

PARISH NEWS

OF THE UPPER WYLYE VALLEY

JULY/AUGUST 2024

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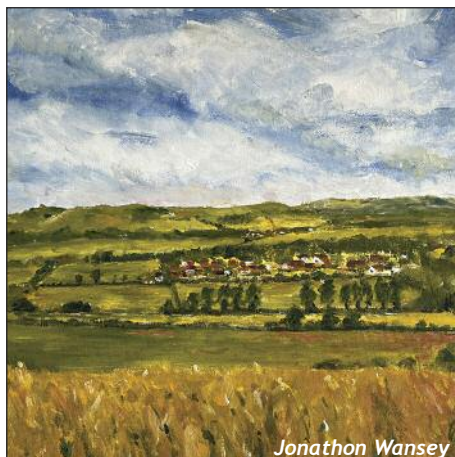
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Robin Culver



Sally Thompson



Jonathon Wansey



Sally Thompson

As the clouds that are so light,
Beautiful, swift, and bright,

Cast shadows on field and park
Of the earth that is so dark,
Edward Thomas



Sally Thompson



Robin Culver

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Editorial

We recently had an art challenge based on clouds. This edition's front cover features that challenge, Some beautiful paintings and photos.

I have taken the liberty as editor to feature the results of the challenge on our front page because they do reflect summer which we are now experiencing.

I also think that some of the cloud formations this year have been utterly amazing.

My thanks for all the contributions we receive, on another point if anyone wants to submit photos for a front cover, please feel free.



Jon Royds

FILMS AT THE WOOLSTORE

Wednesday 3 July
WICKED LITTLE LETTERS (15)
Comedy/Drama

A 1920s English seaside town bears witness to a dark, absurd scandal in this riotous mystery comedy. Based on a stranger-than-fiction true story, Wicked Little Letters follows two neighbours: deeply-conservative local Edith Swan (Olivia Colman) and rowdy Irish migrant Rose Gooding (Jessie Buckley). When Edith and fellow residents start to receive wicked letters full of unintentionally hilarious profanities, foul-mouthed Rose is charged with the crime.

*Warning - very strong language

7.30pm - Tickets £6.00
(doors open at 7.00pm)

Tickets available online visit the website: <http://www.thewoolstoretheatre.co.uk> or at the Theatre Box Office (open during productions and on film nights).

In addition, we will be selling tickets at the Codford Community Cafe at the village hall on the second and fourth Thursdays, 10am to 12noon.

There will be no film in August.


Forrester Sylvester Mackett
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MINISTRY LETTER

The Two Popes is a brilliant film: 'I'll happily watch it again'. It is a feast for the eyes, with enclaves of cardinals in session, and views that one could never hope to see for oneself. Visitors to the Vatican may see the Sistine Chapel, but can have no idea of the Pope's private apartments, or the setting of Castel Gandolfo, the Pope's summer residence. The scenery is stunning.

How do you make a drama of epic proportions when portraying a serving Pope? A certain amount of imagination is needed, but it is close enough to the truth. We have no evidence that the two Popes watched Argentina play Germany in the World Cup final together, but its inclusion adds the most delightful interplay between the two.

The story starts with the election of Benedict (played by Anthony Hopkins), whom we see leading a rather solitary existence. This contrasts with Cardinal Bergoglio's love for the poor, and his involvement with soup kitchens and real people. After his election as Pope, we hear Pope Francis trying to book his own air ticket. No: the telephone receptionist is not convinced. But help is at hand. The nearest Swiss guard in his colourful medieval uniform most conveniently has a mobile phone hidden in his cummerbund. Touches of humour are woven throughout the film.

The Two Popes does have its serious side. Bergoglio was leader of the Jesuits in Argentina when the country was at the mercy of the ruling military junta, when thousands of people disappeared, and he is accused of failing to protect his priests. The legacy of this period haunts him. Later in life, as Cardinal, he identifies with the poor, living a simple life and becomes increasingly frustrated by decisions of the Vatican. The two popes disagree profoundly about the priorities of the church, but Benedict refuses to accept Bergoglio's letter of resignation as Cardinal. Quiet humour persists.

Before Benedict stands down as Pope, he and Bergoglio have time to talk, and Benedict faces up to his own failure to act on reports of sex abuse within the German Catholic Church. We realise the value of confession in asking God's forgiveness. This is a film about the power of the establishment, and the need for humility. It is a very powerful message.

Next day I heard the final moment of 'Thought for the Day' by the Bishop of Manchester. "He will gaze intently at me, just as a portrait painter might. But he will look with love, adoringly." I missed the rest. But I think he must have been talking about the moment that we meet God, sometimes called the Last Judgement, when he will see us as we are. What will he see?
Katherine Venning

RIDE AND STRIDE

Saturday September 14th 10am - 6pm
The 40th Anniversary of Wiltshire's Ride and Stride annual fundraising event.

Ride & Stride is an annual national sponsored event, organised locally by County Historic Churches Trusts. The trusts exist to promote their county's churches and to give financial help to churches of any denomination needing to pay for repairs and enhancements.

Wiltshire Ride & Stride has been active since 1984 and has raised over £1.6 million for the county's churches, including those in the Upper Wyllye Valley.

Participants raise money by being sponsored to cycle, walk, horse ride, or drive their mobility scooters between as many churches as possible during the day. 50% of the sponsorship money they raise goes to the participant's chosen church,

and the other half to the local trust for grants.

All our churches will be open to visit for Ride & Stride this year and it makes a lovely walk or ride of about 15 miles (if you include St Leonard's, Sutton Veny). With each church providing a peaceful place to sit and rest, and most of them serving refreshments too, it certainly doesn't feel like hard work to raise some money to help with the upkeep of these beautiful buildings.

Can you help this year? Details of sponsorship forms, all the churches providing refreshments and prizes can be found here: <https://www.wiltshirehistoricchurchestrust.org.uk/ride-stride/rider-strider-information/> (Please note that the forms highlighted in red are pending updates as information of participating churches is received).

Hope to see you out riding or striding on Saturday, September the 14th!

Gill Boxall

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

At his last supper, Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

(The gospel of John chapter 14 v1-9) RH

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TURBO'S DOG BLOG FOR A TECHNICOLOUR SUMMER



At last, they've got their timing right; well, ish if not spot on. This is all about when I go to the groomer to have my winter coat removed in the expectation of, as the Guvnor reminds me, Nat King Cole's promise of 'Those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer' ahead. That song, by the way, was released in 1963 when the Guvnor was swotting away night and day for almost half an hour at his A level exams, and early June was too much of a delight out on the cricket field. The days when,

apparently, it was warm and dry and sunny all through the summer and rain never stopped play.

Back to the 'poodle parlour' and Emily teased out a mountain of winter overcoat that prompted her to post on her Facebook page the comment, 'Still more hair than dog!' This all happened on 13th May, completely ignoring the old English saying, 'Ne'er cast a clout 'til May is out'. I know there are at least two interpretations of 'May,' but I am taking it as the month of May as everyone I know reckons the first of June to be summer. Whatever, I cast a lot of clout on 13th May.

Typically, the weather has been chillier than usual ever since and I feel naked and vulnerable. There's a joke in economic circles that a recession is when your neighbour loses their job, and a depression is when you lose yours. As far as hair loss is concerned, it is no joke and I feel at once lighter and relieved but at the same time a little embarrassed, and a little depressed; and it didn't help my morale much when the Guvnor came to pick me up from Emily's and greeted me with the comment, "Hello, Fifi; where's Turbo?"

The other thing that this experience prompted was having to google the

expression 'hair of the dog'. Apparently, in the past when people were bitten by a rabid dog putting some of its hair in the wound guaranteed recovery. It sounds like an old wives' tale to me, but anything is worth a try. I am more amused by the idea that an alcoholic drink taken to cure a hangover works - whatever a hangover is, and whatever the doctors say.

To close this happy summer banter down I keep reminding the Guvnor that my hair will grow; his won't!

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THOUGHTS FROM MY GARDEN

I have recently come back from a lovely week in Devon and the palette of colours in the countryside is as well put together as it was in Derby a few weeks ago. Isn't nature marvellous! Last time I was in Devon everywhere was full of yellow primroses, the roadside verges, woods and country lanes. This time round it was soft pinks and purples. Red Campion is everywhere in the woods and lanes with occasional Greater Stitchwort. Elderflowers are blooming higher in the bushes, but on the headland short stemmed Bluebells and Thrift are dancing in the breeze on the headland edges, accompanied by larks singing overhead, bringing a smile to my face as I watch and listen. The villages have Eastern Gladiolus and Red Valerian repeating the purple colours of the headland and woods. I have a small area of Valerian in my garden reminding me of Devon and I'm happy to say it has spread a bit since last year, may it continue to do so. It grows in nooks and crannies and along the bottom of the house where it meets the path. Another plant growing in

the hedgerows of Devon is White Mustard, which is yellow!! It has quite a small head of tight yellow flowers and grows to about one metre or thirty-nine inches, not at all like the mustard referred to in the Bible which grows from a tiny seed into a tree for the birds to perch in.

I have recently downloaded an app for identifying plants and flowers and wonder why I haven't done so before; I am finding it very useful. I have always been bad at identifying wildflowers in particular and a whole world has now opened up for me.

Did you either visit or watch The Chelsea Flower Show on the tele? My overall impression was also of pinks and purples. One flower which seemed to recur throughout the gardens was the beautiful big poppy 'Laura's Grape'. I might just have to invest in a few seeds, such a rich colour. Poppy seeds are also very tiny and a single seed head produces hundreds of seeds leaving a beautiful empty seed head to look statuesque in the autumn.

There is so much going on in my own garden now, everything is growing so fast, but I am really enjoying being out there weeding, deadheading and feeding. Being at one with nature gives a great feeling of satisfaction. We have a good friend who will look after and water the garden when we are away and we do the same for him. I hope you have a similar arrangement. Happy summer!

Ali Tebbs

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ANGLING NOTES

The continued wet weather has made life difficult for fishery managers and anglers. Access for cars continues to be problematical in some places and access on some fisheries for anglers continues to be difficult. All of our Wylfe fisheries are now open, fortunately the only proviso being that members should take care when wading in the high water. This is a complete turn around from our usual problem of low flows and my plea for more rain.

The mayfly season is almost over and I have heard only of trickles and no substantial hatches. The Society held the Mayfly supper on the Avon on the 18th of May by which time the mayfly hatch ought to have been in full swing. There were a few hatching and a few spinners dancing but no great numbers. Usually when the hatch is late, in my experience, it usually means that it is going to be light and of short duration. In this country we refer to *Ephemera danica* as 'the Mayfly' and all of the other ephemera species as olives, iron blues, pale wateries or whatever.

In America they refer to all of the ephemera as 'mayflies' to differentiate between them and the other genera of water dwelling insects. Theirs is certainly a less confusing system than ours.

I have been concerned by the lack of insects about the garden. My pear tree, in spite of a wonderful show of blossom,

has only a modest crop. We have had no frosts and I can only assume that pollination has been poor. There has also been a notable absence of swallows and house martins over my garden and the village. Again I put this down to a shortage of insects.

Last year a pair of swallows turned up, after the jackdaws had fledged in my barn, and successfully reared four chicks. It will be fascinating to see if they turn up again this year. The jackdaw chicks will fledge around the end of May.

All of this business of a shortage of insects is highly relevant to our fly fishing. I recently heard an interesting figure, based on number plate counts on cars, which indicated that insect numbers in this country had declined by 70% over the past 20 years. This is a frightening statistic and explains why we no longer have spotted flycatchers in the village and why there is a shortage of swallows and house martins in the area. It also explains why heavy rises of trout are much less frequent than they used to be.

Fishing methods will change to take account of this with a reduced use of an ephemera imitation floating on the surface and more use of flies fished below the surface to imitate other animals.

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DID YOU KNOW ? The Olympic Games

The first officially recorded Olympic Games were held in 776 B.C., in Greece. It is said that Heracles, son of Zeus, founded the Olympic Games and it became the most famous sporting festival in ancient Greece. The games were held every four years to honour the Greek God Zeus and they were held in Olympia, hence the name of the games.

The ancient Olympic Games were competed by boys and men and the early sporting events included six main disciplines: 1. Running, 2. Pentathlon (a combination of five events: the long jump, javelin, discus, running and wrestling), 3. Wrestling, 4. Boxing, 5. Pankration, (a primitive form of martial arts), 6. Horse and chariot racing. Only freeborn men were allowed to compete and they represented the different states of ancient Greece. Women were not allowed to compete and married women were not allowed to watch. The ancient Olympics began to decline after Greece was conquered by the Roman Empire and in 393 A.D. Emperor Theodosius 1st banned all 'pagan' festivals and events, ending the Olympic Games.

During the 19th Century there became a revival of interest in the Ancient World with the study of Greek philosophy, architecture, arts and culture. The concept of the Ancient Olympic Games

became of great interest and in 1892 a Frenchman, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, proposed his idea to create a modern international sporting Olympic Movement, to unite the world through sport. In 1894 the International Olympics Committee (IOC) was established, and the first modern Olympic Games were held in Athens in 1896. In these games, 241 participants from 14 nations, competed in 43 sporting events, which included Track and Field, Swimming, Tennis, Wrestling, Gymnastics, Cycling, Weightlifting, Shooting and Fencing.

In the forthcoming summer Olympic Games 26th July - 11th August 2024 to be held in Paris, over 11,000 athletes will compete in 32 Olympic sports. The IOC have agreed to enter three new sports in Paris 2024. They are Sport-Climbing, Skateboarding and Surfing.

The Paris Olympic Games of 1900, saw the introduction of women competitors for the first time. The first female Olympic champion was Charlotte Cooper, a British tennis player, who won Wimbledon five times. Out of a total of 997 athletes, 22 were women. Today the ratio of men to women is almost fifty-fifty.

In 1924 the first Winter Olympic Games were held in Chamonix, France. These games came to fruition as a result of the desire to include snow and ice

sports. Today, the Winter Olympic Games programme takes place two years after the Summer Games and the next Games will take place in Italy. The introduction of the Paralympic Games was another important event in Olympics history. These games were introduced in 1948 and were initially promoted to assist the rehabilitation of injured soldiers after World War 2.

The Olympic symbol of five interlocking rings is recognised the world over. It was designed by Baron Pierre de Coubertin in 1913. The rings are coloured blue, red, black, green and yellow, presented on a white background. They represent the unity of the world as portrayed in the colours of every nation's flag at that time. The Latin words which make up the Olympic motto are: Citius, Altus, Fortius. Meaning Faster, Higher, Stronger.

Jonathan Wansey.

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DOWN ON THE FARM

Summer brings with it many lovely things, but it also brings flies with it which are a big irritant to the cows for many reasons, one being a cause of mastitis, an infection in the udder.

This year we have introduced a more natural fly control system to reduce the amount of chemical control we currently use. This is in the form of parasitic wasps, they come as pupae, these are then distributed around damp areas of the farm, such as under the water drinkers and around the calf hutches. The pupae hatch and the female wasps lay their eggs in the pupae of the flies. The eggs hatch and the larvae feed on the fly pupae killing it and the cycle starts all over again.

Every six weeks we top up with fresh wasps. The wasps are nothing like the common wasp and no risk to anyone other than the flies, they are no bigger than 2 mm and we are using two different species. They only travel a few meters from where they hatch.

In conjunction with this if you have walked through the farm recently there are a trail of yellow buckets. These are pheromone traps, there is liquid inside which contains a fly pheromone which attracts the flies and catches them. The buckets are placed to draw the flies away from the buildings and the cows.

Obviously, this is not a cheap method, but the welfare opportunity is well worth it and if it saves two cows it will pay for itself, and we hope we will have a lot less flies in our office! So far, the results are looking positive and those that have been using this method over recent years are experiencing excellent outcomes.

If you would like to know more visit the Bestico website, there is a rather snazzy introduction video.

The crops are running late apart from the wheat, but it is a little uneven with its flowering. Second cut of silage is about to be under way. First cut was plentiful and once we get the lab reports we will have a better idea of quality, but it is looking good!

Maize went in late but is growing quickly but not sure we will meet the fabled 'knee high by July', in fact almost certain we won't but we will see as we need it to be warm and damp. Although on careful inspection last night there are no purple leaves around the edge of the plant which would indicate stress and a mineral deficiency which is a positive sign.

We hope by the next Parish news it will be all hands to the deck and the combine will be well and truly fired up for harvest 2024 'down on the farm'.

Kit Pottow

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BOOK REVIEWS

APEIROGON by Colum McCann

"Nothing like any book you've ever read" it says on the cover. I agree. It's a moving story set in dire circumstances - the conflict in the Holy Land. It was published in 2020. Maybe you have already seen too much evidence of violence and suffering to want to read any more. But this book gives you hope. The people and their story are real, but the book is a novel. Two people, one Israeli and the other Palestinian, are struggling to bring peace through education and dialogue, whilst suffering intolerance and rejection themselves. Rami is an Israeli, Bassam is Palestinian and both have suffered the tragic loss of a child. Bassam's little daughter Abir was going back into school after a visit to a sweet-shop when she was shot in the back of the head by an 18 year-old Israeli soldier travelling in a jeep. Rami's daughter Smadar was killed by teenage Palestinian suicide bombers. The grief experienced by Rami and Bassam unites them in lasting friendship, as they try to build a sustainable future for generations to come.

The book is gripping and full of fascinating detail, very well researched, but it is strangely constructed, with multiple brief sections which are seemingly unrelated. Half-way through, one begins to

understand the construct. It's not a book to dip into; you need to enter into its world and let it speak to you. There is a narrative, but it's not linear. The book is a brain-stretcher, and I can't pretend to have understood it all; there are some very interesting concepts, not least in the realm of mathematics (apeirogon is a polygon with an infinite number of sides) and it shows us what 'amicable numbers' are. Rather delightful. The book is immersive and by the end, the reader will have been deeply moved and better informed on the context of the tragedies we see unfolding every day. The relationship between Bassam and Rami is nothing

short of inspirational. Their message is that there will be no peace until there are proper conversations across cross-cultural divides.

Heytesbury readers were divided into those who thought it was brilliant, and those who were perplexed. I have travelled in Palestine, and met people like Rami and Bassam. I congratulate the author on making the atmosphere so evocative of what it is like to live there in such troubled times. It feels real.

Katherine Venning

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VILLAGE NEWS

SHERINGTON

Mid-June and the land is glorious with flowers and foliage. In this area we are blessed with some magnificent trees. I think of the majestic line of limes at Broadleaze, wonderful copper beech here and there, horse chestnut have yet to succumb to the blight that afflicts them later in the year. In one area there are aspen, delicate leaves that flutter in the slightest breeze. All trees so heavy with foliage, walking beneath light seems almost green.

Gardens are a delight, heavy with roses and foxgloves too. In one garden a lovely group of white foxgloves stand tall and elegant, erect as Excalibur. The two Old Rectories, Codford St Peter and Boyton have a riot of white roses tumbling through trees. I wonder if they are Rambling Rector or perhaps Wedding Day? Either way a stunning display.

Wildflowers are at their best.

The track above the village is thick with buttercups, rich blue cranesbill and a clump or two of sainfoin a lovely deep pink member of the pea family. However if I want a meadow flower fix I pop over to Tilshead. There is a wide variety of grasses, some waist high and throughout a mass of buttercups, sainfoin, a delicate blue flower I think may be flax but not sure

and masses of creamy dropwort, a downland cousin of meadowsweet. It has tiny tight red buds that open out into a foam of cream flowerheads, stunning. Cattle that graze there have a feast indeed.

Footpaths round here are kept mown, lucky us and what was good was finding the track from the Dairy down to the Chalkpit had been tamed, makes walking much easier!

Mother Nature is a callous old thing. The swan had incubated her three eggs for six weeks and finally two grey cygnets hatched, the first on Bank Holiday Monday, they lasted about a week.

BL

A THANK YOU!

HELEN BELCHAMBER

I have been quite overwhelmed by the very generous response to Helen's death, both from within the village and from further afield. Her death was almost totally unexpected, which took so many by surprise.

Helen felt very much at home in Codford and she was able to offer wise counsel to a number of clubs and societies. Despite having thoroughly enjoyed nearly 20 years of living in Codford, Anno Domini suggested a change of pace, so we were both looking forward to moving to Salisbury for our final few years.

I would like to thank the Parish News for publishing my thanks to all who sent their expressions of sympathy.

"After life's fitful fever, she sleeps well".

David Belchamber

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THE ASHTON GIFFORD NEWS AND THE FUTURE

We were all shocked at the news of the closure of the Ashton Gifford News (AGN). It has been part of our lives in the eastern group of villages in the Upper Wylye Valley for as long as many of us can remember, and we owe a huge debt of thanks to Karen Johnstone, Paula Bremridge and their team for their dedication and hard work. But all good things come to an end, and we will all understand the reasons for its demise.

We at the Parish News (PN), with other interested parties, have been looking at ways we might be able to help keep the best of the dissemination of its news alive. Some regular contributors already write for the Parish News, but we may be able to find space initially in the Village News section of the PN as we work out what we might need to do in addition to bridge the gap in the future.

This will take time to work out, but the aim of this note is to reassure AGN contributors and readers that we are on the case. This (Summer) edition covers two months; that will give us time to look carefully at future options which might include:

- Inclusion of news items and updates in the PN, but perhaps with a digital supplement.
- Additional coverage in the PN but which would require funds to enable it.

Meanwhile, I encourage anyone who has a contribution to make either to the plans under debate, or for inclusion in the PN from September onwards to email them to Sarah Dorrington kevsarahboys@hotmail.com who has kindly agreed to join the Parish News Committee with immediate effect.

Codford Parish Council website is <https://codfordpc.org.uk>

David Shaw; Chairman PN Committee

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PCSO 70901 Lukasz Kolasinski 07471029004

lukasz.kolasinski@wiltshire.police.uk

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karungigrant.codfordparish@yahoo.com

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Sutton Veny

Head: Adam Lewis 840428

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WORSHIP in the UPPER WYLYE VALLEY JUNE 2024

7 JULY	Heytesbury	9.30am	Sunday Worship	
6th Sunday	Sutton Veny	9.30am	Sunday Worship	
after Trinity	Codford St Peter	11.00am	Patronal Festival Communion	choir
	Upton Lovell	6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	
14 July	Tytherington	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
Sea Sunday	Upton Lovell	9.30am	Thanksgiving for 200th anniv. of RNLI	
7th Sunday	Heytesbury	11.00am	Parish Communion	choir
after Trinity	Codford St Mary	6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	
21 July	Boyton	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
8th Sunday	Codford St Peter	9.30am	Morning Prayer on Sunday	
after Trinity	Norton Bavant	11.00am	Parish Communion	choir
28 July	Sutton Veny	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
9th Sunday	Codford St Mary	9.30am	Parish Communion	choir
after Trinity	Knook	11.00am	Matins (BCP)	
	Heytesbury	6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	

AUGUST

4 August	Norton Bavant	10.00am	Parish Communion	
10th Sunday	Sutton Veny,	6.00pm	Evensong	folk band
after Trinity	St Leonard's old church.			
11 August	Codford St Mary	10.00am	Lammas Communion	
(Lammas)	Upton Lovell	6.00pm	Evensong	
11th after Trinity				
18 August	Boyton	10.00am	Parish Communion	
12th Sunday	Tytherington	6.00pm	Evensong	
after Trinity				
25 August	Codford St Peter	10.00am	Parish Communion	
13th Sunday	Heytesbury	6.00pm	Evensong	
after Trinity				

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the Christian Church

Ariana Olive Neville-Dick
on 19th May at Norton Bavant

May she grow in the Christian Faith

OLD FRIENDS REMEMBERED

Our sympathy and love go to all those who mourn the passing of

Pam Telford of Codford

Norman Ironside of Upton Lovell

*May they rest in the peace
and light of Christ*

Please contact the Ministry Team to make arrangements for Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Confirmation preparation or Service of Prayer and Dedication after a Civil Marriage. The clergy will officiate at any crematorium service.

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PRAYER GROUP

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THE UPPER WYLYE VALLEY CHURCH BENEFICE - NOT STANDING STILL

The Benefice is not standing still. Increasingly in many respects the ten individual Churches that comprise it act like a single Church where in this case "Church" means a collection of worshipping Christians. Although the individual

congregations retain an identity linked to their respective Church building, there is an increasing awareness of the importance of doing more together as one-Church. To be a living, vibrant Church, the Benefice needs to build on the progress already made.

At a recent meeting of representatives from across the Benefice, it was concluded we need to imagine what 'good' would look like for the Benefice at some point in the future, say 5 years from now. With such a vision of 'good' it would then be possible to work out how to achieve the vision. The theme areas that were agreed as important for that vision were:-

- Achieve Good Engagement With Families And Children
- Nobody Within The Benefice Is Lonely
- The Church Buildings Become More Usable For The Community
- All Our People Know The Gospel And Make It More A Part Of Our Lives

- Living Faith Is Part Of The Benefice Community
- Ensure There Are Enough Of The Right People Leading, Facilitating And Being Active Across The Benefice
- Using The Church Buildings Across The Benefice More Wisely And They Are More Accessible
- Providing Wider Pastoral Support
- Be Mission Focused - Looking Outwards Not Just Inwards; Being Part Of The Global Church
- Be Willing To Change And Adapt But Don't 'Dumb-Down' Our Faith
- Trust In God!

The next step is to take these theme areas forward through a series of well-focused actions. But this will not be the end of the Benefice's journey during the vacancy period, it's just the next step in what promises to be an exciting period of growth in active worship and mission for the Church community. *Phil Sutton*



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SUMMER IMAGES



Sandra Hares

Solar activity has been unusually busy in recent months and the rare aurora borealis usually only spotted in the north was seen above St John's in Heytesbury, one of our readers captured this beautiful picture. The lights were seen up and down the country, from Scotland to Cornwall, and even in London - which is usually too far south and has too much light pollution.



Sandra Hares



Sandra Hares



Robin Culver



Robin Culver