buckland Dinham , Holy Communion
Monday 21 Oct	9.00 am	Norton St Phillip , Morning Prayer
Wednesday 23 Oct	8.30 am	Hemington , Morning Prayer
	5.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer
Thursday 24 Oct	6.00 pm	Norton St Phillip , Silent Prayer
Sunday 27 Oct	9.00 am	Tellisford , Holy Communion
	9.00 am	Rode , Contemplation & Coffee
	10.30 am	Norton St Phillip , Holy Communion
	11.00 am	Laverton , Matins
Monday 28 Oct	9.00 am	Norton St Phillip , Morning Prayer
Wednesday 30 Oct	8.30 am	Hemington , Morning Prayer
	5.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer
	6.00 pm	Tellisford , Evening Prayer
Thursday 31 Oct	6.00 pm	Norton St Phillip , Silent Prayer
Friday 1 Nov	6.00 pm	Tellisford , All Souls Service

necessarily regular church attenders for various reasons but who are a firm part of the village community. Most years I am able to decorate the harvest table with trails of red leaves from the Virginia creeper which grows in profusion up my trees and over walls. Some years, the leaves have coloured so early that a brisk wind strips them away leaving only stalks. But this year all the leaves are still green because, I assume, of the lack of sunlight. Strangely, lack of sun doesn't seem to have affected some things but possibly only those needing sunlight to ripen. Other things, such as runner beans and buddleia, have finished long before their usual time. Above average temperatures and excessive rain seem to have suited many things.

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Farmers must find it increasingly hard to adjust to the changing climate – not even a reliable change but constantly varying from drought to floods, after at the wrong times for germination and pollinisation. But when one considers some of the terrible conditions which other countries have suffered – fires, floods and famines – our disasters are minor by comparison. In this time of harvest, we must be grateful for whatever food growers and producers can provide for us and make allowances for price increases if things cost a bit more than expected. Not always easy, especially as many of us have lost our expected winter fuel allowances.

I had a lovely surprise today which cheered me considerably. A good friend had noted my bemoaning the dearth of grasshoppers in last month's "jottings", called round with a beautiful picture of a green grasshopper which had landed on her leg while she was in her field in Chantry. I might be tempted to wander up there while this fine weather lasts to see if I can see – or hear – one.

I had a less pleasant surprise a couple of weeks ago when my beloved cavalier, Ebbie, ate a £5.00 note. Although trained to bring me anything dropped on the ground in exchange for a small treat, evidently money was too great a temptation. It was gone before I realised I had dropped it. Careful searching revealed the only conclusion, Ebbie had eaten it. A hasty enquiry to the vet assured me that it wouldn't cause any blockage, but it was suggested that I might care to "watch both ends" for a few days to make sure all was proceeding normally. Sure enough, on the third day the £5.00 note arrived, neatly rolled, intact but entirely devoid of any printing or colour. A clear case of

money laundering! Obviously, a dog with expensive tastes. I suppose I should be grateful it was a £20.00 note! Once again, I have wandered from the churchyard which at this time of the year looks particularly beautiful. The summer “wilded” area has now been mowed several times (hopefully scattering the wildflower seeds) and the whole area looks larger and very green as the frequent rain has kept the grass growing. Even the huge old conker tree has hardly begun to don its autumn tints and most of the rest of the trees and shrubs are evergreen and green and serene describes it well at this time. I have written this sitting out in the sun in my stable yard, enjoying the promised gift of a few days of late summer – in autumn! Probably by the time this comes to print we shall be back to rain and grey skies but meanwhile I am enjoying this summer blessing. See you in November .

Hazell

BUCKLAND DINHAM

ALL SOULS SERVICE

Friday October 1st, 2024, 4:30 pm

You are invited to join us for our All Souls service on October 1st when we come together to remember with thanks all those who we loved and who touched our lives but who are no longer with us.

We will light candles and pray for the departed in this moving service.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday November 10th 2024., 10.30 am
You are very welcome to join us at 10:30 on
Sunday November 10th for our Remembrance
service at St Michael's.



'Remembrance Sunday is a national opportunity to
remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have
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VILLAGE HOEDOWN

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up) contact, Trevor and Debbie Worsfold,
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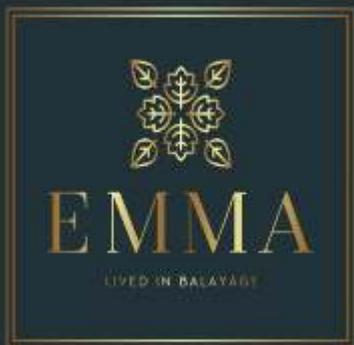
HARVEST FESTIVAL AND SUPPER

We had a great Harvest Festival service at St Michael's, led by Rev Pauline Reid, who we are fortunate now to have as a village resident. She has agreed to take a number of services and we look forward to being there to enjoy them. The service was followed by the now traditional Harvest Supper and auction of the many items which had been donated by villagers.

Many thanks to to the team of ladies who so splendidly decorated the church for the service. You can see how good the result was by the photo on the front cover of this issue.

PARISH PLAN MEETING WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Thank you to all of you who attended this high energy meeting. Topics arising from the recent survey were duly chosen and prioritised.



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CHRISTMAS FAYRE AT NORTON ST PHILIP

Norton St Philip Church is having a Christmas Fayre on Saturday December 7th.

This is 10.00am to 12.00 noon in the church with stalls available for £15.00, for anyone who wants to take advantage to sell their own craft gifts, paintings, etc

Interested? Please email glenysbrown1711@gmail.co

CHANTRY

RIP JOHN LEWIS

A short service and cremation took place in Shepton Mallet Crematorium on Thursday September 5th, followed on Thursday September 12th by a memorial service and the internment of his ashes in Chantry Church. His three favourite



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hymns were played, Barry gave a very moving address followed by memories of John by Val and Dolly. His ashes were interred by his mother's grave as requested. The service was followed by a reception with savouries, cakes and tea or coffee in our Church community area. Both services were led by Rev. Barry Davis and were well attended by friends and neighbours.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

The harvest festival service was held on Sunday September 15th. As in other years we requested donations of goods for the Frome Food Bank and once again we were overwhelmed with the generosity of our village. The service was beautifully designed and led by Barry Davis and was very well attended,

The service was followed by a harvest supper at Bird Shadows. The table was laden with a vast selection of meats,



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cheese and salads but the puddings were (in my opinion) the best. There was a fantastic cheesecake, a delicious fruit crumble and a lovely apple pie, in fact we could have fed the five thousand. Many thanks to all who donated this marvellous supper, those who could not attend missed out on a treat.

The volunteer from Frome Food Bank came on Monday morning and was amazed at the vast amount of food that had been donated. In fact his words were, 'my goodness, we didn't expect this amount.' This made me very proud to be part of this very generous village

The Group Service on Sunday will be held in Chantry Church at 10.00am and will be a pet service so please come along and bring your pets, dogs, cats, parrots, budgies or any other pets, all are welcome.



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Maintenance

	Flowers	Cleaning
05-10-24	Hazel	Dolly and Val
12-10-24	Hazel	Clare
19-10-24	Laureen	?
26-10-24	Val	Sue

PHOTOGRAPH EXHIBITION- OCTOBER 25TH - NOVEMBER 22ND

Friends of Chantry are celebrating the lives and work of local residents. Tim Mercer, a photographer of international acclaim, is to have an exhibition of his photographs, taken over a period of 50 years, in Holy Trinity Church, Chantry.

Opening night **October 25th** with a rare opportunity to hear the stories behind the photos. You'll find more information on the posters in the village.

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Tim worked freelance for magazines such as the Sunday Telegraph, Sunday Times, Observer, Elle, Harpers & Queen and Tatler and his work is also in the collections of the National Portrait Gallery, V&A and Royal Academy.

We would like to invite anyone with a couple of hours or more to spare, to contact Helen Mercer on 07885 865006 as she is coordinating volunteers to meet and greet visitors to the exhibition and perhaps offer tea/coffee. There is good WiFi in the church so you might be able to do some work/emails while you're there!

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GREAT ELM

GREAT ELM CHURCH NEWS

We don't have any special events to announce in the month of October.

September saw the Autumn churchyard clean up with nine volunteers working on a well-chosen sunny Saturday.

Work was rewarded with a tidy churchyard and coffee and cake.

On the theme of mending and tidying... work has started on the churchyard wall that was blown down in April.

Inside the church, where water ingress had caused part of the ceiling plaster work to collapse in April, repair work has begun. On removing the remaining plaster and rotten lathes it was discovered that some additional timber repair is required before replacing the lathes and plastering.

We hope all works will be completed by Christmas Eve when the Minstrels Gallery will be needed for the Carol Service.

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Repair work on our village hall continues, and assistance from villagers is always welcome. Here Sally, Jean and Jim apply primer paint to new plaster work.



MELLS WITH VOBSTER

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Just a reminder (if you see this in time!) about the churchyard tidy-up session - Sunday 29th September, from 10.00am.



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And on the subject of making our church look lovely - many thanks, as always, to the amazing cleaning and flower-arranging teams. There are frequent comments in the visitors' book about our church. Thank you to all of you!

ROY HEWETT, DECEMBER 29TH 1929 - JULY 12TH 2024

A special service to commemorate the life of Roy Scrymgeour Graham Hewett was held on Thursday August 29th at St.

Andrew's Church, Mells.

Fr. Clive Fairclough returned to take the service, Zeb Baker-Smith was organist, and Roy's daughter, Kate, paid a loving and humorous tribute to her father. Hymns were *How great Thou Art*, *We plough the fields*, *Eternal Father, strong to save*, and *I vow to thee, my country*. A passage

from *Ecclesiastes* was read by Roy's son, Nick. His grandson, Giles Harwood, read *The Sailing Ship (What is dying?)* Grandson Joe Hewett, read *All is Well*, and granddaughter Rebecca Watkins read *Crossing the Bar*.

Roy was a keen and adventurous sailor. Deciding upon a career in agriculture he enrolled at Wye College, where he met Shirley, and later, after they were married, they eventually settled in Mells, taking up the tenancy of Clavey's Farm, in 1963. A truly hospitable couple they held memorable parties at Clavey's and were very involved in community life in addition to their many commitments further afield. Roy was Chairman of Mells Parish Council, Chair of Mendip District Council, a local Magistrate between 1972 and 1999, and High Sheriff of Somerset 1995-1996.

He and Shirley farmed at Clavey's until retiring in 2000, when they moved to live near Castle Cary. Shirley passed away in May 2022, very much missed by Roy and the family, and Roy continued to stay near Castle Cary, supported by his loving family, until his death In July this year. He will be very greatly missed by Kate, Bridget and Nick, and their families. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this time. May you rest in peace, Roy.

WHATLEY

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE 5.00pm October 13th 2024 followed by Harvest Supper 6.00pm till late at St George's Church, Whatley.

Whatley Welcomes Everyone. Please bring a dish to share for Harvest Supper. Notify Alice in advance whether you



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are bringing a savoury or sweet. Please include a list of ingredients with your dish and bring your own plate and cutlery.

Friends of Whatley will provide a range of alcoholic and soft drinks. Donations are welcome in cash only.

Saturday October 12th 3.00pm 5.00pm. We invite all children and young people to come to St George's to paint Harvest Festival banners and make decorations for the Harvest Service and Supper. Email for RSVP Alice.kettle@gmail.com, Secretary of Friends of Whatley

Volunteers required - Defibrillators emergency response. You will have seen the yellow defibrillator at the bottom of the drive to the old Sun Inn pub. It will not help save lives unless we know how they should be used. The takes village co-operation. In his September email to the villages Andrew Branson asks for volunteers to help establish understanding of effective use of these lifesaving machines and liaison with emergency services. Please contact Andrew if you would like to help. His email is jandrewbramston@gmail.com. If you don't use internet let Lorna Thomas know if you would like to help and I will forward your offer of help to Andrew.

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- Post office, Woodlands End, Mells BA11 3PF
- Telephone Box, Mells Green
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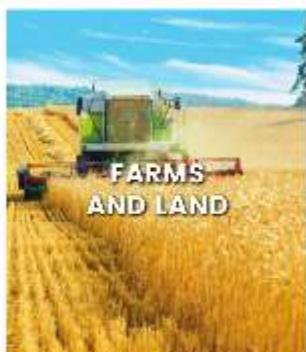
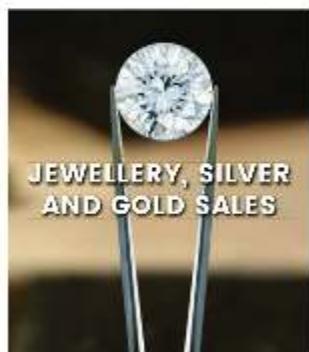
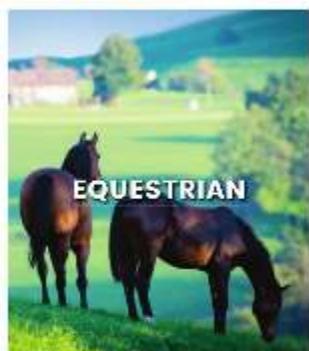
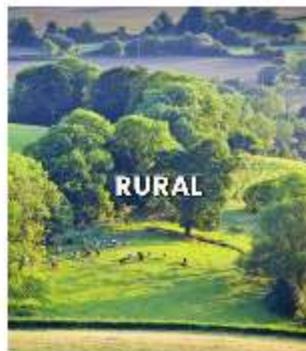
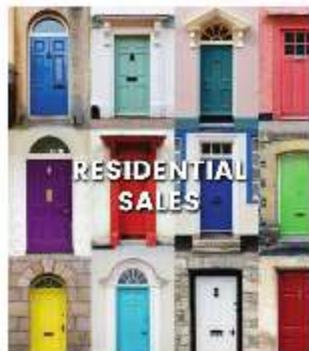
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