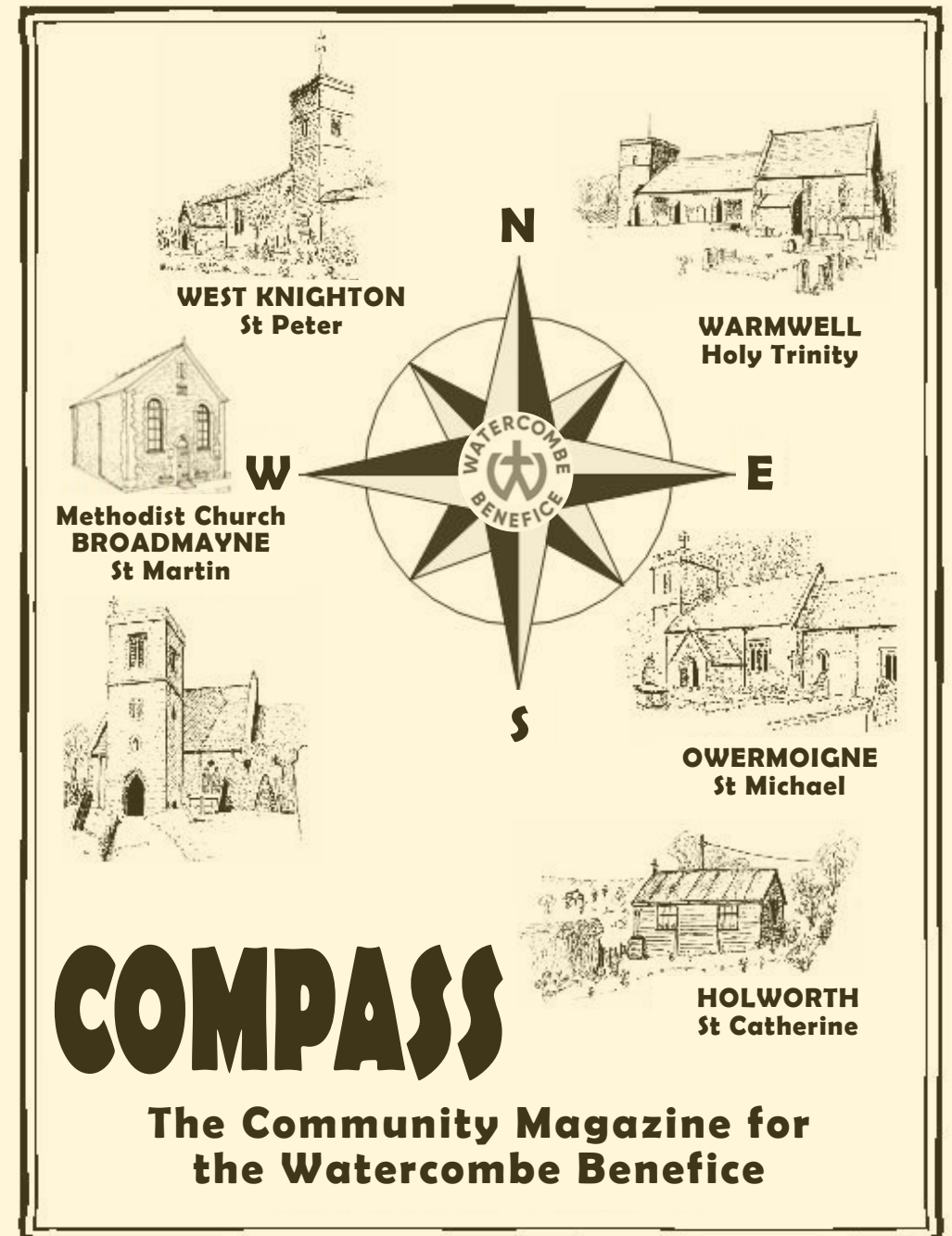




July 2026

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Priest in Charge – Rev David Johnson
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Benefice web site www.watercombe.org.uk

Enquiries about Baptism, Wedding and Funeral arrangements should be made through Rev David Johnson (Sunday to Wednesday) [Anglican]; or Rev Brenda Stephenson [Methodist].
 Please contact the relevant Church Warden or Steward for anything else.

Priest: Rev Anthony Bush, Holworth Farm House, Holworth, DT2 8NH 01305 852242
 email: bushinarcadia@yahoo.co.uk Mobile 07711 794120

Licensed Lay Minister: Mrs Jenny Bagnall, 2 St. Peter's Barn, West Knighton, DT2 8PF 01305 854950

Benefice Secretary: Mrs Julia Denham, 1 The Spinney, Broadmayne, DT2 8UH 01305 852626

Benefice Treasurer: Roger Holehouse, Shepherd's Cottage, Whitcombe, DT2 8NY 01305 261337

Benefice Safeguarding Officer: Carol Wightman 6 Old Brickfields, Broadmayne, DT2 8UY 01305 854385

St. Martin's Church, Broadmayne

Contact: Tim Clayton, 14 Rectory Close, Broadmayne, DT2 8EQ. 07443 659912

St Martin's Hall Bookings: Tim Clayton, taclayton14@gmail.com 07443 659912

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St. Peter's Church, West Knighton

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 Dorothy Emery, 2 Gabriel Cottages, West Knighton, DT2 8PE 01305 854795

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Holy Trinity Church, Warmwell

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St. Catherine by the Sea, Holworth

Warden: Philippa Bush, Holworth Farm House, Holworth, DT2 8NH 01305 852242

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Methodist Church, Broadmayne

Ministry Rev Brenda Stephenson, 11 Ellerslie Close, Charminster, DT2 9QQ 01305 459009

Team: Peter Jenner, 1 Vespasian Way, Dorchester, DT1 2RD 01305 751668

Steward: Margaret Eaglestone, Box Cottage, 4 Main Street, B'mayne, DT2 8EB 01305 854229

Methodist Hall Bookings: Wendy Stent, 7 South View, Broadmayne, DT2 8ET 01305 852795

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For rates and details of advertising in this magazine please contact the Editor



Broadmayne, Holworth, Owermoigne, Warmwell and West Knighton
Sunday Services July 2026



	5th July	12th July	19th July	26th July
Broadmayne St Martin	11am Holy Communion		11am Together@11 at the Methodist Church	8am Holy Communion BCP
Broadmayne Methodist	11am Morning Worship	11am Morning Worship		11am Holy Communion
Holworth				11am Holy Communion
Owermoigne	9.30am Holy Communion		9.30am Morning Prayer	
Warmwell		11am Holy Communion		
West Knighton	6pm Evensong	9.30am Holy Communion	6pm Worship & Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion

Methodist Sunday 5th July 11am – Roger Phillips
& Joint Sunday 12th July 11am – Rev Steph Jenner
Services Sunday 19th July 11am – Rev Brenda Stephenson & Rev Anthony Bush:
 T@11 at the Methodist Church
Sunday 26th July 11am – Pam Woodland

By Still Waters Tuesday 14th July, 10am (and every 2nd Tuesday of the month)
 Reflective prayer and sharing Broadmayne Methodist Church

ST CATHERINE-BY-THE-SEA CENTENARY CELEBRATION

A final reminder about this event on Saturday the 11th of July from 6.00 pm at St Catherine's, for which there are still a few places. There will be a hog roast, a glass of wine and a Ceilidh Band. Further drinks will be available by donation. The price of a ticket is £10 and payment is by BACS to the Chapel Account, St Catherine's-by-the-sea Church Council, Sort Code 40-19-21, A/C No 20724874 HSBC, Reference: Your name. Please call Anthony or Philippa Bush on 01305 852242 by 30th of June if you would like to join us.

NOTE ABOUT PARKING. We have been given permission to park in the field at Sea Barn just above the Chapel. Drive on through the NT Car Park, down the hill to where you will see a parking notice. We much look forward to seeing you all – well certainly a hundred!

BENEFICE REGISTERS

Weddings

13th June **Greta Kaehne and Paddy Gibson** at Holy Trinity, Warmwell
 13th June **Isaac Lines and Jemima Crathorne:** marriage blessing at St Catherine's Holworth

COMPASS ONLINE: Compass can be accessed online as a downloadable pdf file. Either search Watercombe Benefice and then click or tap on the News tab, or type <https://watercombe.org.uk/news> into your browser. If you would like a printed edition, these are available at various outlets in the villages, but most reliably from the churches



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FROM HOLWORTH FARMHOUSE

This month, as I hope many will know by now, we celebrate the centenary of St Catherine-by-the-sea. In terms of church buildings this is only the twinkling of an eye, but to so many it is a place of special significance. It is only basically a wooden shed, which, when it was erected in 1926, caused many of the locals to complain that it was an eyesore imposed on a site of outstanding natural beauty. In the 1990's, as the original structure started to disintegrate, there was an urgent need to replace it in some form and several new designs were put forward, one or two of which involved stone as well as wood. As word got out, there were objections, many hostile, and raised, as is so often the case, by people who never attended the chapel, nor showed any interest in its mission. They felt, as long-term part-time residents, that they 'owned' the site and would not contemplate any changes, regardless of the necessity for them.

In due course, the Incumbent at the time sanctioned a supposedly very eco-friendly version on a slightly enlarged footprint, giving added facilities, and this sufficed for some twenty years until problems occurred with the roof. Two years ago a new roof was installed and we now have a building, which is the subject of our celebrations on the 11th of July. A quick study of the registers and visitors books gives a clear indication of the impact this place has had on those who come to worship, to reflect, or just enjoy the atmosphere of the place, and this celebration becomes very much a thanksgiving from those who have had their lives enriched by the peace and sanctity of St Catherine's.

On a visit by the Bishop of Salisbury to dedicate the reconstructed St Catherine's at the beginning of this century, he described the ground on which the chapel stood as one of the 'thin places' – by which I guess he meant a place where the boundary between heaven and earth felt fragile, allowing for a deeper encounter with the divine. In the Christian journey specific physical places serve as tangible anchors for faith. They help to make sometimes difficult scriptural narratives come alive and foster a deeper connection to God through pilgrimage. They also remind us that, while God is everywhere, sacred spaces offer profound moments of spiritual transformation as we seek to walk in the footsteps of Christ.

We are foreigners and travellers on earth and we journey through life to our ultimate destination. It is very apparent from so many comments in our visitors books that St Catherine-by-the-sea provides a supportive resting place for so many on the way.

Hoping to see you on the 11th then.

Anthony Bush

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COMMUNITY



St Mary's CE Middle School, Puddletown *Inspire today to shape tomorrow* St Mary's School Celebrates a Busy and Inspiring June

June has been a vibrant and eventful month at St Mary's, with pupils across year groups embracing a wide range of enriching experiences both inside and outside the classroom.



Year 5 pupils enjoyed an unforgettable trip to the Winchester Science Centre, where curiosity and discovery were at the heart of the day. The children explored an array of fascinating hands-on exhibits, allowing them to engage directly with scientific concepts in fun and interactive ways. A particular highlight was the spectacular visit to the planetarium, where students were taken on an immersive journey through space. The experience sparked excitement and wonder, helping to bring their science learning vividly to life.

Meanwhile, Year 7 students travelled to Wareham to study the River Piddle as part of their geography topic on river processes. During this fieldwork visit, pupils took on the role of geographers, collecting real-world data by measuring river characteristics such as channel width, depth and bedload size. They also conducted "kick tests" to investigate the variety of animal species living in the river, gaining valuable insight into freshwater ecosystems. The trip was an excellent opportunity for hands-on learning and helped deepen their understanding of how rivers shape the landscape.



Back at school, June also saw the return of the much-loved Year 5 Rainforest Day. The school was transformed into a tropical paradise, with children arriving dressed as macaws, pumas, monkeys and even a few David Attenboroughs! The day was full of colour, creativity and enthusiasm as pupils celebrated their rainforest topic, bringing their learning to life in imaginative and memorable ways.

Finally, if you happen to be passing through Dorchester South train station, be sure to look out for a wonderful display of artwork created by our talented Year 7 students. Their paintings, inspired by Dorset and London, now decorate one of the station's new waiting areas. The vibrant artwork has brightened the space for passengers and is a fantastic example of the creativity and talent within our school community. We are incredibly proud to see our students' work showcased in a public setting.



It has been a truly exciting month at St Mary's, filled with exploration, creativity and achievement. We look forward to sharing more of our pupils' successes in the months ahead.

e-mail: office@stmarys.wessex.ac website: www.stmarys.wessex.ac

Tel: 01305 848293 Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SMCEMIDPUDD>

Dr Tim Ennion (Head of School)

News from Crossways Youth & Community Centre

Our next **Community Café and Car Boot** will be on **Saturday, 4th July** from **9am until 12 noon**. Lots of munchies and refreshments are available to purchase at very reasonable rates! As ever, pitches are free, but please contact bookings@crosswaysycc.org to reserve a place.

Congratulations go to some of the Year 8 students of St Mary's School in Puddletown, who, under the 'Make your mark' project, organised and ran a Bingo evening in the centre last month, raising a magnificent £700 for the Youth Club. Now, what to spend it on???

The end of June sees a change in the Youth Club leadership team. Please keep an eye out on the website and social media for exciting news about the club!





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COMMUNITY

Music at St Peter's Church, Dorchester

We hope you can join us for the choral services and musical events that are taking place this month. All services are free to attend, all are welcome. Some have refreshments afterwards.

Sunday 5th July, 10.30am: Choral Eucharist featuring Stanford's 'Beati quorum via', Palestrina's 'Missa Aeterna Christi munera' and S. Wesley's 'Ave regina caelorum'.

Saturday 18th July, 12.30pm – 1.00pm: Lunchtime concert featuring flautist Laura Jones and pianist Rob Taylor performing Poulenc's 'Sonta for Flute', Karg-Elert's 'Sinfonische Kanzone' and Robert Dick's jazzy piece 'Fish are Jumping'. Laura is finishing her first year as a scholar at the Royal College of Music, so please do come along and support this outstanding young musician!

Sunday 19th July, 10.30am: Choral Eucharist includes a beautiful setting of 'Ave Maria' by the contemporary composer Rihards Dubra as well as Mozart's 'Spatzenmesse K.220' and ethereal 'Laudate Dominum'.

Saturday 25th July, 4.30pm: Choral Evensong includes Rheinberger's exquisite 'Abendlied', the Rose 'Preces & Responses', Howells's 'Gloucester Service' and John Rutter's anthem for choir, organ and clarinet 'The Lord is my light and my salvation'.

Tickets are now on sale for the concert to be given by the outstanding, London-based Chamber Choir Siglo de Oro, and their conductor Patrick Alliles, at St Peter's Dorchester on Friday 4th September at 7.00pm. Their programme, 'Stargazing', is an ethereal collection of choral music from across the ages, including works by Taverner, Monteverdi, James MacMillan and Shrutthi Rajasekar. Don't miss out on this opportunity to catch the next choral supergroup at a local venue! Tickets are £20 and available online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-peters-church-dorchester

Keep up with events via our website: www.musicatstpetersdorchester.org If you would like to receive our monthly newsletter, subscribe through the website or drop us a line at: musicatstpeters@mail.com All of our social media and contact details can be found at: linktr.ee/musicatstpeters

WEST STAFFORD VILLAGE FETE

Saturday 4th July 2026, 11am-3pm

This will take place in and around West Stafford Village Hall, entry will be £3pp with children free. We have music from Flaming Cactus Band, food from the Wise Man, artisan stalls, Dorset Urban Heath, Dorset Mushrooms, raffle, games, fire engine, ice cream van and much much more. We look forward to welcoming you.

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Wednesday:	10am to 1pm and 2:30pm to 5pm (supported by volunteers)
Thursday:	10am to 1pm
Friday:	Midday to 6pm
Saturday:	10am to 1pm
Sunday:	Closed

www.dorset.police.uk



Dorchester



Neighbourhood Policing Team

Get in touch with us today to raise any issues you have. You can contact us via the Dorset Police website or social media, where we also promote upcoming meetings and events. We are based at Dorchester Police Station. The Neighbourhood Policing Team works with colleagues across Dorset Police, but does not respond to emergency calls. **If a crime is in progress or life is in danger, always dial 999 immediately, so we can help you as quickly as possible.**



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Here's where you can find us
Sunday 26th July – Warmwell House (at Warmwell Village Fete)
Tuesday 4th August – Weymouth seafront
Saturday 21st November – Christmas Bazaar 10am - 2pm, Trinity Club Dorchester
Saturday 20th March 2027 – Barn Dance Broadmayne Village Hall, doors open 6.30pm



HOLWORTH

St Catherine by the Sea
Holworth

Teas will again be served from 2pm to 5pm on
Saturdays and Sundays from Saturday 25th July to August 31st including
Bank Holiday Monday. It is St Catherine Holworth's Centenary Year! Come
and see us and enjoy tea and homemade cakes while admiring the
wonderful view.

Anyone able to help with the Teas please contact Louise Young on 07970 927746.



Flower arranging at St Catherine's

We would love some more flower arrangers to keep making our little
chapel at St Catherine's by the Sea the special place it is.
Please will you ring Wendy Cartwright if you are interested?
Tel no: 07767 898897.

WEST KNIGHTON / BROADMAYNE



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Knightsford Parish Council Meeting Dates

Wednesday 8th July, 7.30pm, West
Stafford Village Hall



Coffee & Company
at St Peter's Church West Knighton
10.30-11.30am
Tuesdays 7th & 21st July
Do join us, everyone is welcome

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2026

Thank you to all who gave so generously
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BROADMAYNE

Broadmayne Parish Council Round-Up – Council meeting held on 1st June

Broadmayne Parish Council's June meeting covered a wide range of village matters, from road safety and parking pressures to housing, allotments and support for community facilities. **Residents attending the meeting** highlighted the importance of the village shop and the reliance many people place on it, while concerns were also raised about parking around the playing field and on surrounding roads. Councillors reminded those using local facilities to park considerately and to avoid blocking access to homes.

On **planning matters**, councillors noted that an application at 2 Conway Drive for alterations including a reduced rear extension, loft conversion and dormer window was approved by Dorset Council on 27 May. There was also an update on the Abri development off Broadmead, where it was reported that a proportion of the homes are intended to meet the needs of residents with disabilities who require accommodation for independent living. Work on the development is currently expected to begin in late summer or early autumn.

Road safety remains high on the council's agenda. The **proposed 20mph scheme** for Broadmayne has now passed technical evaluation and will go forward to local consultation later this year. Councillors said they want further discussions with Dorset Council Highways and Road Safety teams about any supporting engineering works and the final positioning of signs. **Community Speedwatch** volunteers carried out one session in May on Main Street, observing 296 vehicles. Seventeen were recorded speeding, with the highest speed reaching 48mph. With volunteer numbers currently low, the group plans a recruitment drive, beginning with a police-supported stand at the Broadmayne Fete later this month.

The council also reviewed the performance of its **grass-cutting and grounds maintenance** contractor after some areas were found to have been missed or cut less often than intended. A recent site meeting was held to clarify expectations, and performance will continue to be monitored. In **financial matters**, councillors unanimously agreed a grant of

£925.84 to the Broadmayne Playing Fields Association to cover property and liability insurance and the annual safety inspection of play equipment — practical support for a much-valued village asset.

Other business included routine **policy reviews**, updates on **footpaths and highways**, and ongoing management of the allotments. One bridge on the right of way between Washponds and West Knighton is nearing completion, blocked drains in Osmington Drove have been reported, and temporary road closures affecting the wider area continue to be monitored. At the **allotments**, demand remains steady, with one person currently on the waiting list, while some neglected plots are being followed up so they can either be brought back into cultivation or reallocated. Looking ahead, the **next parish council meeting** will take place on **Monday 6 July 2026** at the Methodist Church Hall. Residents are welcome to attend and contribute during the public participation session.

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BROADMAYNE

BROADMAYNE WEATHER REPORT FOR MAY 2026 by Ted Byrne

From the weather station situated at 23 Watergates Lane

Was that it? Was that the summer for this year? The last third of May certainly felt like summer, even though it was still spring. Three consecutive days of temperatures of 26°C or over constitute a heatwave in Dorset, though the way these things are organised the threshold temperature for a heatwave is different in other parts of the country. It is 28°C in London for example. Anyway, based on the temperatures obtained from this weather station we reached heatwave conditions here on the 24th when we had 31.2°C, following temperatures of 27.3° on the 22nd and 27.9°C on the 23rd. The maximum temperature was an astonishing 34.3°C on the 26th, not far off the new British record for May which was reached at Kew Gardens on the same day. We had four consecutive days with temperatures over 30°C and nine consecutive days between the 22nd and the 30th over 25°C. In contrast the minimum temperature was 1.1° on the 11th.

If the heat was the biggest story of the month, following not far behind in the headlines was the lack of rain. The sparse 20mm accumulated for the month fell on only four days, and nearly half of that came down on just one. With that our annual rainfall has crept up to 526mm. The rainfall of 76mm in the last three months has been only 17% of that which fell in the first two of the year. Crops and gardens are gasping for a bit of rain. I feel sorry for the blackbirds trying to find worms for their chicks in ground that is dry and hard. Still, rain is very often not too far away here and no doubt people who have been complaining it has been too hot will soon be able to complain that it is too cold and wet, me for one. The British weather is certainly not boring.

Maximum temperature: 34.3°C on the 26th	Minimum temperature: 1.1°C on the 11th
Wettest day: 9mm on the 19th	Days with rainfall (0.5mm or more): 4
Total rainfall for the month: 20mm	Total rainfall for the year: 526mm

More details are available in real time on www.watergatesweather.co.uk. You will see temperatures in degrees Fahrenheit. If you would prefer centigrade click on the settings button at the top right hand corner of the screen and select °C.

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BROADMAYNE, BUMPS, BABIES AND BEYOND!

You may be reading this for the first time, if so here is some information about the group. We meet in St. Martin's Community Hall (next to the Church) at 10am on Monday mornings during term time and as the weather improves we also have garden space in which to play. The group is for anyone at home looking after the under 5s. We have parents, grandparents and childminders who come along with their little ones. There are toys to play with, snacks for the children, tea /coffee for the adults and most importantly a friendly welcome and a listening ear in a supportive setting. All this for just £2 per family.

We shall finish for the summer break on the 20th July and meet again in September.

Enjoy the summer break! Do keep in touch with one another on our WhatsApp group chat and perhaps use it to arrange get togethers with one another.

If you would like to know more about the group why not come along to one of our sessions or ring:
Carol 854385, Pam 852648, Leri 07879 405698

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WARMWELL

Warmwell Village Fete

Sunday 26th July, 2 – 5 pm at Warmwell House

Entry £4; children under the age of 14 free. Free parking

Entertainments to suit all ages. Stalls selling **locally-made products and produce**. Stalls for **second hand clothing**, and for **Bric-a-Brac**. Items to donate? Contact Gerry Gerrard (01305 852320) to arrange collection. All profits from the event and any unsold items will be donated to local charities.

OWERMOIGNE

On Monday July 13th **Owermoigne Photo Group** are holding a digital scavenger hunt. Contestants will have a list of items to photograph using a mobile or camera around the village in an hour! The winner is the one who records the most. Full details on the night.

The event is open to all and you can register from 7:15pm. The event will start at 7:45pm prompt. Entry is £2 (please bring cash only!). There will be a small prize for the winner. You will need a camera/mobile and a pen. Any questions please email me at neillegg1410@gmail.com.

Owermoigne Village Hall – July

This month's main events are:

- **Film and Pizza Night Friday 3rd July**
 Come along for our film – details will be on noticeboard and newsletter – contact Derek Woodward on 07976 058158 to book a table. The **Firehouse Pizzeria** will be ready to serve delicious pizzas from about 6pm. You can order in advance (see their Facebook page for the menu) or come along and order on the night.

- **Village Market, Saturday 11th July, 10am**
 Visit our monthly market for fresh foodstuffs, plants, gift ideas and delicious tea, coffee and homemade cakes. Please come along to support local makers and growers and Owermoigne's wonderful village hall.

Our regular events are:

Village coffee mornings, 14th & 28th July
 In July we meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays so come along between 10.30am and 12 noon to receive a warm welcome. We have shelves full of books for you to borrow and you can also get help with any digital issues you may have. We'll be pleased to see you.

Dog Training Club

Peter Gibbins runs a number of classes on Thursday evenings from 6.30pm. Call him to check availability on 07767 147248.

Group guitar lessons

Wednesdays 7-8pm. Contact Nick for more info at nickandjudy@hotmail.com

Owermoigne painters

Our friendly painting group welcomes new members. We meet on Friday 10am-12 noon, except the last Friday of the month. Contact nigel_baker@icloud.com

Short mat bowls

The Short Mat Bowls Club usually meets on the first and third Saturdays from 10am till 12 noon. We welcome new members so contact Rob Burgess on 07836 386088 if you're interested in learning a new game.

Table tennis every Thursday

Table tennis at 10am. Come along to join in or call Jill on 01305 354467.

The Village Hall also hosts a wide variety of clubs and societies and everyone is welcome. Please see the separate adverts for **Owermoigne Flower Club**, **Pilates classes** with Deni and **Yoga classes** with Kaly.

You can see event bookings online at <https://owermoignedorset.com/calendar>
 Contact Margaret Burgess on 07909 718569 to book the hall or send an e-mail to her at crozlemargaret1950@gmail.com

You can find the village Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/owermoigne/>

The **Owermoigne ladies walking group** will be on **Thursday July 23rd**. It will start at Athelhampton House and the meeting point will be in the car park near the cafe at 10am. Please contact Sarah Power 07919 551317 for more information.

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Owermoigne Cricket and Social Club

The first BBQ of the year was well attended, and the weather did not let us down! Thank you to all the members and their guests for supporting the event. A special thank you also goes to the volunteers who helped on the day, and to those who provided the delicious salads. Without the dedication of our volunteers, these events that we all enjoy, simply could not happen.

Forthcoming Events

- **Thursday, 16th July – Fish & Chips Supper, followed by Col's Quiz – pre-orders and payment at the Club bar by no later than Sunday, 12th July**
- **Friday, 31st July – Meat Raffle – tickets available to purchase from the Club bar at £1 each, or 6 for £5**

ENGLAND WORLD CUP NIGHTS AT THE CRICKET CLUB

The Club will be open for all the England World Cup games; dates and times will be advertised as the tournament progresses. Come along to cheer on the Three Lions!

Keep your eyes peeled for posters and emails with all the event details!

Caroline Holmes, OC&SC Secretary

PILATES CLASSES with *Denise Bowditch* in **Owermoigne Village Hall**
Mondays 11am Multi Level **Tuesdays 6 pm Multi Level**
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OWERMOIGNE

THANK YOU, MARTIN

Just to say a very big thank you to Martin for all the hard work he has put in to get us the hospitality area we now have in the church. He has spent hours co-ordinating the work, with others getting us grants and faculties to do the work. Anne's contribution with her legacy provided chairs. If you have ever been involved with church works, it is not easy! Please look in and see what has been done, so far all very complimentary. We will be holding events connected with Thomas Hardy in the summer as we are now on the Hardy Trail (home of his book 'The Distracted Preacher'). Please give us your support and keep our church alive for all who live here and future generations.

Jill Lawton

OWERMOIGNE FLOWER CLUB

In May we enjoyed a fabulous demonstration from Sarah Brooker with beautiful floral arrangements sharing memories of her childhood on her grandfather's smallholding. Her delightful wit and depictions in lovely flower arrangements of the chickens; the bees; the 3 pigs, Lauren, Sophia and Bette along with Daisy the cow, thoroughly entertained us.

We hope that many of you will have enjoyed our open afternoon at Moreton in June. In July we have a workshop afternoon. Carrie will demonstrate a Meadow Design and explain the use of different mechanics available to use now. Members will then be able to create their own 'Meadow' to take home.

On 18th August we have no meeting but a garden visit to the Old Rectory Gardens at Pelham. Visitors are always welcome to our meetings. If you want to join us for the workshop, please contact Sue Legg 07775 741439 to check the requirements. Or you can email: owermoigneflowerclub@gmail.com



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THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH

Never let the future disturb you. You will meet it, if you have to, with the same weapons of reason which today arm you against the present.

Marcus Aurelius

The tyrant dies and his rule is over, the martyr dies and his rule begins.

Soren Kierkegaard

ECO TIP OF THE MONTH

Do you do your washing up in the sink, or in a bowl? Using a bowl uses less water and less washing up liquid, so is more eco friendly. And when you have finished you can use the water, after it has cooled, on established plants in your garden, but not on newly planted ones. And what do you do with the water you run before it is warm enough for washing up? Does it go straight down the plughole? Catch that in a bowl and when cool you can use that on any plants.

Pouring the water from the bowl into a watering can helps to target the watering on the root of the plant, not on its leaves, which is more effective. And do your watering early morning or late evening when the sun will not evaporate it before the plants can benefit.

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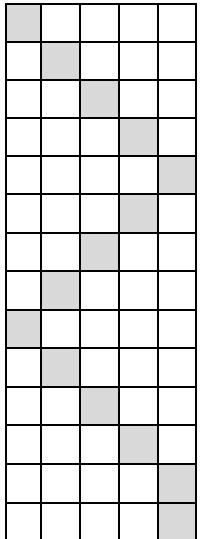
PUZZLES — 1

WORD LINKS

Find the 5-letter word that connects the three words on each line. For example, BANK, MOON and BED would all be linked by the word RIVER, making RIVER BANK, MOON RIVER and RIVER BED.

Put the link word in the grid, and then rearrange the shaded letters to find something we might expect in July (2 words).

CASE	SCHOOL	MOST
ALARM	CHAIN	SCREEN
EXAM	CUP	SOLUTION
CLOTHES	WHIP	HOBBY
WIDE	POISE	RIGHT
NUMBER	MINISTER	TIME
TRAP	FIELD	COMPUTER
TUBE	EAR	THOUGHTS
BACK	LIME	GREY
THROB	ACHE	SWEET
MOTHER	QUAKE	WORM
FLOUR	SAILING	FLOOD
BOSSY	WALKING	TRAP
WOOD	OFF	PAINT



WORDSEARCH Find the words in bold

It was 250 years ago, on **fourth July** 1776, that the US **Declaration of Independence** was adopted by the **Second Continental Congress**. The original signed parchment still exists, behind bullet-proof glass at the National Archives in **Washington**.

An original **draft** of the Declaration was made by **Thomas Jefferson**, and was amended by **Benjamin Franklin** and **John Adams**. It runs for only 1,320 words. The Declaration included the phrase: "We hold these **truths** to be self-evident, that all men are **created equal**, that they are endowed by their **Creator** with certain **unalienable Rights**, that among these are **Life, Liberty** and the **pursuit of Happiness**."



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PUZZLES — 2

Easy SUDOKU

			6			2	3	
9					8	6		5
	6	3				9	1	
				4	7	1	8	9
1			8		5			3
2	7	8	1	9				
	9	6				4	7	
8		1	9					6
	5	7			6			

Medium SUDOKU

2		5				8		
			6	5	3			
9							6	
			4		6			1
3								4
7			2		9			
	2							9
			5	7	4			
		4				6		5

LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS

O	H	L	T	A	M	F	Q	N	J	C	S	K
G	Y	D	U	R	I	V	B	P	W	Z	E	X

CODEBREAKER

CHURCHAGOIWNDTC
CINNUTNIISTCNRN
PTGILDDEREIOII
SEIRPQOPEEVSGER
VGCENTURIESEZGS
RREHRWDEDLLSRSI
RKMTUUGNIDDEWN
NESOLCSNFZNRVLH
YRAMEACAEANAHIB
BEVIRGINLBMIRLT
AEDERWPTCESIBYJ
INDEVOLBTMLCR
ECALPREEOHTCEYL
CTICYLSRSELWEEI
ESHIEDYINGAIKY

WORDSEARCH

2	5	3	7	6	9	8	4	1
8	4	1	2	5	3	7	6	9
7	6	9	8	4	1	2	5	3
3	2	5	9	1	7	6	8	4
6	7	8	3	2	4	9	1	5
9	1	4	5	8	6	3	2	7
4	3	2	6	9	5	1	7	8
5	8	7	1	3	2	4	9	6
1	9	6	4	7	8	5	3	2

Easy SUDOKU

1	5	8	4	3	7	6	9	2
7	2	9	1	8	6	4	5	3
4	3	6	5	2	9	1	7	8
3	7	4	8	1	2	5	6	9
8	9	2	6	7	5	3	4	1
5	6	1	3	9	4	8	2	7
6	1	7	9	4	8	2	3	5
2	8	5	7	6	3	9	1	4
9	4	3	2	5	1	7	8	6

Medium SUDOKU

LIFE IN THE 21st CENTURY

Hot summer weather? Here are some tips for a cooler house

- Close your curtains and blinds during the day. Block out the sunlight. That may be hard to do in a country where we don't see the sun as often as we'd like, but sadly that sunlight pouring through your windows will not only brighten but also heat up your house.
- At night, aim to create a breeze that flows through your house. This is easy to do – simply open windows (and curtains/blinds) on opposite walls or at opposite sides of your home. Let the air circulate as much as possible.
- Try to reduce heat from your appliances. Your stove, television, dishwasher, hairdryer, fridge and freezer all generate some heat. Can you do without any of these during the daytime?
- Consider using breathable fabrics over your sofa and chairs. Sitting on natural fabrics such as cotton or linen throws is cooler than sitting on man-made fabrics.
- If all else fails, try an electric fan, placed on the floor in front of a bowl of ice water, and aimed at the opposite wall of your room. But they are expensive to run, and do not cool the air. They merely increase the velocity of it, so that it feels cooler.

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ALL IN THE MONTH OF JULY

It was....

250 years ago, on 4th July 1776 that the US Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Second Continental Congress (see p31); and from 12th July 1776 to 4th October 1780, that the British explorer Captain James Cook made his third and final voyage: he travelled to New Zealand and Hawaii, where he was killed in a violent exchange with the local people.

200 years ago, on 4th July 1826 that Stephen Foster, the 'father of American music' was born: his songs include *Oh! Susanna*, *Camptown Races*, and *Swanee River*; and on 5th July 1826 that Sir Stamford Raffles, Lieutenant-Governor of the Dutch East Indies and later of Bencoolen (now in Sumatra) died: he was the founder of modern Singapore.

175 years ago, on 3rd July 1851 that Charles Bannerman, British-born Australian cricketer, was born: he scored the first-ever run in Test cricket, and also scored the first century in Test cricket; and on 10th July 1851 that Louis Daguerre, French photographer and artist who invented the daguerreotype photography process was born: he is regarded as one of the fathers of photography; and on 24th July 1851 that the Window Tax was abolished in England and Wales: the tax was introduced in 1696 and was based on the number of windows in a house, which led to many windows being bricked up, and was replaced by a tax on inhabited buildings.

125 years ago, on 9th July 1901 that Dame Barbara Cartland, romantic novelist, was born: she wrote 723 novels, including 23 in a single year, and sold more than one billion copies of her books.

100 years ago, on 15th July 1926 that Leopoldo Galtieri was born: as president/military ruler of Argentina, he ordered Argentina's invasion of the Falkland Islands.

90 years ago, on 24th July 1936 that the speaking clock telephone service was launched in the UK.

80 years ago, on 22nd July 1946 that the King David Hotel in Jerusalem was attacked: the Irgun (a militant right-wing Zionist group) bombed the hotel which housed the British administrative headquarters for Palestine, killing 91 people.

75 years ago, on 13th July 1951 that Arnold Schoenberg, the Austrian-born American composer died: one of the most influential composers of the 20th century, though the Nazis considered his music degenerate, because he was Jewish.

60 years ago, on 30th July 1966 that the 1966 FIFA World Cup final took place when England beat Germany 4 – 2: English player Geoff Hurst became the first (and only) player to score a hat-trick in a World Cup final (see p33).

50 years ago, on 4th July 1976 that Operation Entebbe took place: Israeli commandos staged a counter-terrorist hostage-rescue mission at Entebbe Airport in Uganda, following the hijacking of an Air France plane on 27th June; and on 20th July 1976 that NASA's Viking 1 lander successfully landed on Mars, and sent back the first photographs from the surface of Mars; and on 29th July 1976 that the pier-head of Southend Pier in Essex, the world's longest pier, was destroyed by fire: it reopened in 1986, but then a tanker crashed into it, creating a 70-foot gap, and it reopened again in 1989, but two further fires, in 1999 and 2005, caused significant damage and it reopened in July 2012.

40 years ago, on 23rd July 1986 that the marriage of Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson in Westminster Abbey took place: they became the Duke and Duchess of York and divorced in 1996; and on 28th July 1986 that British estate agent Suzy Lamplugh failed to return from an appointment in London, sparking the biggest missing person investigation since Lord Lucan: she has never been found. ▶



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◀ **30 years ago**, on *1st July 1996* that candidates taking the British driving test also had to pass a written exam for the first time; and on *5th July 1996* that Dolly the sheep was born: she was the first cloned mammal at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh and died in 2003 (*see p33*).

25 years ago, on *2nd July 2001* that Barry George was convicted of killing British TV presenter Jill Dando in April 1999: he was sentenced to life imprisonment, but later acquitted and the case remains unsolved.

20 years ago, on *1st July 2006* that Fred Trueman, cricket player and broadcaster died: he was seen as one of the greatest bowlers in cricketing history; and on *15th July 2006* that Twitter, the online micro-blogging service, was launched (*see p31*); and on *20th July 2006* that Tesla Motors unveiled its first model, the Tesla Roadster: it went on sale in February 2008.

15 years ago, on *9th July 2011* that South Sudan gained its independence from Sudan: it is the world's newest country.

10 years ago, on *13th July 2016* that Theresa May became Prime Minister (until 2019) after David Cameron resigned following the UK's referendum on leaving the European Union: and on *26th July 2016* that Hillary Clinton became the first woman to be nominated for President of the USA by a major political party (Democrats): she lost to Donald Trump in the election that November.

'SAINT' OF THE MONTH

14th July – John Keble, priest, Tractarian and poet

John Keble is remembered for the spirituality of his hymns, and for being one of the leaders in the conservative Tractarian Movement of the 1830s, which aimed to defend the Church's Catholic heritage from the power of Parliament. Keble College Oxford was dedicated in his memory.

Keble was born into a clergy family in 1792, and his brilliance at Oxford led to him being elected a Fellow of Oriel College when only 19. In 1815, aged 23, he was ordained deacon and worked at Oriel as a tutor. But Keble yearned for parish life and so left Oxford in 1823 to be curate in his father's church in Gloucestershire. His new life gave him time to write hymns, some of which are still known today, such as *New Every Morning* and *Blest are the Pure in Heart*. But then in 1831 his poetry and hymns gained him election as Professor of Poetry back at Oxford.

The 1830s were a troubled time for the Church of England. Many conservative clergy were concerned by the reforms being carried out between Church and State by the Whig government. In 1833 Keble used his Assize Sermon to clearly protest against the Church of England being made subordinate to Parliament, as it was no longer exclusively Anglican. His views were very popular in the clerical circles of deeply conservative Oxford.

But although Keble went on to write nine of the 90 *Tracts for the Times*, and engaged in some debate, he did not enjoy controversy or the limelight. He was at heart a scholarly parish priest, and so in 1836 he left Oxford again, for 30 years of parish life in Hursley, where he sought to revive sacramental confession in the Church.

As in the words of one of his hymns, his prayer was always above all:

*Only, O Lord, in thy dear love, Fit us for perfect rest above;
And help us, this and every day, To live more nearly as we pray.*

Keble died in 1866, and four years later, Keble College was founded at Oxford, in his memory.

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MISCELLANEOUS MUSINGS

The US Declaration of Independence: 4th July 1776 – Tim Lenton

It was 250 years ago, on 4th July 1776, that the US Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Second Continental Congress.

The original signed parchment still exists, behind bullet-proof glass at the National Archives in Washington, but copies were quickly printed and distributed on the day – not all of them totally accurate. Its creation followed considerable conflict between the colonies and the British Parliament, reaching a head in late 1775 when Parliament prohibited trade with the colonies. This followed other measures, including what was regarded by some as unfair taxation without representation.

An original draft of the Declaration was made by Thomas Jefferson, but it was amended by Benjamin Franklin and John Adams, who omitted passages likely to offend the more conservative colonists, such as the suggestion that King George III was to blame for transatlantic slave trade, or anything that accused the British people rather than their government.

The most important effect of the Declaration from a diplomatic point of view was to make possible relationships between the colonists and friendly foreign governments. But it had a substantial effect elsewhere. Anglican clergy felt conflicted because they had sworn an oath to the King as Supreme Governor of the Church of England, and supporting independence would mean breaking that oath. Many colonies made public prayers for the King acts of treason, and this in part led Anglicans to recreate themselves as the Protestant Episcopal Church.

The Declaration itself could be described as a Christian document, reflecting Judeo-Christian values, as Abraham Lincoln made clear in his Gettysburg Address in 1863, quoting its second sentence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Looking back on 20 years with Twitter – Tim Lenton

Twenty years ago, on 15th July 2006, Twitter, the online micro-blogging service, was launched. It had been developed earlier that year by Jack Dorsey, Biz Stone, Evan Williams and Noah Glass at the podcasting company Odeo. Originally named "twtr", it was thought of as an SMS-based, short messaging service, at first with a 140-character limit. It became Twitter within six months of its launch.

Originally a side project, the free application let users share short status updates with friends by sending one text message to a single number ("40404"). Within a few years, it exploded in popularity until it became one of the world's top social networking platforms. Its name was obviously inspired by bird sounds, after some other suggestions – including FriendStalker – had been rejected. The first ever tweet was sent by Dorsey on the prototype platform on 21st March – "just setting up my twtr".

The company became more prominent with the election of President Donald Trump in 2016. He used Twitter throughout his campaign and made announcements on it during his administration. Banned in 2021 for allegedly using it to incite violence, he was later reinstated under new owner Elon Musk, who acted as CEO until July 2023, when he was succeeded by Linda Yaccarino. She resigned in July last year. Meanwhile, Twitter had become X, with Musk intending it to expand to become a "digital market place". Like other social media companies, Twitter/X has faced strong pressure to police content more closely, in order to deter hate speech, misinformation and pornography, among other things. But it is used by many Christians to discuss key issues of faith and culture, and for sharing devotional content, prayer requests and #happysunday messages.



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MISCELLANEOUS MUSINGS

When England won the FIFA World Cup – *Tim Lenton*

Sixty years ago, on 30th July 1966, the 1966 FIFA World Cup final took place. England beat Germany 4 – 2. English player Geoff Hurst became the first (and only) player to score a hat-trick in a World Cup final. Hurst is also the only surviving member of the England team that started the 1966 final, held at Wembley, where England played all their matches. Others were spread around the country.

The 1966 World Cup was unique in that it was the only one in history that had no matches played on a Sunday, because of the Sunday observance laws in force at the time. Professional football was in fact not played on a Sunday in England until 1973-74, and then to a much lesser extent than it is now.

The 1966 tournament was also significant in other ways – not least for the famous commentary snippet from Ken Wolstenholme, still quoted today. This occurred when it seemed the crowd might be invading the pitch as Hurst advanced on the German goal. “They think it’s all over!” said KW. Pause, then as Hurst’s shot hit the back of the net, “It is now!”

Many matches in the tournament were marred by violent play and contentious sendings-off. Vicious tackles on Pelé, the world’s leading player, put him out of the tournament, and one angry player in another match had to be escorted off the field by police. As a result, the yellow and red cards familiar to us today were introduced, as was the use of substitutes. Inconsistent refereeing was also tackled through training and clearer interpretation of the laws of the game.

Before the tournament started, the Jules Rimet trophy was stolen from an exhibition. A dog named Pickles discovered it wrapped in newspaper under a bush in a South London garden.

Remembering Dolly the cloned sheep – *Tim Lenton*

Thirty years ago, on 5th July 1996, Dolly the sheep was born at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh. She was the first cloned mammal. Dolly had three mothers: one provided the egg, another the DNA, and a third carried the cloned embryo to term. Her existence was announced the following February, resulting in much media attention and no little controversy. There was a special report in *Time* magazine, and TV showed a commercial featuring Scottish scientists playing with sheep.

Dolly was widely featured as the scientific breakthrough of the year. Even though she was not the first animal cloned, she was the first cloned from an adult cell. The process was extremely inefficient, with Dolly the only lamb surviving to adulthood from 277 attempts in 1996. Several animals had been cloned before Dolly, including frogs in 1952 and 1958. Even mammals had been cloned – sheep in 1984 and cows in 1987 – but the key difference with Dolly was that she was cloned from a reprogrammed adult somatic cell, instead of embryonic cells.

Dolly lived for six and a half years. She was euthanised in 2003 after developing a progressive lung disease not uncommon in sheep, particularly those spending their lives indoors, like Dolly. Sheep of a similar breed usually live for ten to twelve years, but scientists did not think her life was shortened because she was a clone. Her body was preserved and is on display at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.

Cloning, particularly cloning of mammals, has led to concerns among some Christians that the bounds of the natural order are being overstepped. If the process were extended to humans (monkeys were cloned in 2018 and 2024 in China for medical research), there have been fears that this would be too much like “playing God”.

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MISCELLANEOUS MUSINGS

Best handwriting please! – David Pickup

See how large a letter I have written unto you with my own hand. (Galatians 6 v 11)

I am sat in a train and most of my fellow passengers are preparing for their important days by typing away on laptops and checking their phones. I am probably the only person who has a traditional notebook open beside them with a list of things to do, written in pencil. A couple of weeks ago I was waiting for a train and a member of staff noted I was writing a letter with "one of those things", meaning a fountain pen.

Being a lawyer I am supposed to be traditional and old fashioned. I still like writing letters and receiving postcards. Notes written in pencil work when there is a good signal or none. I was often told at school not to use pencil as it faded over time. I remember reading official war diaries written in the trenches in pencil that are crystal clear after eighty years, so dear teacher, you were wrong!

Paul, when writing to the Galatians, had a secretary to write for him. Perhaps his eyesight was failing or his handwriting had got worse with time as it does for most of us. Several times, St Paul ends his letters by taking the pen from his secretary and writing himself. He did it to emphasise a point or to add a human touch.

The world we live in needs clear, bold words and perhaps the Church should write them.

God and the Americans – 250 years on

In July 1776, there were roughly 2.5 million Americans in the Thirteen Colonies. Those who went to church worshipped in about 3,228 Christian congregations, made up of about 14 various denominations. These included: Anglicans, Baptists, Congregationalists, Dutch Reformed, Methodists, Quakers, Presbyterians, and Roman Catholics.

Today, there are about 342.5 million Americans. Those who go to church, worship in about 325,000 Christian congregations, and can choose from a staggering 200 different denominations, as well as thousands of independent congregations.

A recent survey from the Pew Research Centre found that today, about 17 per cent of Americans would like the government to declare Christianity the official religion of the USA. But two-thirds of Americans believe that churches and other places of worship should 'keep out of political matters'.

The most popular view (43%) is that the government should 'promote Christian moral values without making Christianity the official religion'.

This is followed (38 per cent) by the belief that the government should 'neither establish an official religion nor promote Christian values'.

'In God We Trust' first appeared on US coins in 1864. In 1956 President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a law officially making 'In God We Trust' the national motto of the United States. It remains in place as the USA's official motto today.

The 16th century Bible that may have saved the Welsh language

The Spanish Armada may have indirectly helped save the Welsh language. For at the time when the Spanish were threatening England, Queen Elizabeth 1 decided to commission a Welsh Bible, to help to secure the Church of England's diocese in Wales. She chose to ask William Morgan, Bishop of Llandaff in 1595 and then of St Asaph in 1601. He spent ten years at the task, and in the end one thousand copies were printed, and then distributed to every church in Wales. ▶





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MISCELLANEOUS MUSINGS

◀ Nowadays Bishop William Morgan's 16th-century Welsh-language Bible, *Y Beibl Cyssegr-lan*, can be found in a farmhouse at Ty Mawr Wybrnant, near Penmachno, in north Wales. The copy at Ty Mawr attracts hundreds of visitors every year, and has now been featured in a BBC series *Hidden Treasures of the National Trust*.

Fflur Medi Owen, programming and partnership officer for the National Trust, says that the translation of the Welsh Bible was pivotal for the preservation of the Welsh language. Not only that, but the timing of the translation was significant, because the language had become "very dialect-heavy".

"I do think we would have been able to understand each other, but things were falling out of shape," says Ms Owen. "The green light to commission the Bible into Welsh by William Morgan came at a time that meant the language could be given a form and structure."

She goes on: "Welsh is an old, old Brittonic language — it's like an umbilical cord. Had it not been for William Morgan, our Welsh language would have gone like Manx and Cornish."

LIFE IN THE 21st CENTURY

Have you noticed the seagulls lately?

Or rather — the lack of them?

A recent survey published by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), found that the total number of gulls wintering in the UK has fallen from 3.9 million to just under 2.5 million over the past two decades.

It is thought that the reason for the decline of gulls is due to improvements in waste management, both on our streets and in landfill. Avian flu, agricultural practices and climate change may have also played a part.

The survey targeted the black-headed gull, common gull, lesser black-headed gull, herring gull, and black-backed gulls. It found all species, apart from herring gulls, had declined.

The great black-backed gull, the UK's largest, saw a 66 per cent drop in numbers wintering in the UK. Black-headed gulls declined by almost half. Common gull numbers fell by 26 per cent, and those of lesser black-backed gulls dropped by 47 per cent.

Emma Caulfield, a BTO research ecologist and survey co-ordinator, said: "These figures are pretty alarming. Despite these smart and adaptable birds figuring out how to live alongside us, the ever-changing world appears to be moving too fast for them to keep up."

Holiday soothies

If you are about to go on holiday, here are a few tips.

- For dealing with motion sickness, ginger capsules are your new friend. Available from any health store, they do a wonderful job in calming upset tummies.
- For fever or frayed tempers, take some camomile tea bags with you. Camomile tea doesn't just calm your nerves; cooled down, the tea also soothes sunburn.
- For banning mosquitoes and for insomnia, take some essential oil of lavender. Mosquitoes hate the smell, so if you put a few drops around your pillow at night, you can help keep them at bay — and help yourself drift off to sleep.



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Every Sunday	Church Services	Page 3
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Every Mon, Tue, Wed	Pilates, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 19
Every Mon 11.30 / Thu 9.30am	Move It or Lose It, Crossways (Mon) / Broadmayne (Thu)	Page 9
Every Monday, 6pm	Yoga, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 21
Wednesdays, 7pm	Group Guitar Lessons, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 17
Every Thursday, 10am	Table Tennis, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 17
Every Thursday, 6.30pm	Dog Training Club, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 17
Every Friday, 9.30am	Pilates, Broadmayne Village Hall	Page 15
Every Friday, 10am	Chapel Café, Methodist Church, Broadmayne	Page 13
Every Friday, 10am	Owermoigne Painting Group, Village Hall (not 31st)	Page 17
Every Friday, 7pm	Short Mat Bowls, Broadmayne Village Hall	852285
Every Saturday, 8.30am	Yoga, St Martin's Community Hall, Broadmayne	Page 13
First & Third Saturdays, 10am	Short Mat Bowls, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 17
Friday 3rd, 6pm/7.30pm	Pizza & Film Night, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 17
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Saturday 4th, 11am	West Stafford Village Fete	Page 9
Suns 5th & 19th, Sats 18th & 25th	Music at St Peter's Dorchester	Page 9
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Tuesdays 7th & 21st, 10.30am	Coffee & Company, St Peter's West Knighton	Page 11
Wednesday 8th, 7.30pm	Knightsford Parish Council, New Inn, West Knighton	Page 11
Thursday 9th, 7pm	Broadmayne & West Knighton WI, Broadmayne Village Hall	Page 11
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Saturday 11th, 6pm	St Catherine-by-the-Sea Centenary Celebration, Holworth	Page 3
Monday 13th, 7.15pm	Owermoigne Photography Group	Page 17
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Wednesday 15th	August Compass deadline	Page 2
Thursday 16th	Fish & Chip Supper, Col's Quiz, Owermoigne Crkt & Social Club	Page 19
Tuesday 21st, 2pm	Owermoigne Flower Club, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 21
Thursday 23rd, 10am	Owermoigne Ladies Walking Group, Athelhampton	Page 17
Sat 25th, Sun 26th, 2pm	Start of Weekend Teas, St Catherine's, Holworth	Page 11
Sunday 26th, 2pm	Warmwell Village Fete, Warmwell House	Pgs 11, 17
Friday 31st	Meat Raffle, Owermoigne Cricket & Social Club	Page 19

For your event to be included FREE in WHAT'S ON, email details to the Editor (see Page 2)

THE LETTERS OF UNCLE EUSTACE

My dear nephew Darren

You closed your last letter with the remark that it was time to retire to bed with a cup of cocoa. That may be all very well for the pious intensity of a theological college - although a stiff whisky was always acceptable in my day - but it is not a style to continue once in the parish. I do feel obliged to give you a few hints about what should and should not be drunk in public as a parish priest.

Morning visits are to be discouraged, but if one is unavoidable, and you are invited to have a drink, then it has to be coffee. It is the only time of day when a mug is acceptable - provided, of course, that it is china. In the afternoons one changes to tea, but only from cups. Blended varieties may be all very well for Curates in their first year, but it should be Darjeeling for an incumbent. Fruit teas are for Quakers only.

If an inappropriate vessel is offered, then the drink should be accepted, but left untouched. Since the visit will be discussed in the finest detail throughout the parish the moment you have left, your host will soon learn why and not make the same error a second time. It is for the same reason that if you ever want to circulate a piece of news round the parish as quickly as possible, never put it in the parish magazine, just mention it casually during one of your visits. Everyone will know by tea time.

Alcoholic drinks must be carefully judged. A sherry - dry, naturally - is probably best if you are invited to lunch. In the early evening a gin and tonic would be the drink of choice. To ask for whisky would indicate that you are about to go over to Rome, and a mineral water that you have your roots in non-conformity. Beer is never drunk in someone's house unless you suffer from some personal tragedy, such as being the diocesan youth chaplain.

However an occasional beer in the pub with the bell-ringers (who will be real ale fanatics to a man) or after choir practice - which seems to be the real purpose of holding practices anyway - or as a treat for the sacristan, will show you are a man of the people. It is some years since I visited the pub.

Understanding wine should be taught at every theological college as an essential part of the ministry. Develop a taste for claret, dear boy, and you will be starting your journey towards high office.

And perhaps you should give that tin of cocoa to the verger.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

POETRY CORNER — Miss Potter

Nigel Beeton writes: Beatrix Potter was born in Kensington on 28th July 1866, so that date this year marks 160 years since her birth. Born into the restrictive middle-class Victorian society, her world was one of rules and limits, but she had the courage to shake off those limits and her legacy to us of the unspoilt beauty of the lake district and her vivid imaginings of what the animals there got up to are almost timeless.

A rabbit in a coat of blue,
A hedgehog laundress, a badger, too;
A kitten - now, his name was 'Tom'
Whose clothes were off much more than on!
Jemima was a 'puddle duck'
Who thought a fox would bring her luck
Till Kep, the farmer's collie dog
Saw through the fox's scheming fog!
Although she dwelt in London's dusts
Brought up with can'ts and don'ts and musts;
Her eyes just twinkled with the light
Of scenes beyond the smoky night!

Miss Potter saw the trees and woods
Which turned her 'couldn'ts' into 'coulds'.
And she could - with ink and paint
Show us a world both rich and quaint.
So many summers since her birth
Her vivid creatures bring us mirth!
Her rabbits bring us timeless joy,
Her ducks that fox nor time destroy,
She brings us from the city's smells
To brooks that weave through soaring fells!
So many summers since her birth -
Yet still she brings such joy to Earth!

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AND FINALLY . . .

What do they teach them in school these days?! (continued)

Socrates was a famous old Greek teacher who went around giving people advice. They killed him. He later died from an overdose of wedlock which is apparently poisonous. After his death, his career suffered a Dramatic decline.

In the first Olympic games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled biscuits, and threw the java. The games were messier than they show on TV now.

Julius Caesar extinguished himself on the battlefields of Gaul. The Ides of March murdered him because they thought he was going to be made king. Dying, he gasped out "Same to you, Brutus."

Joan of Arc was burnt to a steak and was canonized by Bernard Shaw for reasons I don't really understand. The English and French still have problems.

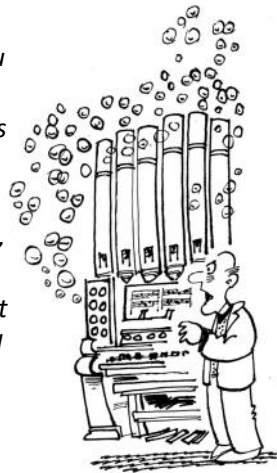
Sir Walter Raleigh is a historical figure because he invented cigarettes and started smoking.

Sir Francis Drake circumcised the world with a 100-foot clipper which was very dangerous to all his men.



The boys on the substitutes' bench knew their only chance of singing was if one of the first team was injured

*Thank you
to the
volunteers
who
cleaned
the organ,
but you
should not
have used
soapy
water!*



Appropriate baby names?

Lawyer's daughter: Sue
Thief's son: Rob
Lawyer's son: Will
Fisherman's daughter: Annette
Meteorologist's daughter: Hayley
Shovel operator's son: Doug
Hairdresser's son: Bob
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Gambler's son: Chip
Exercise guru's son: Jim
Astronomer's daughter: Skye
Cattle thief's son: Russell
Painter's son: Art
Iron worker's son: Rusty
TV star's daughter: Emmy
Movie star's son: Oscar

Bucket list

I'm proud to announce that I have completed the first item on my bucket list. I've got the bucket.

