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October 2025

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FROM THE EDITOR

MANY APOLOGIES IF this issue is late. We were without any internet connection for the best part of a week and had to put the deadline back for several days. Hopefully it's all sorted now. Come back semaphore!!

And again (and I can't say this too often!!) very many thanks to everyone who has contributed in any way to 5Alive's finances. We are now well in the black in the bank accounts, but can I make one final plea. We rely very heavily on our advertisers so if you need anything doing, in the home, in your business or wherever, PLEASE use their services. This will encourage them to renew their ad bookings and thus help ensure the magazine's future. Many thanks. *Peter*

JOTTINGS FROM A COUNTRY CHURCHYARD

AUTUMN WILL REALLY be on its way by the time this goes to print. I'm sure we had all hoped for a lovely long, mellow autumn to follow all our heatwaves and drought, but it seems to be wet and dreary with brief bursts of sun so far. But wet is good. How we do need the rain!

I do hope lots of people have seen and admired – and possibly used – the two splendid picnic benches which have been generously donated by Whatley Quarry. They are large, robust and beautifully crafted in conventional design but with elegant touches. The bench ends are usefully extended (just right for perching on) and the retained bark along the outer edge is polished and varnished as decoration. They are sited at present on the higher ground inside the back gate but can be moved to wherever required for use at outdoor events in the churchyard. Do pop in and look if you are passing, jogging, dog-walking.

I am sure I am not the only one who suffers from night cramps. I have discovered a wonderful pill which alleviates this, simply supplying magnesium which is, apparently, a mineral many older people lack in sufficiency. But I ran out of them recently and lay awake trying to remember

Editor: Peter Corbett mellsmag@hotmail.com

Advertising: Peter Corbett, 01373 466536, mellsmag@hotmail.com

Deadline for NOVEMBER 2025 is OCTOBER 17th but do check!

**Printed by Frome Printing Company
01373 455222**

CONTACTS

Mells Group of churches is currently in a vacancy.

Church laymen and women Church wardens	Parish council chairs and clerks
<p>Buckland Dinham Jenny Waller, 07887 556936</p> <p>Chantry Hazel Tovey 836384 Valerie Rawlins 836252</p> <p>Great Elm Sally Rosa 07833 900947</p> <p>Mells/ Vobster Hilary Ingram 01373 311073</p> <p>Whatley Mrs K Gay 836175</p>	<p>John Reckless 01373 461841 Diane Sleight 07907 156735 clerk@bucklanddinham-pc.gov.uk</p> <p>John Earl 01373 812450 Joy Book 07704 584953</p> <p>Andrew Bramston 01373 836513 Rachel Nash clerk.whatleyparishcouncil@gmail.com</p>

Roman Catholic Services

Mells: Sundays at 11.30am	Frome: Saturdays 5.30pm.
Wednesdays 11.30am	Sundays 10.00am

the name of the product I needed while suffering cramp. How could I forget such a simple thing? I eventually drifted off to sleep, satisfied that I had remembered – of course – amnesia. In the morning, I recalled the proper name but then I thought, wouldn't it be wonderful if one could take a pill called amnesia for loss of memory? That would really be useful.

I expect everyone has noticed the bountiful supply of fruit and berries on every previously flowering tree and bush. Everything flowered its socks off in spring and summer and although most things were early there were somehow enough pollinators around to do their job as the resultant fruits have proved. Perhaps bees awoke early? Local beekeepers would know. I must ask Jan. I know some have had to feed their bees to compensate for when the bees were unable to fly because of heavy rain. I do remember seeing many bumble bees much earlier than usual this year so perhaps they were lured out of hibernation earlier by early spring and blossom?

The abundance of berries now, so much too early to feed our winter migrants, such as fieldfares and redwings, may already have been gobbled up or simply left to wither when the winter birds need feeding. Wildlife is beginning to



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adapt to the changing climate but not all at the same rate so it may take many generations for insect food supplies all to coincide again as needed. Some may never do to the detriment of some loved species. Think how long as it has taken hedgehogs to realise that their instinctive reaction to enemies to roll up into an uninviting ball of prickles is not the best defence from approaching cars?

But I read an article recently which illustrated how birds can adapt within our lifetime. The writer had studied blackcaps in detail over the space of 50 years. He discovered that many now overwintered in England and as a result of these birds not needing to fly huge distances to migrate their wings had grown considerably shorter than their ancestors' were in the 1970s. It makes one wonder how many other small miracles of change have occurred, unnoticed, over the course of the last 50 odd years of climate change. It would seem that we, like the flora and fauna, have to adapt to our unpredictable seasons. Younger folk probably find it easier as much of it has happened during their lifetime. But those of us who, like myself, are in sight of their century (well, in your nineties, you feel it is almost within grasp) still tend to look back and complain that "it was never like this in our young days." (Not only climate – but politics, morals, social behaviour – don't let me get started!).

I am sitting in the sun in my stable yard writing this. High up in the evergreen magnolia, which normally flowers from July till December, when frosts blacken the last buds, I can already see what appear to be the last few

Christmas Fayre - Early Call for Stallholders!



Saturday 29 November, 10am - noon

Christmas Fayre in Norton St Philip Church

If you would like to book a stall (for £15) please contact Glynys Brown

glynysbrown731@gmail.com or tel: 01273-834226

as soon as possible to avoid disappointment!

buds. But then she started flowering in early June this year so I can't grumble. Conversely the wisteria still has a few purple clusters of its second flowering. And right on cue the Virginia creeper which will be needed to decorate the church for Harvest Festival is still flourishing beautifully all over.

But whoops, how quickly the weather changes from sun to downpour! Here it comes! I must run (what have I said – stagger!) inside to avoid a soaking.

See you in November. *Hazell*

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Mells Group of Churches

October 2025

	5 th October	12 th October	19 th October	26 th October	2 nd November
Chantry	10.00am Group Service Holy Communion	11.00am Matins Hazel Tovey	11.00am Holy Communion	11.00am Matins Val Rawlins	
Great Elm			9.30am Holy Communion Robin Isherwood	9.30am Informal Service Richard King	10.00am Group Service Holy Communion
Mells		9.30am Holy Communion David Gatliffe		9.30am Morning Prayer Janet Caudwell	
Whatley		5.00pm Harvest Evensong Hazel Tovey		09.30am Holy Communion David Gatliffe	

Mells Every Wednesday at 09.30, Matins/Morning Prayer, in St. Andrew's, Mells

Hardington Vale Church Services October 2025

DATE	TIME	SERVICE
Wednesday 1 Oct	8.30 am 5.00 pm	Hemington, Morning Prayer Rode Chapel, Informal Prayer
Thursday 2 Oct	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip, Silent Prayer
Sunday 5 Oct	9.00 am 10.30 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Norton St Philip, Informal Breakfast Rode, Holy Communion HARVEST Laverton, Holy Communion HARVEST Rode Chapel, Meeting Place
Monday 6 Oct	9.00 am	Norton St Philip, Morning Prayer
Tuesday 7 Oct	11.00 am	Rode Chapel, Ecumenical Holy Communion
Wednesday 8 Oct	8.30 am 5.00 pm 6.00 pm	Hemington, Morning Prayer Rode Chapel, Informal Prayer Tellisford, Evening Prayer
Thursday 9 Oct	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip, Silent Prayer
Sunday 12 Oct	9.00 am 10.30 am 11.00 am 11.00 am	Rode, Informal Breakfast Norton St Philip, Holy Communion HARVEST Laverton, Matins Buckland Dinham, Iona/Taise Service
Monday 13 Oct	9.00 am	Norton St Philip, Morning Prayer
Wednesday 15 Oct	8.30 am 11.00 am 5.00 pm	Hemington, Morning Prayer Tellisford, Holy Communion Rode Chapel, Informal Prayer
Thursday 16 Oct	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip, Silent Prayer
Sunday 19 Oct	9.00 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 11.00 am 11.00 am	Farleigh Hungerford, Holy Communion Rode, Holy Communion Norton St Philip, Informal Worship Laverton, Matins Buckland Dinham, Holy Communion
Monday 20 Oct	9.00 am	Norton St Philip, Morning Prayer
Wednesday 22 Oct	8.30 am 5.00 pm 6.00 pm	Hemington, Morning Prayer Rode Chapel, Informal Prayer Tellisford, Evening Prayer
Thursday 23 Oct	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip, Silent Prayer
Sunday 26 Oct	9.00 am 10.30 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Rode, Contemplation and Coffee Norton St Philip, Holy Communion Laverton, Matins Buckland Dinham, Iona/Taise Service
Monday 27 Oct	9.00 am	Norton St Philip, Morning Prayer
Wednesday 29 Oct	8.30 am 5.00 pm	Hemington, Morning Prayer Rode Chapel, Informal Prayer
Thursday 30 Oct	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip, Silent Prayer

Version: 23 September 2025

ROUND AND ABOUT

NEW SEASON AT JACKDAWS MUSIC EDUCATION TRUST IN GREAT ELM

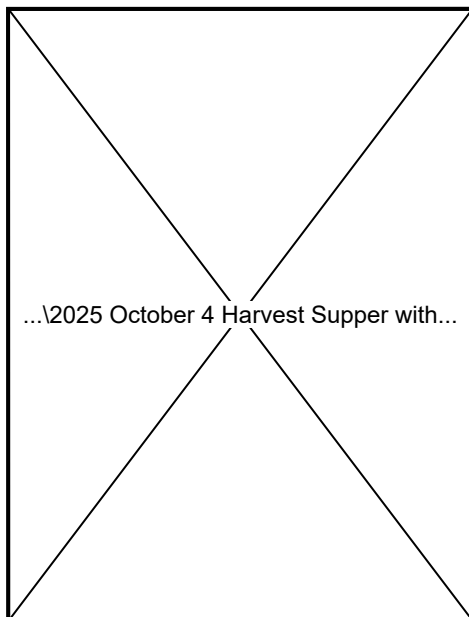
Weekend courses for adult musicians are now available to book. There's a wealth of courses for Voice, Piano, Woodwind, Strings and more! View the full programme on our website; jackdaws.org.uk/music-courses/ or get in touch on 01373 812383

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FSM SOLICITORS MOVES TO A NEW OFFICE AT THE HEART OF THE HIGH STREET IN FROME THIS AUTUMN

Forrester Sylvester Mackett, one of Somerset and Wiltshire's leading law firms (and a long-time advertiser in 5Alive!), is moving to a new office in the heart of Frome's bustling Westway Shopping Centre this autumn.



The firm has had a presence in Frome for many years, but this move to a more central location reflects FSM's commitment to providing an exceptional client experience while remaining deeply rooted in the local community.

"Our new office marks an exciting chapter for FSM in Frome" said Jane Healey, Equity Partner in Frome. "It's designed to offer clients an outstanding experience, whilst providing a vibrant, inspiring space for our team. We look forward to sharing it with our clients, our community and our colleagues soon."

The relocation further strengthens the firm's visibility and engagement in Frome and the surrounding areas, while continuing to deliver the trusted legal services FSM is renowned for. Every detail of the new office has been carefully considered to create a welcoming, contemporary environment for clients and colleagues alike, said the firm.

The move reinforces the warmth and accessibility that FSM is known for and reflects the firm's position as a modern, people focused law firm at the heart of the high street.

The launch of this new office represents more than just a space. It clearly illustrates that FSM is a contemporary, people focused law firm committed

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to excellent service and supporting the local community in Somerset and Wiltshire.

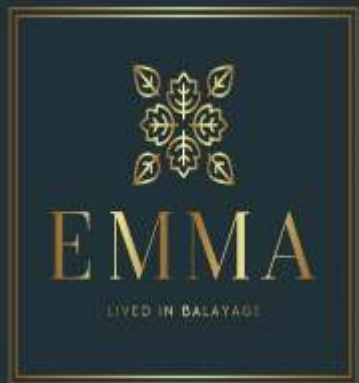
BUCKLAND DINHAM

ANNE RECKLESS, 1945-2025

On Friday September 19th, 2025, a burial service took place in St Michael's Church, Buckland Dinham, to give thanks for the life of Mrs Anne Reckless. The church was full as half-muffled bells rang in the service, thanks to ringers from Corsley and Rode. The service was also streamed to Anne's family in Ireland.

For this ecumenical service, the Requiem Mass was conducted by the Reverend Canon Richard Dwyer. Anne's coffin was covered with white lilies, with two further beautiful displays at each side. Hymns were *All things Bright and Beautiful* and *The Spirit Lives to Set us Free*.

World-famous mezzo soprano Claudia Huckle accompanied by George Fradley sang *O Rest in the Lord* from Mendelssohn's *Elijah* as the offertory hymn, and *As with Rosy Steps the Morn* from Handel's *Theodora* during the communion.



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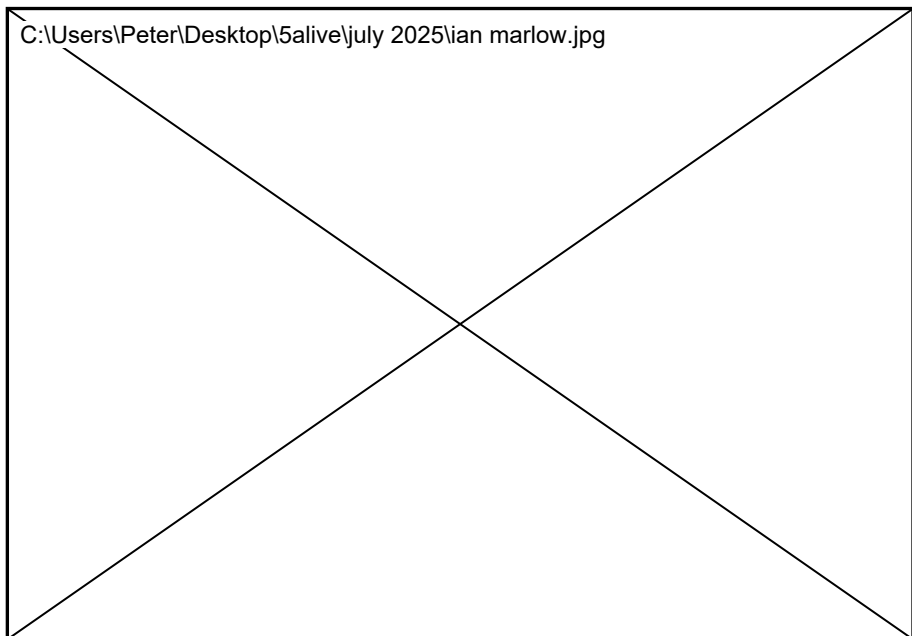


Readings were 2 Corinthians 4: 6 read by Mark Reckless and the Responsorial Psalm read by Ian Reckless. Sally Reckless led the Prayers of the Faithful as part of the Mass.

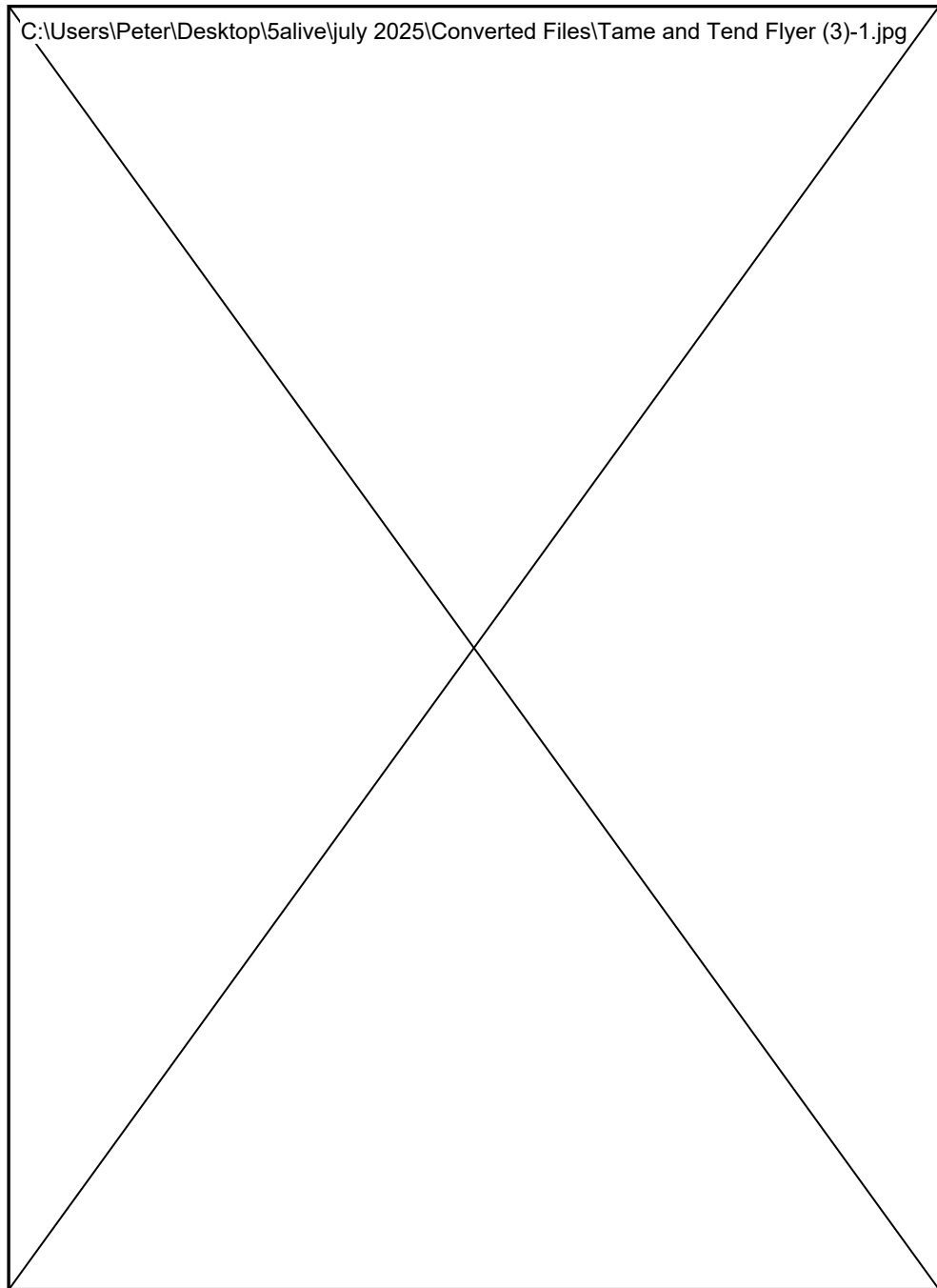
The eulogy was provided by Anne's husband John, taking us through the milestones of Anne's life from her childhood in Ireland to her meeting with medical student John during her nursing training in Redhill, Surrey and her career in paediatric nursing and child advocacy. Her career was characterised by a commitment which typically went above and beyond the requirements of her role. Anne went on to become a mother herself and, in her later years, a grandmother who found great satisfaction in entertaining and engaging with her grandchildren and who kept a playroom always at the ready.

Anne approached life with energy and commitment, cherishing her friends and family and extending her interest to strangers she met on her travels. She did, John observed, like to chat!

In his homily, Father Richard observed how people of different faiths had come together to give thanks for Anne's life. He reflected how Anne had had a strong sense of the things which are hidden in life but which are nonetheless of the highest value, and practised selflessness and self-giving, putting her faith into action. Through her work with children and as a



C:\Users\Peter\Desktop\5alive\july 2025\Converted Files\Tame and Tend Flyer (3)-1.jpg



volunteer in the community, she integrated her faith into her life, setting an example for us all.

Father Richard reminded us that while death had changed Anne this was not the end for her. He concluded by giving thanks for her gifts including her faith, and all that she was and remains.

Anne was buried in the churchyard close to her home. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time. *Jenny Waller, Churchwarden*

LATEST FROM THE VILLAGE WEBSITE

A nice big banner with the next big event now welcomes you to the website! Don't forget that information on the village Facebook and WhatsApp groups is on the website under Groups, Clubs and Classes.

And we have a list of village-based businesses under the Resources tab.

VILLAGE INFORMATION HUB

Do you know anyone in the village who needs help using computers or smartphones? Do you need information, guidance and support - finding out about village resources, buses, doctors etc - but don't have the technology? Are you someone who could provide that help? If so, contact John in the Comms Group on website@bucklanddinham-pc.gov.uk and we'll try to get you together!

EVENTS IN OCTOBER

Mondays – Pilates for Cyclists – 6.00pm, Tuesdays – Chair Yoga – 10.00am, Wednesdays - Pilates - 9.30am.

5th – Laughter Yoga – 10am, 7th – Buckland Buddies - 7.30pm, 12th – Iona/Taize Service - 11am, 14th – Lunch Club – 12.00noon, 15th - Comms Meeting – 7.00pm,

16th – Parish Council Meeting- 7.00pm, 18th – Coffee Morning – 10.00am, 19th - Holy Communion – 11.00am, 22nd – T, T & T Meeting – 7.00pm, 26th – Iona/Taize Service – 6.00pm, 29th – Meditation – 6.00pm.

See bucklanddinham.org for details

MONTHLY WALKS FOR THE Lychgate and 5ALIVE

Buckland Dinham's Corinne King organises monthly walks to raise money for the restoration of the lychgate at St Michael's church and for 5Alive. Next one is on Sunday, October 19th. Meet at the lychgate for a 10.00am start. You can

get more details at Whatsapp Buckland Dinham Community:Events: guided walks.

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS!

There seems to be a fair few musical folk in the village and it got me thinking that we could come together to put on a small Christmas concert to showcase our local talents, bring people together and raise money for projects in the village such as the playing field and upkeep of the church.

My partner Jason and I organised carol singing around the village last year, it was lots of fun, well received and we're planning it again this year.

We have a couple of pieces that would do better inside rather than singing out on the street and I thought it would be lovely to share with some other festive offerings alongside.

If you're interested in being involved then please do get in touch - you can email me at greenvelvetmoon@yahoo.co.uk or message me on 07727 074856.

Chris Davies



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CHANTRY

CHANTRY CHURCH

We would like to offer our sincere condolences to Mrs Gloria Scott on the sad loss of her son Julian who died suddenly on Friday September 12th. We are thinking of you and praying for you.

MAINTENANCE

Date	Flowers	Cleaning
05-10-25	Val	Dolly & Val
12-10-25	Hazel	Clare
19-10-25	Laureen	
26-10-25	Val	Sonia

We are looking forward to the Harvest Festival, a report of which will be in the next issue of 5Alive

GREAT ELM

CHURCH NEWS

Great Elm reinstated the Saturday "Coffee, Cake and Chat" morning on September 13th. Lots of people came despite conflicting date with Frome Cheese show and raised £165 towards defibrillator and hall repairs. Many thanks to those who made delicious cakes.

GREAT ELM VILLAGE HALL

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CHURCH FABRIC UPDATE

The plastering, moulding and decorative leaf moulds have been put in place, and all the plaster repairs are now complete. The re-painting of the guttering has begun and work will take place in stages.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 4TH 7.00pm for Harvest Supper back in the Village Hall.

A delicious three course meal for £12. RSVP greatelmpcc@outlook.com.

There will be a raffle so please bring some cash to help raise some additional funds on the night.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 18TH OCTOBER. Autumn church yard clean up between 10.00am-12.00noon.

Always a great way to meet other members of the village. Coffee and cake for the working party. Please bring your own tools.

ALPHA

As part of my training for lay ministry in the Mells group of churches, I'll be running 'Alpha' at the Village Hall in Great Elm this autumn. Anyone interested in engaging with Christian faith is invited to come.

'Alpha' is an introduction to Christianity and makes the case for taking Christian faith seriously. It's also a useful refresher for those with a more established faith. It's structured around video presentations and gives great opportunity for discussion of matters of faith and belief. Discussion is open and intended to enable people to express their views (even their scepticism!), and to ask questions.

The sessions will be on Thursday afternoons, starting from October 16th and continuing to December 4th. The first session is a taster so you can see what it's like and then decide whether to continue coming. We'll start with refreshments (tea and biscuits) at 2.30pm, with a 20-minute video playing from 3.00pm. We'll finish by 4.00pm at the latest.

It would be great to have support for this initiative from across the Mells group. Please contact me if you'd like to come. My number is 07980 401306 (reception isn't great where I live so please leave a message if I don't pick up) or email me at richard.jriking@gmail.com.

For those who don't know me, I live in Great Elm and regularly attend church there and occasionally at Mells, Chantry, Whatley and Buckland Dinham. I

began training to be a lay (non-ordained) minister in September last year and hope to be licensed by the Bishop for ministry in the Mells group in October 2026, having completed the two-year training course. I've been working toward retirement from my work as a lawyer for a few years now and I'll finally retire at the end of this year.

Richard King

MELLS WITH VOBSTER

Notes of Mells Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday September 9th, 2025

(Full minutes can be found at mells-pc.gov.uk

SOMERSET COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

AI Road Safety Cameras (Frome Bypass): Following six fatalities on the A361 Frome Bypass in five years, Somerset Council and Avon & Somerset Police are trialling AI cameras to detect dangerous driving. Installed in August for six months, the cameras identify behaviours linked to the "Fatal Five": speeding, seatbelt non-compliance, distraction (e.g. mobile phones), drink/drug driving and careless driving. Offenders will initially receive warning letters and educational materials.

Fire Risk from Gas Canisters: Somerset Council has issued a warning following a near-serious fire at a recycling facility caused by gas canisters being placed in blue recycling bags. The risk of explosion when crushed is high. Residents are urged to take small canisters, vapes, lithium-ion batteries and devices to recycling sites for safe disposal. Only empty aerosols may go in blue bags.

MATTERS ARISING

Pavilion lease and future of recreation ground: Awaiting further discussion between the Estate and the Directors.

Litter bin by bus shelter: The location of the bin has not been decided yet.

Frome Missing Link (cycle path): The application for the grant has now been submitted.

HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATH ISSUES:

Speeding vehicles in Vobster: Clerk to apply for the survey to be undertaken and will advise Highways to consult with Cllr West. The issue is worse around 7.00am and 7.00pm, making it very hard to exit the driveways that open directly onto the main road through the village and unsafe for pedestrians.



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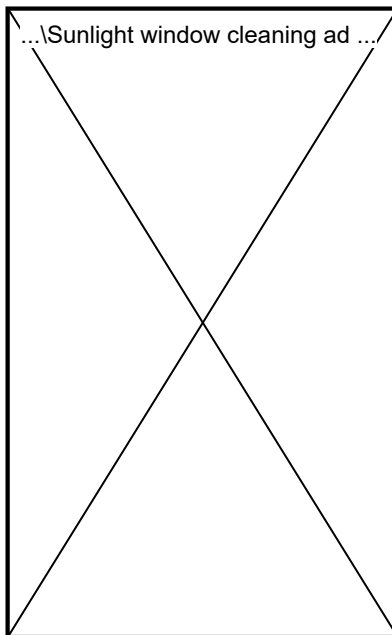
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Layby by Vobster bus shelter: Awaiting Cllr West's proposal for the works. Clerk to request for the layby to be cleared out properly prior to its infill.

PLANNING

2025/1597/TCA: Row of conifers – fell – Top Lane. For Tree Officer to decide.

ITEMS TO REPORT / ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Trees in Fairview: These were lopped last year. Although they are still quite tall, they are not considered an issue by most residents despite the leaf fall at this time of year. Any concerns should be directed to Somerset Council.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday October 14th, 2025, at 7.15pm in the Barn. *Joy Book, Clerk to Mells Parish Council, 07704 584953, Clerk@mells-pc.gov.uk*

WHATLEY

Sadly, we have just been told that David Rawlins died suddenly on September 17th. This was a great shock, and we send our deepest sympathy to his wife Valerie and his children Susan, Katherine, Richard and Joanne and their families. David had worked hard for the church and was churchwarden and treasurer for many years, he will be sadly missed by many.

ST. GEORGE'S CLEANING AND FLOWERS ROTA

October 4th	Lorna Thomas
11th.	Judy Urchmacher
18th.	Pippa Witt
25th	Katy Gay

COME AND JOIN OUR REGULAR SOCIAL EVENTS

at St George's Church, Whatley

ALL WELCOME at these happy occasions and we are looking forward to hosting our next round of social events in the beautiful church.

Social evenings every first Friday of the month 6.00-11.00pm with food and every third Saturday of the month 6.00-11.00pm just drinks

Coffee mornings every second Saturday of each month 10.00am-12.00 pm

FOW monthly meeting every second Tuesday of the month 6.15pm-7.45pm

October DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SOCIAL EVENING with FOOD, DRINKS and CONVERSATION

Friday October 3rd 6.00pm-11.00pm

Drinks: Real Ale, Pale Ale, Lager and Cider at great prices

Food: pre order food at £12 a head to be served at the

church through lizziedekkers2000@yahoo.co.uk by Wednesday October 1st.

This month we are back with Lunghi Baba vegetarian Indian food

AND

SECOND SOCIAL EVENING, DRINKS and SKITTLES

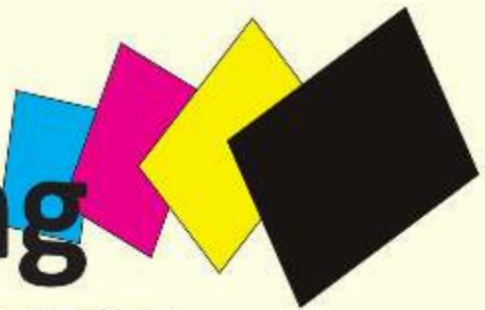
Saturday October 18th 6.00pm-11.00pm

We welcome everyone to join in for a Skittles evening

COFFEE MORNING in support of the MacMillan charity

Saturday October 11th, 10.00am – 12.00noon.

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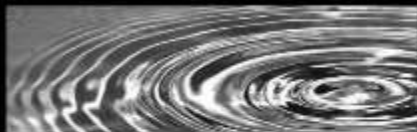
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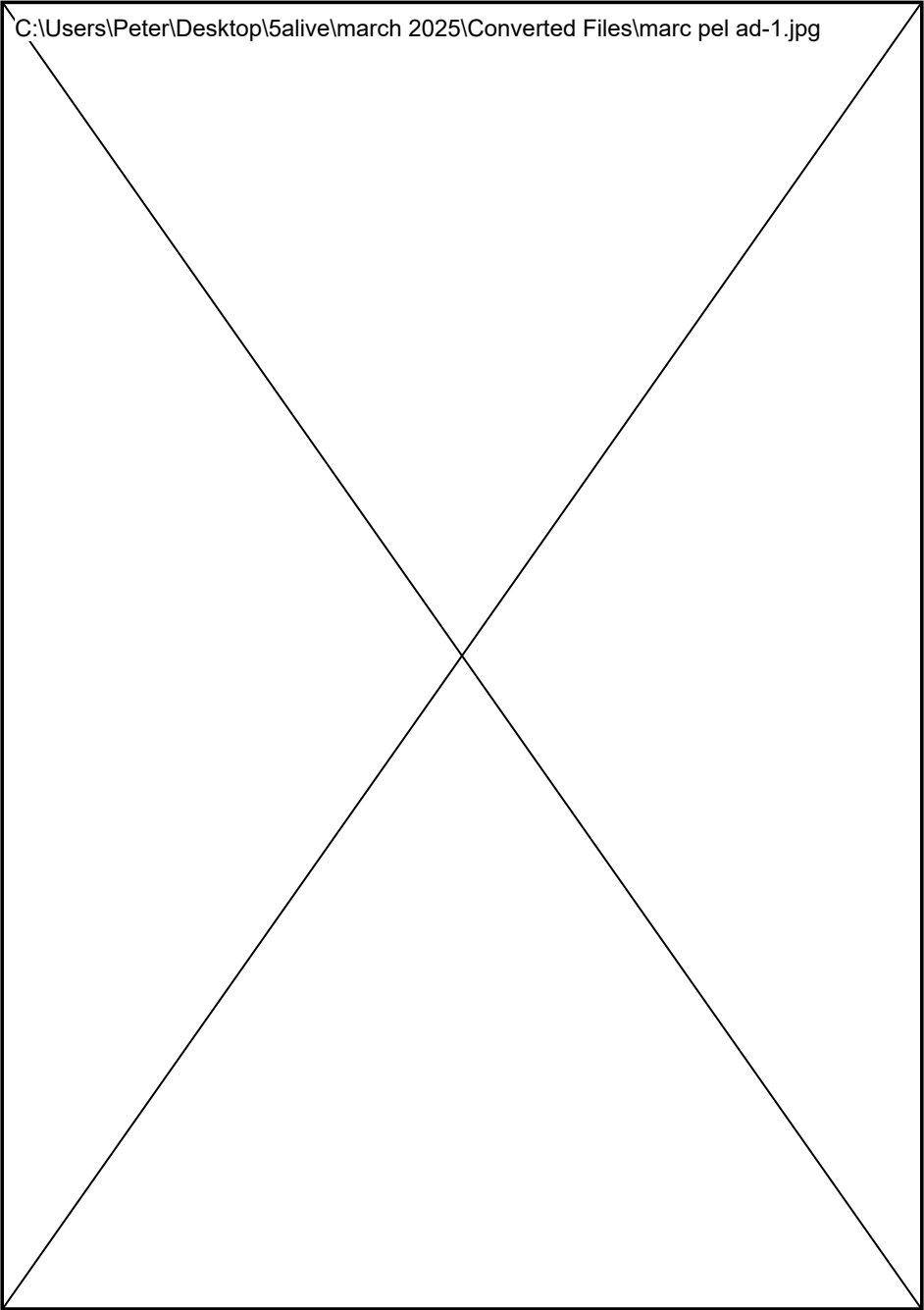
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C:\Users\Peter\Desktop\5alive\march 2025\Converted Files\marc pel ad-1.jpg



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HARVEST SERVICE AND SUPPER

Sunday October 12th

5.00pm service followed by 6.00pm supper.

Please bring a dish to share for the festivities. Include a list of ingredients with your dish. BAR will be open.

FRIENDS of WHATLEY monthly meeting

Tuesday October 14th 6.15pm -7.45pm

ALL WELCOME

COMING UP in the autumn

More skittles nights

Wreath making

Music night with the Meltones (tbc)

Local history exchange: bring your local historic photos to share.

We are looking for someone to lead a quiz night and any other suggestions of community events



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If anyone needs a lift to any events,

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- Post office, Woodlands End, Mells BA11 3PF
- Telephone Box, Mells Green
- Vobster Inn, Lower Vobster, Radstock BA3 5RJ

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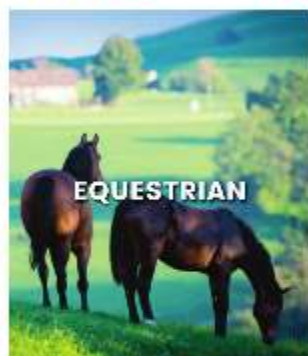
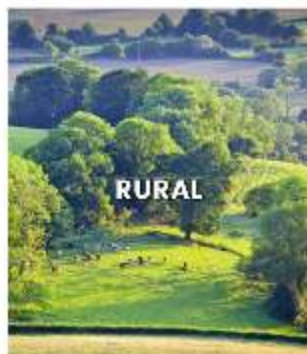
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