

Here we are at the beginning of November. When you read this the clocks will just have gone back an hour taking us into Winter Time. It still feels like Autumn, a time of mists and mellow fruitfulness. But the nights are drawing in until we get to Christmas when the light begins to return and we look forward to Spring and Summer.

I have started writing this forward on my return from London where I have been to a Memorial Meeting to celebrate the life of an old friend whom I have known for almost 50 years and who died just before the beginning of the Pandemic. November is the month of Holy Souls when we remember those who have gone before us in faith and after we have celebrated All Saints we Commemorate All Souls.

For the last 3 months with the exception of 2 weeks I have had one or two funerals for parishioners, relatives or friends. Death is something you never get used to but which comes more to face you as you grow older. As Christians we are consoled by hope and the experience of God's love and a faith which looks forward to the resurrection of the dead and life of the world to come. A hope and a faith which we often show to our fellow mourners at a funeral. A faith and hope which trusts in our Redeemer however much we are hurt in our mourning. So this month is an important time to remember our loved ones and friends. We do this by our prayers, placing their names in envelopes before the Altar when they will be remembered at Masses and also being supportive in prayer and actions for those who are mourning. Mourning is a time which will vary for each affected person and the Pandemic has made this even more difficult for some.

Pope Benedict XVI writing under the heading 'Yearning for Sanctity' says *The saints are not a small caste of chosen souls but an innumerable crowd to which the liturgy urges us to raise our eyes. This multitude not only includes the officially recognised saints, but the baptised of every epoch and nation who sought to carry out the divine will faithfully and lovingly.....with the eyes of faith we see this multitude shine in God's firmament like glorious stars.* Later he quotes St. Bernard of Clairvaux

(continued overleaf)

where he points out that this great body of saints does not need honour from us but should inflame us with a tremendous yearning for sanctity. Our first vocation is to be holy and if we can have this yearning for holiness then our prayers for those who have gone before us in faith will remind us of the journey we still have to complete and by our actions hopefully we shall help others to complete their journey into eternal life.

Synod

Elsewhere you will read some information about the Synod 2023 preparation which has started. Please look at this information, pray the suggested areas of prayer and if you can join in the various information and participation opportunities which are advertised. The Pope wants us to pray and listen under the guidance of the Holy Spirit as the Church (the Body of Christ – you and me) move forward in our mission to be holy and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

God Bless you all, please keep safe.

Michael J Thomas (Parish Priest)

Feast of SS Chad & Cedd

Synod 2021 2023 - For a synodal Church Communion - Participation - Mission

Opening of the Synod by Pope Francis in Rome Sunday 10th October 2021

There are 7 days between the opening ceremony in Rome and the opening ceremony in the local Churches (17th October, 2021). As a spiritual preparation for the opening of the Synod in each local Church, parishioners were invited to use this time as 7 days of prayer for specific intentions related to the Synod.

Day One: For a spirituality of journeying together. That we may be formed as disciples of Christ, as families, as communities, and as human beings, through our experience of this Synodal journey.

Day Two: For listening ears. That our hearts and minds be open to listening to others without prejudice.

Day Three: For a Church that celebrates. That our journey

together in the coming months will be based on listening together to the Word of God and the celebration on the Eucharist in the communion of the People of God.

Day Four: For our participation in the Mission of Christ. That through our Synodal journey together, we may grow in our shared responsibility of the mission that is entrusted to us.

Day Five: For true dialogue in the Church and in Society. That through a path of perseverance, patience, and mutual understanding, we may be attentive to the experience of persons and peoples.

Day Six: For the exercise of authority and participation in the People of God. That the Synodal roots of the Church will bear fruit in new ways of being at the service of one another at all levels of the Body of Christ.

Day Seven: For our discernment to be led by the Holy Spirit. That all decisions made on this Synodal path may be discerned through a consensus that flows from our common obedience to the Holy Spirit.

Finish with the **Synod Prayer** :

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

Opening of the Diocesan phase of the Synod - Sunday 17th October

Priest's Introduction

As we await with longing the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, dear brothers and sisters, let us with renewed devotion beseech his mercy, that, as he came into the world to bring the Good News to the poor and to heal the contrite of heart, so in our own time, also, he may bring salvation to all in need.

Prayers of the Faithful, for the opening of the Synod

For God's holy Church: that it may be a light to the nations and the universal sacrament of salvation, walking with all peoples to the Kingdom of God.

For Francis our Pope, Declan, our Bishop, and the holy, faithful People of God in our Diocese of Clifton that the celebration of this Synod may help us to discern God's will and to boldly carry it out.

For all civil and public authorities: that they may always seek the common good, acting with justice and integrity.

For the sick, the lonely, the oppressed, and the suffering: that they may never be discarded, but rather treasured and cared for as the face of Christ in a suffering world.

For ourselves, gathered here: that this Synodal Process may lead us ever deeper into the communion of the Church, foster our participation in it, and equip us to go out on mission.

Priest's Prayer

O God, our refuge and our strength, hear the prayers of your Church, for you yourself are the source of all devotion, and grant, we pray, that what we ask in faith we may truly obtain. Through Christ our Lord.

Selection of Parish Delegates

Introduction

The process of consultation for the 2023 Synod of Bishops begins in October 2021 with a diocesan phase. This is an important opportunity for the people of the diocese (lay and ordained, male and female, young and old) to share what it means when we speak about Communion, Participation and Mission. While this phase will feed into national and international discussions, what is shared at a parish level and via the online and postal submissions will be invaluable in seeing how we might 'journey together' as a diocese as we continue to 'Dare to Dream' for the future.

The Role of the Parish Delegate

To encourage all parishes to participate in the synodal process Bishop Declan invites every parish to nominate delegates.

Depending on the size of the parish the number of delegates will differ.

Up to 100 parishioners: 2-3 people

Up to 200 parishioners: 3-4 people

Up to 400 parishioners: 4-5 people

Over 400 parishioners: 6-8 people

These chosen delegates will be tasked with facilitating parish listening and discernment consultations and participating in further diocesan listening meetings.

Selecting a Parish Delegate

We recognise that potential candidates may not be obvious. No candidate is perfect. To help you prayerfully discern suitable delegates from your parish, we encourage you to consider the following attributes:

1. Prayerful, committed and engaged in the sacramental life of the church.
2. Available and committed, able to initiate and invitational.
3. Open and approachable with a positive and joyful demeanour.
4. Humble, open to learning, able to listen and generous of heart

The key aspect is one of willingness and docility to the Holy Spirit. We listen first to the Holy Spirit and then we listen to each other. The experience of synodality should not focus first and foremost on structures, but on the experience of journeying together to discerning the path forward, inspired by the Holy Spirit (Vademecum, p.21).

The Vademecum document (p.49) also highlights eight qualities of parish delegate which should prove useful to you:

- A spiritually mature person with a living faith.
- A natural collaborator.
- An effective communicator.
- The ability to synthesise a variety of information.
- The ability to interact well with people of diverse cultural, generational, and ecclesial backgrounds.
- Familiarity with diocesan structures and processes.
- Humility in working with a co-leader and/or team, graciously open to the insights and gifts of others as well as trying new ways of proceeding.

There will be a day of formation and guidance for all delegates on Saturday 20th November at St. Michael's Centre, Stoke Gifford, Bristol. This day will be led by Fr. Jan Nowotnik who is the New National Ecumenical Officer and Secretary for Evangelisation and

Discipleship.

<https://www.stmichaelsvenuehire.co.uk/location>

PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD

Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

Synod 2021 2023 For a synodal Church

INFORMATION SESSIONS

Pope Francis invites us to participate in a world-wide Synod - every person in the Church is called to respond. So that we can fully understand what Pope Francis is asking for our participation in the Synod we are offering information sessions to give everyone an opportunity to find out more and so be able to fully engage with the process.

The dates of the information sessions are:

6 November, **10am-12noon**: St John's Centre, Trowbridge - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/trowbridge-synod-information-sessions-tickets-190920838367>

6 November, **2.30pm-4.30pm**: St Patrick, Brockworth - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/brockworth-synod-information-sessions-tickets-190970737617>

13 November, **10am-12noon**: Emmaus House, Bristol - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bristol-synod-information-sessions-tickets-190972171907>

13 November, **2pm-4pm**: St Joseph, Bridgwater
- <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bridgwater-synod-information-sessions-tickets-190973525957>

Also we are holding two **online** Teams sessions on 8 & 9 November, 7pm - 9pm.

If you intend to participate in one of the online Teams sessions please let us know at the synod@cliftondiocese.com email address, so that we can send you a Teams invitation a few days before the event.

If you plan to attend one of the sessions around the diocese, please also let us know at the same email address so that we have an idea of numbers.



CAFOD Update

Why is the COP 26 summit so important?

For millions of people around the world, Covid-19 is just one more critical emergency on top of many. Sadly, the climate crisis is increasing the frequency and severity of all natural disasters – typhoons, cyclones, hurricanes, droughts, floods and forest fires. Even when families survive these deadly disasters, they often have very little to return to: homes are destroyed, possessions are lost, and once fertile land is left desolate.

Every second counts

Very few of these emergency situations make the headlines. But when lives are at stake, every second counts. We cannot wait around for the news cycle to catch up. That's why we don't.

Working alongside local experts, we've been responding to humanitarian emergencies for more than 50 years. It's an integral part of what we do. We reach the remotest places and put your donations to good use straight away, as soon as disasters hit, to help people survive, rebuild

and live with dignity.

At the end of 2019, at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, the UN warned that Zimbabwe faced a major food crisis following an extremely severe period of drought. Around 8 million people were seriously affected.

This was an emergency food crisis on an enormous scale. **CAFOD** supporters gave £50,000 to the immediate emergency response. Local experts carried out rapid assessments in the worst-affected communities and, thanks to the trusted Church network, we had instant access to the most vulnerable families with emergency food and safe, clean water.

Every life matters

The climate crisis is making life harder for the poorest people around the world every day, not just when disaster strikes. Families are being forced to accept drastic changes to their way of life – to adapt to a ‘new normal’. That’s why, in places that have suffered natural disasters, your support does more than just provide life-saving aid in the first days and weeks – it helps families to rebuild and better prepare for future disasters, and to live with dignity.

A year after the drought, in November 2020, farmers in Nicaragua lost an entire year’s worth of crops to Hurricane Eta and many homes were completely destroyed.

Around the same time, on the other side of the world, two record-breaking typhoons hit the Philippines. Entire towns and villages were submerged. Electricity and water supplies, as well as transport links and crops, were obliterated.

As the crisis struck, Reverend Fr Tony Labiao of Caritas Philippines said: “Children, the elderly and the vulnerable are crying out for help. Some have died already. We cannot do this alone. It is imperative that we leave no one behind. Let us all help each other. Every second counts. Every life matters.”

Thanks to donations from people like you, and the incredible skill and resilience of local experts, we were already on the scene, working through the Church network to get vital aid to the people who needed it

most.

The COP 26 summit takes place from Sunday, 31 October - Friday, 12 November, 2021 and our prayers are needed to help the participants to have the courage to reach a meaningful conclusion that will benefit the environment, but especially the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

Working in partnership with **CAFOD**, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW) have written a prayer to encourage people to pray for the leaders meeting at COP26.

Prayer for the COP26 climate summit

Loving God,

We praise your name with all you have created.

You are present in the whole universe,
and in the smallest of creatures.

We acknowledge the responsibilities you have placed upon us
as stewards of your creation.

May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 as they
seek to embrace the changes needed to foster a more sustainable
society.

Instil in them the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions
for the poorest and most vulnerable,
and commit their nations to the care of Our Common Home.

We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ your Son.

Amen

Nora Maw

CHOIR PRACTICE

Future practice dates are as follows :

Tuesday 9th November for 14th November Remembrance Sunday

Tuesday 7th December for 12th December

Meet at 5.00 pm

100+ club winners**October 2021 draw**

1st prize Sr Annette Stapleton; 2nd Don Hines; 3rd Nicky Clayton

West Somerset Food Cupboard Newsletter October 2021

We are so grateful for all the support that you give to the Food Cupboard, whether by donating food, funds or time, or by making sure that those who would benefit from some emergency food know how to access it. Over the past couple of weeks our cupboards have been bulging at the seams thanks to generous harvest festival donations. Thank you to all who donated, collected and delivered the food to the cupboard - it won't be there for long as we pack up new boxes every Monday ready for distribution across the community.

We do sometimes find ourselves with an abundance of one type of food and a shortage of another, so we try to keep our notices about this current (as summarised below).

We don't currently need:

- cereal
- tea
- rice or pasta
- tins of soup or tomatoes
- tins of fish
- tins of meat

We would welcome:

- small portion meal items
- UHT milk (1 and 2 pint), and juice
- sugar, and small jars coffee
- tins of fruit
- tins of spaghetti hoops or macaroni cheese
- biscuits (sweet and savoury)

The Co-op fruit and veg gift card scheme has been well received and is being well used.

As you will be aware, the majority of our food boxes are distributed by partner agencies who are supporting the recipients with any challenges

that they might be facing. We wanted to make it easier for people to find out which is the most appropriate way to turn for help, so we've put together an information leaflet. This too has received positive feedback, with one food box recipient telling us that the leaflet made something that seemed complicated 'dead easy'. Copies can be sent to you.

76 food boxes have been distributed during September, making the total for this year so far 786. They were distributed via the West Somerset Advice Bureau, Village Agents, Home-Start, West Somerset College, Magna, Job Centre and 6 through private individuals who were also directed to relevant support services.

Although we are now largely free of lockdown restrictions, many are experiencing new challenges, including the temporary Universal Credit uplift being reversed, debt acquired due to job insecurity during the pandemic, threat of eviction, and energy costs rising. This week we became aware of a family who, despite working hard and juggling responsibilities, simply can't make ends meet due to several unexpected incidents that happened in close succession. But they were too embarrassed to seek help. A family member made contact with the Food Cupboard on their behalf and food was quickly and discreetly provided, along with reassurance that there is no shame in seeking support and that there is support available.

Our greatest hope is that one day the food cupboard won't be needed, but meanwhile one of our greatest concerns is that there are still people in our community, of all ages, who struggle to afford food, are sometimes hungry, and don't know that the food cupboard is there to help. Please help us spread the word.

Ali Sanderson

West Somerset Food Cupboard Temporary Co-ordinator and Project Development Worker

Email: foodcupboardws@outlook.com

phone 07795 080637

or use FaceBook message

THOUGHTS FROM A BLUE ANCHOR DESK

For November 2021

Well, the Church's liturgical year is rapidly coming to the end of its cycle and we all sit indoors with curtains drawn during the dark nights ahead. Sobering thoughts indeed, but during the warmer dry days of October we've had the real pleasure of watching the fields around us being cleared of their straw, circular bales and already the stubble, left from this year's crops, has been ploughed over, the tops of the furrows have been harrowed flat and next year's spring crops sown! Who said farmers don't work hard?

In between all the above activity two tractors have gone along every hedge of the farm with immensely powerful flails re-shaping the sides and tops. Hmmm! Frustratingly, not realising this was about to happen, I had spent a day with my hedge trimmer doing both sides and top of our 130ft hedge, like a 1950's crew cut! Hey ho, there wasn't much to cut off ours!

Now, normally, I'm not a fan of the grey squirrel, but, a cheeky and very industrious little fellow from Toleman's Wood was really entertaining the other morning as he raced from place to place in the garden burying acorns from our Oak tree. Perhaps we ought to warn the new owner of World's End about the new Oak saplings about to spring up next year? Another incredibly busy visitor was a regular welcome visitor, a green woodpecker.

He spent about an hour feasting on the ants in our side lawn.

Funny to watch as well, are the cock pheasant and his four hen harem as they scuttle across the stubble of the field feeding up on the spent grain left on the ground after the harvest. They seem so eager to run around following him right now, but, uhhm, quite the opposite soon when he starts his courting and amorous displays towards them.

Watership Down seems quite a bit quieter now thanks to the attentions of Mrs Vixen and also the farmhouse cat that patrol the field boundary.

I'm sure it's happened every Autumn that we've been here, but this year not huge, but large numbers of Starlings have been gathering locally and flying around in their familiar frantic style of flight. Sadly, not enough or

indeed not far enough away to display a “murmuration”, but still great to watch through the *Velux* as you lie in bed being woken by Zoe Ball.

The sound of a steam loco's whistle and the romantic “Chuff Chuff, rattle, Chuff Chuff” as they start off from Blue Anchor Station will very soon become simply a happy memory as the strange, truncated season that was 2021 runs to a close.

But, and what a great idea for the impending Winter nights, are the shortened runnings of the *WINTER LIGHTS TRAINS* coming up. We can't use the name “Polar Express” as that title is copywrited, but the concept will be that each steam loco and its carriages will be lit overall with light strings and at strategic spots along the route from Bishops Lydeard there will be illuminated, festive tableaux in the fields and woods, with last year's Winter Wonderland theme at Snowcombe Heathfield being repeated.

Sadly, of course, I won't be able to volunteer as Ticket Inspector or Trainee Guard as packing, more packing and possibly even more packing will demand attention, and who knows, maybe even actually moving home.

Bishop Declan, who of course came to consecrate Sacred Heart, was especially kind when after a conversation, the wheels were set formally in motion for my continued Ministry in The Diocese of East Anglia.

Gosh, that process takes me back just over 7 years ago when, waiting for my “faculties” to come through from the Archdiocese of Wales, I was asked to lead Sunday Prayers at the Watchet Pop Festival! I was so amused when after the well attended service, several people asked in surprise “are you really Roman Catholic?”, others said “Gosh, didn't realise Catholics read the Bible!?” , one even said “woww, so, you pray just like us?”

Often, when I'm preaching, I teach that we live our lives by example and our witness to Faith can simply be seen by our neighbours as we regularly leave the house to come into Mass each week or even each day. Perhaps all those at the pop festival didn't have regular Mass-goers living close by?

It is an amazing privilege when someone shares with you their personal experience of prayer being answered. You know that something has

rubbed off when working on the West Somerset Railway, in railway uniform, and someone asks a deep question about faith or prayer and weeks later shares more about said question and outcome.

So, we might one day, in a Parish Mission, need to go around knocking on doors to re-enlighten the faith of the “lapsed”, but in the mean time, simply living our lives in a good Christian way and letting “our light shine” rather than hiding it and ourselves under a bushel is all Our Lord is asking us to do.

In recent Gospel passages we heard the accounts of Jesus giving sight back to Bartimaeus and the ability to stand and walk to the woman who had been unable for 18 years. These miracles of His love for humanity still have huge relevance for us all today. We need the metaphorical sight to see the truth of the Gospel and the ability to stand straight and walk with dignity in order to follow His light and His lead.

Christ's abiding light is always there for us to follow, but we sometimes lose sight of it and thus His pathway through life and its many twists and turns.

On a lighter note, I'm reminded of the chap who had a suspicion that soil was being added to his allotment – the plot thickens ...

Same pal told me that he collects soil ... I said “What on earth...?”

Nasty little accident in the supermarket the other day – a whole pallet of toilet rolls fell over onto a worker – but luckily it was only a soft tissue injury ...

Sunday School teacher : “now, children, what do we call someone who keeps on talking when we are not interested?”

Little Johnny : “uhhhm? The Pastor?”

Teacher : “Right Johnny, how do you spell Crocodile?”

Johnny : “K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L, Miss”

Teacher : “No, that's not right.”

Johnny : “Maybe not, but you asked how I spell it ...”

So, dear reader, the end of my Thoughts From Blue Anchor is nigh, for this issue at least.

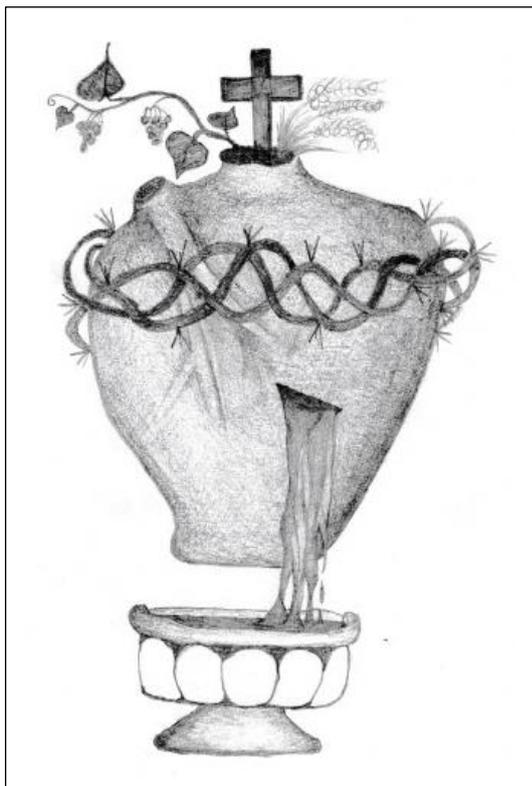
As we approach the Season of Advent and ponder what sort of Christmas Covid19 will allow us this year, let us remember that what ever and where ever we must still celebrate Christ's Birthday. I pray sincerely that each of us, in our own way, will be able to do just that.

With every Blessing,

Reverend Deacon David

The Sacred Heart

Janet Venn's daughter Frances drew this sketch of the Sacred Heart from an old oil painting from a church in South America, and Janet has sent these words to go with the picture :



"The wounded yet radiant heart of Christ, encircled by a wreath of thorns, sprouting grapevines, wheat and a cross from its severed aorta and bleeding into a chalice-like font conveys the transformation of Christ's love and sacrifice into the elements of the Eucharist, So can the deepest pain, when fully held and suffered in the heart's vessel, be gradually distilled into the redemptive" (Martin, p. 392) (The Book of Symbols, K Martin, Editor)

'Sin causes us terrible suffering and this sin-suffering is distilled in Christ's heart. The wounded and radiant heart of Christ, into which we pour all of our pain and suffering, our wrongs and

holocausts, transforms all of our sins, transgressions and iniquities until this quagmire is distilled into our redemption. Our redemption is the essence that is pressed out, and it flows inexhaustibly from the well of Christ's heart'. (Janet Venn)

MY HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED!

The Consecration and blessing of the Sacred Heart Church on 10th October 2021 by Bishop Declan was indeed a memorable occasion, celebrating 126 years since the Sacred Heart Church was built and established.

Father J. O'Shaughnessay was appointed parish priest in January 1895. He almost immediately began collecting money to build a permanent church for the parish.

Just a little reflection of how life would have been around 1895- bearing in mind that this being a very wide sphere! I stand corrected at anything that is wrongly written!

Around this date the name of the serving Roman Catholic Bishop of Bristol/Clifton 1894-1901 was Bishop William Robert Brownlowe; he was a Devonian and a convert.

Certainly the roads would have been very rough in 1895 and the horse and cart or horse and carriage was a valuable means of transport then, however I gather that there were some steam trains (again an intricate subject).

Waterways : the Bristol Channel would have brought valuable supplies to the area by boat or ship.

Certainly only the very wealthy would have afforded the first motor car!

In 1895 the future King George VI was born (lived 1895-1952).

Of interest - the Prime Minister in 1895 was Lord Salisbury and a Conservative government in power.

Yes, certainly life would have been much harder and more basic for the average person!

In our present day of modern technology it is perhaps difficult to imagine communication as we know today. No computer, iPads, telephone, air travel etc. etc.!

Verbal (of course) is one way of communication - and Mail deliveries were by foot or by horse. I understand that a mail coach ran from Taunton to Minehead and Dunster. I don't know if there were any highwaymen then?!

So, what if one were sick in 1895 - certainly there were doctors and some midwives - but no NHS existed then - so if one was sick one would have to consult a pharmacist, or pay for a doctor to call to one's home.

So, how did people dress then? Ladies with long dresses, and hats - men in suits except when labouring in the fields, building, fishing etc. It was quite common for some children to be without shoes I believe, due to poverty. "Sunday best" was observed (as it was in my day, the 1940s!) The Lord's Day was Sunday, A DAY for WORSHIP.

Money would have been in pounds, shillings pence and farthings - and guineas.

Although trading standards were not the same there would have been shops specializing in goods on sale, for example if one wanted vegetables and fruit one would have gone to a greengrocer, meat - a butcher, milk and dairy products - a Dairy. No processed foods, no packaged goods, or food done up in cellophane! If you wanted to buy nails or screws buckets or bowls, you went to an Ironmonger. In 1895 there were no fast foods, takeaways or super markets. The fishing of herrings and eels in the Bristol Channel was a very important means of getting food.

Minehead being surrounded by countryside and rich in farming would have enabled people to eat healthily thanks to the farming community. There were no tractors - and horses pulled the ploughs. Farm labourers (men and women) helped during harvest time. Even I can remember the horses ploughing the fields in Devon!

Education was not compulsory to the age of 10 years until 1880 and child labour was quite common. There were Dame Schools I understand and private tutors. This is too broad a subject for me to enter into.

So, lighting in the homes? I would imagine was mainly by oil lamps, and candles. Imagine no electricity? On a brighter note - homes were most probably cosy with a cheerful fire glowing in the hearth (some at least) and the sound of someone playing a piano in the background.

Remember there were no fridges or freezers. Winter was winter then so food (in the homes) would have been kept in larders and meat in a safe (this I remember) - a box affair with a wire mesh at one end to keep flies away!

Although there were bakers, a lot of people baked their own bread - some in bread ovens which tended to be at the side of an open fire- "oh what a lovely smell - freshly cooked bread."

Some people would have got water from wells. There were no bathrooms so a jug (water inside) and basin would be placed on a dressing table in the bedroom - for personal use in the household.

There were coaching Inns for travellers, where the horses would have rested overnight and been fed and watered, the humans acquiring accommodation and food as well - of course The Luttrell Arms Hotel at Dunster is a good example. This being opposite the famous Yarn Market - which was famous for the sale of wool and a place where cattle and sheep were driven to for sale.

Not forgetting - the horse troughs which would have been placed frequently around for the dear horses to drink from.

Sheila Mills - Blue Anchor.

News from the Exmoor Pony Centre, Ashwick, Dulverton TA22 9QE

After a busy end to our visitor season at the Exmoor Pony Centre, we are refocusing our workload to foals and fundraising!

Throughout the Autumn, mostly in October, the moorland herds of Exmoor ponies have been gathered in and the ponies checked

over. The herd owners then decide which foals they may keep for future breeding and which foals need to find new homes. In an 'ideal' world all the foals would find new homes with buyers who are looking forward to the fun and rewarding experience of handling and training a young Exmoor pony. Sadly, not all of the annual foal crop find a buyer and that is where the work of the Moorland Mousie Trust and Exmoor Pony Centre comes in. Our charity takes these unsold foals who are mostly colts (boys) and we handle and neuter them, preparing them for future lives away from the moor. You may wonder why these unsold ponies can not merely return to their herd, well as many of the unsold ponies are boys they can not return to the herd as that may allow inbreeding between the young boys and their female relatives.

Foal Handling time at the Exmoor Pony Centre is an amazing experience and we encourage people to get in touch and book an appointment to visit us and of course to join in on our Foal Handling Course during November/ December. It's always a day to remember so call quick to see if there are any spaces still available.

The Autumn months are always a good time to catch up with our MMT ponies all over the country to undertake a formal health check before Winter and to ensure all is well around the various foster and grazing sites. Linzi headed up to the North-East of England back in September to see some of our grazing herds and what a fabulous place it is for our ponies to live. Linzi was pleased to report that all the ponies were happy and healthy, with our Exmoor based ponies in comparison definitely looking a little more winter ready than their northern counterparts!

Luckily becoming 'Winter Ready' is an important part of our ridden ponies' yearly routine, with many of our hard working visitor centre team heading off to kick up their heels and have a well-earned break. Don't worry if Almond is your favourite or maybe Winston is, they will be back in the Spring to say hello to everyone once we re-open.

Don't forget you can support us by buying gifts from our shop, throughout the Winter we will be onsite at the centre so give us a call and either arrange a time to collect your shopping or we can post it to you. We also have an online shop on our website so have a look at our lovely Exmoor pony themed items. We have 2022 Calendars and all your last-minute Christmas cards and gifts. Our Adopt a Pony scheme is always a big hit when given as a pressie!

Wishing everyone a wonderful festive season.

Website: www.exmoorponycentre.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheExmoorPonyCentre

Email: info@exmoorponycentre.org.uk

Tel: 01398 323093



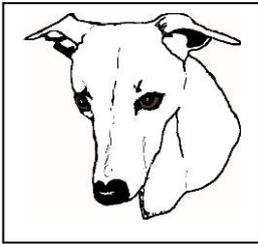
ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS CAKE NOW



Liz Speers and Ann Knott
are taking orders for
CHRISTMAS CAKES
of your specification right now.

These will be sealed and dated and delivered nearer to
Christmas.

Please ring Liz Speers on 01984 634214



West Somerset Pets: Letter from Finn

Hi Ginge and friends,

We have been having a very busy time, they seem to be always buying and sell things at the moment. It looks like all change in this house.

One day she suggested that the furniture in the living room should be moved around. I haven't a clue why but at least I wasn't expected to heave the heavy settees around. Anyway my favourite spot to stretch out but still able to see out of the window has been put against the wall but at least it is by the radiator so is nice and warm.

Then they decided to get rid of various things that they have had for ever. A big van came and took her desk away and the rug in the hall that I had chewed into a new pattern when I was a puppy has disappeared, I suspect that it went into the rubbish bin.

Next the big car was sold to someone else and then the other car was changed for a different one. This one has a weird door at the back that comes out instead of up. I was a bit scared the first time it was opened for me. A throw is put down for me to jump over so that I don't scratch the paintwork!

We went down to Cornwall a couple of weeks ago. Most of the week was spent seeing different family and friends who now live there. First we met some people they used to bowl with (no I don't know what it is either).

We went to a pub which was very noisy and there were no chips for me. Next the brother came to see us. Fish and chips were bought for lunch but still no chips for me, I felt very deprived. Then on the last day people who used to live in Old Cleeve came. We had coffee in the bistro then the chap and my man took Charlie and me down on the beach. That was fun, Charlie likes it as much as me. He found some rock pools to splash about in, not my idea but when we got back to the lodge he had to be dried before he was let in. The humans had lunch, still no chips. Charlie went hunting around and discovered my bed. They had bought me a new hide bone as a holiday treat, Charlie found it and proceeded to chew his way all through it. There had been a couple of semi chewed bones in my bed and guess what he found them too and ate them as well. I was not

surprised to hear that he had been sick the next night, greedy thing.

Hopefully things will calm down a bit now.

Keep warm and stay safe.

All the best

Finn

Dulverton Films



Dulverton Town Hall

Friday November 5th 23 WALKS

(Cert 12A) Director: Paul Morrison 102 mins

A complex, tender and heart-warming comedy drama about finding love later in

life. Dave (Dave Johns) and Fern (Alison Steadman), two older strangers, have been bruised by their individual circumstances.

They meet walking their dogs in a London park, and over the course of twenty-three walks together the romance begins to blossom. But Dave and Fern haven't been completely honest with one another and their future together may be threatened by the secrets they have withheld. Set against the dramatic background of the changing seasons of one year.

Friday November 19th

THE LAST BUS

(Cert 12A)

Director: Gillies MacKinnin

86 mins

A heart-warming tale of Tom (Timothy Spall), a pensioner whose wife, Mary (Phyllis Logan), has just passed away, who travels from Britain's most Northerly point, John O'Groats, to his original home town at its most Southerly point, Land's End, using his free local bus pass. He carries with him his wife's ashes in a small suitcase, travelling the length of the country to take her back home. Along the way, his adventures are recorded by the people he meets and helps, and by the end of his trip he has unwittingly become a social media celebrity..

Tickets limited to allow for social distancing—Dulverton Films members £3, non-members £4.50, students, accompanied by an adult, £2.50. Book in advance at Dulverton Post Office (Tel: 01398 323474) or email janaross2003@yahoo.co.uk. Bar open from 7pm.

ST STANISLAUS & SACRED HEART PARISHES



Please remember the following in your prayers, they are the sick and housebound of the two parishes and those we are asked to pray for:

Susan Gray, Simon, Terry-Anne (Freddie), Sue Appleton, Sue Young, Maggie Smith, Theresa

O'Neill, Bernadette Smart, Walter Spence, Gill Standidge, Sophy Thursby, Paula Bennett, Carol Taylor, Bridget Goodridge, Pete Bird.

Please remember all expectant mothers, armed forces personnel injured on duty, and members of the parishes who are housebound and/or ill and their families and carers.

Please also pray for the clergy of the Diocese especially those who may be sick. Remember Fr. Michael Derrick D'Mello, Fr. Louis Beasley-Suffolk.



Light a Life, a simple, meaningful service for all who have been bereaved recently or longer term. St Dubricius, Sunday 31st October, 5pm
All Souls' Day Mass at St Dubricius – Tuesday 2nd November, 12.30pm

Open-air remembrance service at the marsh memorial for St Dubricius First School, an annual event open to all. Thursday 11th November, 11.00am at the marsh memorial, or walk from the school from 10.30am. Bring suitable footwear!

Celebrate Planning meeting, Oak Room, 2.00pm Friday 12th November

Celebrate Service, St Dubricius Sunday 28th November, 10.45am; (music from 10.30)

Ongoing weekly, all welcome:

Open Door - coffee and encounter, St Dubricius, Friday mornings 11.00am

Bible Study - Porlock Growing In Faith Together, Methodist Church Tuesday evenings 7.30pm

Please help us by supporting our advertisers and tell them where you saw their advertisement. These are all local businesses, employing local people.

CHIROPRACTOR Catherine France BSc. 01643 705020
Effective treatment for pain, Irnham Lodge Chiropractic Clinic,
Townsend Road, Minehead. Parking on site. W: francechiropractic.co.uk

FUNERAL DIRECTORS HEDLEY PRICE : Independent Family Funeral Directors
Chapel of Rest. 24 hour personal service 01643 703111

Anyone wishing to place an advertisement in
this magazine
please contact Mel Carroll
tel: 01643 708522
email: wscpmagazine@gmail.com