

Rev. Jane Durham tel: 01458 223417 Mobile: 07421 700 242 email: rev.jane.durham@gmail.com

CHURCHWARDENS

Keinton Mandeville with Kingweston
Mrs Rachel Willcox 07966 873 660

Lydford on Fosse
Mr Ralph Berry (01963) 240164

Barton St David
Mrs Carolyn Giddings (01458) 851617

Lay Ministers: Jane Sedgman (01458) 223237

Jan Jones (01458) 851608

Benefice Administrator, Jo Oubridge – Email: wheathillbenefice@gmail.com

Web Page : wheathill.org

Parish Magazine Editor – Email: wheathillbeneficemagazine@gmail.com



Grill a Vicar – Coffee & Chat
Do you have questions for clergy ?

Do you wonder about things –
faith, baptism, marriage, challenges or something else?

Jane will be in Newlands Farm Shop Cafe,

Keinton Mandeville

On

Wednesday, 11th February at 2:30pm
and Wednesday, 25th March at 2:30pm

Come and join her there for tea/coffee and a chat



Dates to Note: 14/02 Barn Dance

15/02 Tea & Talk, Neill Thomas

28/2 Brue Boys, KM Family Bingo 20/03

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KM Knit & Natter Group

Fosseway Entertainers AGM



Glastonbury Food Bank

Once again **Keinton Parish Church** will be collecting donations for the Glastonbury Food Bank during **January, February and March in 2026.**

There will be a box in the Church.

The Food Bank does not give out items past their use by date.

They would be particularly grateful for the following –

Donations of:

Pasta/Pasta Sauce Tinned	Stewed Meat	Tinned Soup	Packet Soup
Tinned Meat	Meat Pies	Tinned Fish	Porridge
UHT Milk	Long-life Juice	Ready Meals	Squash
Tinned Puddings	Custard	Tinned Fruit	Rice
Biscuits	Sponge Puddings	Peanut Butter	Cereal
Marmalade	Marmite	Jam	Sugar

Tea and Coffee

If anyone would like to give a financial donation, please call (01458) 223344

Family Bingo 20th March 2026

In Keinton Mandeville Village Hall

Doors Open 7:00pm – Eyes down 7:30pm

Fundraising for the Keinton Mandeville Playing field, which goes towards maintaining the village facility. **CASH ONLY event - book price has gone up to £6.00**

Please note we have a maximum capacity of 120 people seated,
so apologise if we have to turn people away on the night

Deadline for APRIL 2026 magazine **09:00 am THURSDAY 19th March **

Items to the Editor – **VIA EMAIL PLEASE: wheathillbeneficemagazine@gmail.com**

Wheathill Benefice Church Services – February & March 2026

Date	08:30 am	10:30 am (or as noted)	Other Services
1st Feb Presentation of Christ	—	All Age Worship Baptism Celebration Lydford on Fosse	3:00pm Methodist Covenant Service
8th Feb 2nd before Lent	10:30 am Benefice Holy Communion at Keinton Mandeville		
15th Feb 1 before Lent	Morning Prayer Barton St David	Holy Communion Kingweston	Tea & Talk at 3:30pm Lydford Parish Hall
18th Feb	7:00pm Ash Wednesday Holy Communion at Keinton Mandeville		
22nd Feb Lent 1	—	Holy Communion Barton St David	4:00pm Faith n'Fun Keinton
1st Mar Lent 2	10:30 am Holy Communion Lydford on Fosse		
8th Mar Lent 3	10:30 am Holy Communion Kingweston		
15th Mar Mothering Sunday	Holy Communion Keinton	All Age Worship Barton St David	—
22nd Mar Lent 5	Holy Communion Lydford on Fosse	Morning Prayer Keinton	—
29th Mar Palm Sunday	10:30 am Holy Communion Keinton Mandeville 4:00pm Faith n'Fun at Keinton		

Benefice Churches – Churches open for private prayer

The churches of Barton St David, Keinton Mandeville, Kingweston and Lydford on Fosse are now all open daily for private prayer with *the exception for Lydford during Mid June and mid September due to local conditions.*

Church Car Parks

In Keinton, Kingweston and Lydford it is now possible to give when you visit using the QR codes found on noticeboards or at the door. *If you use the churchyards or car park please do consider making occasional or regular donations towards their maintenance and their ongoing place in the lives of our communities.*

Transport to Church

An understanding has been reached with **Wheathill Priory Community Transport** for people who need lifts to Church Services. WPCT will try to assist on Sunday mornings, if this applies to you or someone you know **call 07799 487 719**, preferably 48 hours in advance. *Thank you WPCT!*

From the Registers

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of:

Mr David John UPCHURCH of Keinton Mandeville who passed away on the 25th October aged 74 years. His funeral took place on the 20th November at Keinton Mandeville church followed by his burial.

Mrs Ann CAMBRIDGE of Keinton Mandeville who passed away on the 6th December aged 86 years. Her funeral took place at Keinton Mandeville church on the 17th December followed by her burial.

Mrs Solange DE ZAMORA of Barton St David who passed away on the 21st December aged 79 years. Her funeral took place at Lydford church on the 10th January followed by her burial.

We welcome into the Lord's Family:

Wilfred Ashley Paul RANDALL son of Mark Randall and Suzanna Maunder who was baptised on 28th December at Kingweston church.





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Hello

I'm writing this at a time when the world feels like a slightly chaotic and uncertain place, and have no real sense of how to respond to what is happening around me, except to pray and keep trusting that in the end things will work out even though that seems a little unlikely. So it seems sensible to think about the things that I can do something about, like what plans are for Lent, which begins on 18 February this year?

I'm not good at 'giving up' something for the 40 days, which is probably not a very good admission for an ordained person! In recent years I've tended to focus more on following a particular set of readings or reading a recommended book over the seven weeks.

There are a number of different alternatives, I'm currently looking at a Church of England App 'everyday Faith' which is looking at 'Life Giving Habits' for Lent: Worship, Prayer, Scriptures, Communion, Service (caring for one another) and Good News. This can be found by looking for Church of England Lent Course or here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/draw-near-life-giving-habits-lent> Another Alternative is **Lectio 365** which has a series on the Desert Fathers and Mothers. You can find that in the *Lectio 365 App* available in your App Store.


Within the Diocese of Bath and Wells starting on the 23rd February, a *prayer guide, created by the Go Team*, will take you all the way to Holy Saturday, helping people of all ages pray every day (except Sundays). Each week takes one of the 6 petitions of the Lord's Prayer, and presents a Bible passage and creative prayer idea for each day. You can find this on the Bath and Wells Diocesan Website <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/> then look for Year of Prayer.

Faith 'n Fun on the first Sunday of Lent will be creating *Thank you Jars*, so that people have ways to remember to be thankful, and things to be thankful for! That will be in Keinton Churchyard at 4:00pm on 22nd February.

However you spend Lent and whatever you choose to do, or not do may it be a time to explore and wonder about faith, and prepare for Easter celebrations.

Jane


Save the Dates:



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Keinton Mandeville
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12pm**

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**ALL
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soup lunch
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plant sale**
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Keinton Environment Group (KEG)

We are planning on more *"environmental"* talks in the future and currently working on our spring dates. If you have any expertise on an environmentally-related topic *or know someone else who has do let us know*; we are always on the look-out for new speakers. The aim of these events is for KEG to raise funds for environmental projects around the village. Currently, we are undertaking maintenance on the Community Copse and local hedgerows, as well as extending our wildflower planting scheme. We would also love to get the community involved in promoting boxes for birds – especially swifts - and hedgehogs.

As ever we are keen to hear of anyone who has an area of garden or verge in which they'd like to plant pollinator-friendly wildflowers. As part of this scheme, we are aiming to produce wildflower plug plants (*which we've found grow more successfully than seeds*) which we will give away sometime in the coming Spring – which is the next window for wildflower planting.

If you'd like to help or take part in any of this work do let KEG know using either of the links below and do keep an eye on our Facebook page for details forthcoming events.

Future Meetings – Our meetings are open to anyone to attend and we'd love to get more people involved in what we do. Currently we are reviewing the timing of our meetings but the next meeting will *most likely be the 2nd or 9th of March in the Village Hall*; – we will confirm this via social media as soon as possible.

Email: info@keintonenvironmentgroup.org.uk

Facebook: (5) Keinton Environment Group (KEG) Facebook

Keinton Mandeville Table Top Games Group

If you would like to come along for a drink and a chat or have a coffee/tea while playing table top games like Scrabble, Boggle, Rummikub, Logo, cards, chess etc then why not come along to the group which meets in KM Village Hall. We chat, drink tea and coffee and play table top games. If you would like to come along just for a coffee and a chat without playing any games then you will be made just as welcome. There is no charge as the sessions are funded by KM Parish Council. The group is open to anyone who would like to come, you don't need to live in Keinton Mandeville. **Future Dates are Wednesdays: February 11th, March 11th, April 15th, May 13th and June 10th** all between 10:00am & 12 noon. There is no need to book just come along if you can. We look forward to seeing you and the kettle will be on!

Viv Lane & Claire Harding

Save the Date – Keinton Mandeville Open Gardens

 Our last 'open gardens' in Keinton Mandeville was in 2024

 **We have booked Sunday, 21st June 2026**

 **From 1:00 pm – 5:00pm to repeat this lovely event**

So, dust off the secateurs, order the seeds, and start planning this year's display. **We would love to have 10 – 12 gardens for everyone to see.** Please don't feel they have to be pristine, in fact a messy garden is good for the wildlife. We want lots of different sized gardens which reflect the owners love for plants be they conifers, shrubs, perennials, vegetables, wildflowers or bedding plants.

So, if you have a courtyard, a vegetable plot, topiary, a wildlife corner or anything else please think about opening for this year's event. We would love to hear from you – contact details below. **All proceeds from this event will go to help maintain our ancient church.** Contacts: **Neill Thomas 01458 22361 and Debbie von Bergen 07774 784008**

Keinton Mandeville Village Hall – Can you help?

KM Village Hall wants to recruit a **Bookings Coordinator and also a Fund Raising Coordinator**, to ensure this vital village asset continues to thrive and grow. Constantly looking to improve the hall and its facilities, *plans are in place for a new kitchen – to be fitted shortly, and other upgrades are scheduled for this year.* If you think you might be able to join the hard working team that runs the hall, for the benefit of the village and wider community, please do get in touch, the team would love to hear from you at:

kmvillagehall@gmail.com



A Formal apology to our parents and our community

We feel it is only fair to apologise to the parents of Barton St David Scout Group for all the things their children have been subjected to while attending Scouts. In addition, we'd like to apologise to our communities for all the positive activities that our Scouts undertake in our villages.

First, we are sorry for the amount of fresh air they are exposed to. Time spent outdoors, sometimes in all weathers, has unfortunately resulted in muddy shoes, rosy cheeks, and children who sleep far too well afterwards. And having youngsters that are not at a loss at finding positive actions to do.

We also apologise for the exciting activities our children take part in. Learning to light fires, cook simple meals, build shelters, work as a team, and solve problems together may have led to an alarming increase in confidence and independence. We regret any inconvenience caused by the development of life skills such as resilience, responsibility, leadership, and kindness. These may present themselves unexpectedly at home or in our communities in the form of helpfulness, opinions, and a willingness to "have a go".

We must also apologise for the sense of pride our children develop in their achievements – from activity and challenge badges to the considerable accomplishment of Duke of Edinburgh's Awards. The confidence gained from setting goals, persevering, and succeeding can be hard to miss (*and even harder to dampen*).

Finally, we apologise for the friendships formed, the sense of belonging, and the pride your children feel when they achieve something they didn't think they could do. We will, of course, continue to offer these experiences – muddy clothes, big smiles, and all – and thank you for trusting us with your young people. More importantly if you would like to volunteer as an adult or enrol a child (6-18 years), just get in touch with me.

With apologies, The Leaders

Vega Sturgess, Group Lead Volunteer, Barton St David Scout Group.

gslbarton@yahoo.com

Keinton Mandeville Church Openers – February & March 2026

Should you need to swap, please could you let Emma know as well as the person due to hand the key onto you. Meanwhile, if anyone else would like to help with the locking and unlocking of the church, please call 223344.

Sunday 1 st Feb – Sunday 8 th Feb	Neill Thomas	223613
Sunday 8 th Feb – Sunday 15 th	Larry Hennessy	07777680088
Sunday 15 th Feb – Sunday 22 nd	Jo & Chris Tripp	07756314290
Sunday 22 nd Feb – Sunday 1 st Mar	John Walker	223617
Sunday 1 st Mar – Sunday 8 th	Sue Baker	223519
Sunday 8 th Mar – Sunday 15 th	Lynne Poulton	07866279447
Sunday 15 th Mar – Sunday 22 nd	Helen & Tony Gosney	224192
Sunday 22 nd Mar – Sunday 29 th	Anthea Walton	223500

Wheathill Priory Community Transport – WPCT

We are a volunteer driving service for the residents of Keinton Mandeville, Kingweston, Lydford and Barton St. David. If you are a resident of our villages, do not drive or have your own transport, or you find public transport (if it is available) difficult to access, you may be eligible to use our Community Transport Scheme for journeys up to 25 miles each way to:

- the doctor, dentist, hospital (if free transport is not available), post office, shops,
- friends or relatives (including when in hospital)
- local bus stops, bus stations or railway stations for onward journeys.

If you would like to use our Community Transport scheme please call us – 48 hours in advance – and we will do what we can to help: Contact is: **07799 487719**

Milage Rate Change – Please note that our mileage rate will increase from 45p/mile to 50p/mile from 1st February 2026. We are always interested in drivers who can spare a few hours a month to join our team. Drivers are paid 50p per mile the Government approved mileage rate for each drive undertaken. If you would like to help, please call our coordinator on the above number.

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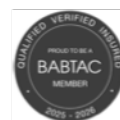
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Wheathill Priory Community Transport



Require a Volunteer Coordinator

Wheathill Priory Community Transport provides a vital service for those who are unable to access transport for journeys to the doctor, dentist, hospital etc.

We need a volunteer Coordinator whose job would be to answer the dedicated Community Transport telephone, take down the details of the transport required and contact our volunteer drivers by WhatsApp or phone to allocate jobs. Once a volunteer driver is identified, the Coordinator notifies the client, advises them of the charge for the journey and the name of their driver.

We average approximately 22 calls per month for this service which we provide to the residents of Keinton Mandeville, Kingweston, Lydford and Barton.

If you are interested or wish further information, please contact the Community Transport number **07799 487719** and leave a message. We will get back to you as soon as possible.

We know there must be someone out there who would be brilliant at this job, we just need to find you!

Lydford on Fosse Parish Hall

Lydford on Fosse Parish Hall will be busy throughout February and March with a full mix of community events. Church activities continue with another Sunday Tea and Talk, House Communion, and a PCC committee meeting. The Scrapbags textile craft group will gather on selected Thursdays, while the Royal Enfield group holds its regular monthly meet-ups. The Gardening Club has two excellent speakers lined up: West Lydford's Neal Hatch on growing dahlias, and Lindsay and Stephen Lister on attracting pollinators. Jill's Thursday evening yoga sessions continue to offer a calm end to the day, and the Pop-Ins will round off each month with their much-loved soup and chat. The 3rd Tuesday Group will also return for their first hall meeting of the year, when Jane and Jim F will share stories and photos from their travels in Antarctica.

User Events for February and March 2026

Tues 3rd	St Peter's PCC meeting	7pm	Committee Meeting
Wed 4th	Lydford House Communion	3:00pm	Quiet reflection, fellowship
Thur 5th	Scrapbags Yoga	2 - 4pm 7:00pm	Sociable Fabric/Wool Crafts Local Yoga group with Jill
Mon 9th	Royal Enfield Owners Club	7:30pm	Members and guests of Club
Tues 10th	Lydford & District Gardening Club	7:00pm	Speaker Nigel Hatch, growing Dahlias
Wed 11th	Parish Coucil Meeting	7:00pm	All welcome, Listen/join in
Thu 12th	Yoga	7:00pm	Local Yoga group with Jill
Sun 15th	St Peter's Tea and Talk	3:30pm	Neill Thomas on flying Sea Harriers in Falklands War
Mon 16th	3rd Tuesday Group Committee Meeting	7:30pm	Planning for 2026
Tues 17th	3rd Tuesday Group	7:30pm	Talk - Jane & Jim F. Open Mtg
Thu 19th	Scrapbags	2 - 4pm	Sociable Fabric/Wool Crafts
Tues 24th	Welcome & POPin Cafe	12 - 1:30pm	hot soup, a roll & catch up
Thu 26th	Yoga	7:00pm	Local Yoga group with Jill
March 2026			
Thu 5th	Scrapbags Yoga	2 - 4pm 7:00pm	Sociable Fabric/Wool Crafts Local Yoga group with Jill
Mon 9th	Royal Enfield Owners Club	7:30pm	Members and guests of Club
Tues 10th	Lydford & District Gardening Club	7:00pm	Speakers Linday & Stephen Lister, Pollinators in your Gdn
Wed 11th	Parish Coucil Meeting	7:00pm	All welcome, Listen/join in
Thu 12th	Yoga	7:00pm	Local Yoga group with Jill
Tues 17th	3rd Tuesday Group	7:30pm	To be Confirmed
Tues 19th	Scrapbags Yoga	2 - 4pm 7:00pm	Sociable Fabric/Wool Crafts Local Yoga group with Jill
Thu 24th	Welcome & POPin Cafe	12 - 1:30pm	Hot soup, a roll & catch up
Thu 26th	Yoga	7:00pm	Local Yoga group with Jill

Wheathill Benefice Choir

After the pleasure of singing the Christmas services and then enjoying the fellowship of a lovely get together at the start of January, the choir is now on the lookout for an occasional organist/s and someone to lead it, whilst Beky Kirkman takes time off to cope with moving house, having a baby and much more! We wish her, her partner Ish and son Teddy all the very best at this exciting time.

So, if you, or someone you know, might be able to offer support through playing and guiding the choir, even occasionally, please don't hesitate to get in touch with

Rachel Willcox (r.kaywillcox@gmail.com);
Claire Harding (betweenlanes@live.co.uk) or;
Rev Jane Durham (rev.jane.durham@gmail.com)

And don't forget you can hear the choir singing on their Playlist on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5IFXQGbfW00yCULm-YgHsnBXZGw54>



The Henry Livius Trust

The Livius Trust has two distinct aims: providing items, services and facilities at Keinton Mandeville Primary School; and advancing religion in accordance with the doctrines of the Church of England in the Parish of Keinton Mandeville.

The Trustees are open to any proposals that accord with the Trust's aims.

Rev. Jane Durham (01458) 223417

Deborah Whittingham (01458) 224057 Belinda Simson (01458) 223470

Saturday 14th February

A Valentine's Day Barn Dance

In

Keinton Village Hall

from 7:30pm – 10:30pm

Dancing to The Four Foot Four

Light refreshments and cash bar

Further details on the events page of
Wheathill Benefice website: <https://wheathill.org>

**Tickets £15 (to include Welcome Drink
and Ploughman's Supper)**

Available from:

Rachel Willcox 07966 873 660

Claire Harding 07881 592 815

Ralph Berry 07530 296 885

Keinton Village Stores

or any of the Benefice churchwardens



Welcome and POPin Cafe

Tuesday 24th February AND Tuesday 24th March
in Lydford Parish Hall
From 12 midday to 1:30pm

We are continuing with our soup lunches, and we're hoping the weather is kind to all of us! Doors open at 11:30am for sit down with soup at midday – and there will be the usual choice of 3 delightful soups accompanied by cheese scones, or rolls. Tea and coffee are also available.

We look forward to seeing you there and providing you with a toasty welcome.

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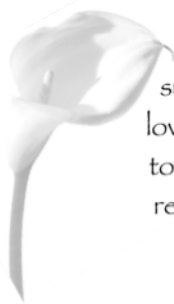


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St Peter's Church, Lydford on Fosse (Services listed on page 2)

Wassail Evening at Lydford

The Wassail Evening was a great success with over 70 attending. Many thanks to all those involved, *especially to Trevor Ryder as Master of Ceremonies and Charlie and Penny for dressing up superbly as the King and Queen, and to all those involved in the catering.* An enjoyable evening **which raised £350 towards Benefice funds.**

Tea and Talk on 18th January – There was a good turn out to listen to Dr Lucy Pollock, author of *The Book about Getting Older and The Golden Rule*, explain how we can improve the potential for all of us to age well. **£241 was raised for Age UK through donations and book sales.**

Future Dates

Next House Communion is 3:00pm on 4th February in Lydford Parish Hall

This is open to all in the Benefice and further afield. Do come and join us for a short Service of Holy Communion followed by tea and cakes, making it a social get together as well. *Should you require transport please contact Ralph Berry on 07530 296 885.* There will be another House Communion before Easter on *Wednesday, 25th March at 3:00 pm in Lydford Parish Hall.*

The next Tea and Talk is on Sunday, 15th February at 3:30 pm in Lydford Parish Hall when we welcome *Neill Thomas who is coming to give a Talk on his time in the Royal Navy during the Falklands War, especially flying Sea Harriers.* If you missed his presentation in December at the Methodist Hall, you have a second chance to hear him. We are having to carry out some work on the bells in Lydford and as Neill is a bell ringer with us, all donations received will go towards fund raising for this.

The Benefice Barn Dance is on Saint Valentine's Day on Saturday 14th February (*details page 7 of the magazine*). It is a long way off but ***we will be planting our Easter Garden again followed by an Easter Egg Hunt and refreshments at 10:30am on Easter Saturday.***

Glastonbury Food Bank – We are, together with Keinton church, *collecting for the Food Bank during February and March.* There is a box for donations in the church. **Church Opening** – For a trial period, St Peters is now open daily for visitors and private prayer.

St Peters Church Bells, West Lydford

As mentioned above we are having to carry out some maintenance and restoration work on the bells in St Peters Church West Lydford. This is going to **cost in the region of £12000.** We are applying for grants to help fund this, as well as from PCC funds and our own fund raising efforts, like the Tea and Talk mentioned above. We already have £1500 towards the cost from one very generous grant and funds the bell ringers already have.

To start with *we will be setting up a Just Giving Page in the next few weeks* which we aim to publicise at an open tower morning on 21st March.

Open Tower Morning 21st March from 10:00am to 12 noon

The tower will be open for visiting, where those who are able will be able to go up the tower to see the bells and the work we are aiming to have carried out.

You will also be able to look around the tower, pull a rope, and we will have a display of the work that needs to be carried out. Teas, Coffee and cakes will be available *Do come along if only to see how bells are rung, and have a coffee.*



Lydford Forest Gardens Workday on Saturday, 21st February 2026 – 9:30am - 12:30 pm

Lydford Forest Gardens' trustees and friends will be holding a workday in the Gardens in West Lydford between 9:30am and 12:30pm on Saturday, 21st February. At recent workdays, we expanded the herb garden, improved the seating, topped some of the fruit trees to make their harvests more accessible and undertaken lots of timely maintenance. At our forthcoming workday, we'll be getting the gardens ready for the spring with weeding, pruning and tidying, as well as re-stocking the herb garden for this year's growing season, and would welcome any volunteers to help.

If you have your own digging & gardening equipment and gloves, please feel free to bring them along. If not, don't worry, there will be spares to borrow. If you'd just like to know a bit more about our unique Forest Gardens, please visit our website at www.lydford-forest-gardens.com or come and say hello on 21st February. We look forward to seeing you there!

Lydford on Fosse Parish Council (clerk@lydfordonfosseparish.gov.uk)

The Parish Council usually meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in Lydford Parish Hall at 7:00pm. Future Meetings will be held on Wednesday, 11th February and 11th March in the Parish Hall, starting at 7:00 PM. Most meetings last for around an hour-and-a-half, and everyone is welcome to attend. Please also note **Lydford on Fosse Annual Parish Meeting** will be on **Wednesday 8th April at 7:00pm**.

Become a Parish Councillor – and maybe save a life or a home!

Lydford on Fosse Parish Council currently has 2 vacancies, and we would therefore welcome expressions of interest in filling these positions. The following article outlines what the PC does and what the role of a Parish Councillor involves.

What does the Parish Council do? –The main responsibilities of the Parish Council are: – **Looking after the interests of our Parish & its residents** – through commenting on planning applications within the Parish, and by promoting the resilience and wellbeing of the community. Currently, Lydford on Fosse PC's main priorities are:

1. **Safety** – by enhancing road safety measures and installing emergency response equipment such as Defibrillators and Bleed Kits. Just last month, one of our new defibrillators was used to help save the life of a Parishioner (though the team at the Cross Keys deserve full credit for their swift & expert actions).
 2. **Protecting homes and businesses** – by working to reduce the risk of flooding and by being ready to respond as a community when flooding does occur. But we also aim to ensure that Somerset Council's Planning Team understand the impact of proposed developments on quality of life of our residents and their implications for businesses within our Parish.
 3. **Wellbeing** – Through environmental protection, the maintenance of footpaths and by working with community groups such as the Church, the Sports Club and the Forest Gardens.
- **Holding Somerset Council to account locally** – by striving to ensure that they provide the services and support to the Lydfords that your Council Tax pays for, and that they understand our community's specific needs and interests when making decisions that affect it.
 - **Consultation & Policy Input** – by providing comment at the consultation stage on local and national policies and initiatives. For example, last year we provided input on the draft Somerset Local Plan which will set the basis on which our Parish will be developed out to 2049, the Local Transport Plan for the next 20 years.

What does a Parish Councillor do? The role is very varied, but you are always working as a team with the other members of the Council to make decisions and to look after the interests of the community. Most members have a specific role – *such as Highways, Planning, Footpaths or Communications* – this means that they usually introduce and outline any issues from their respective area to the Parish Council so that it can be discussed and any necessary decisions made collectively. The PC are also supported by an excellent Clerk who not only takes the minutes of our meetings, but also ensures that PC meetings are conducted appropriately, and that our budget is properly managed.

Who can be a Parish Councillor? Anyone who is over 18 years of age and who lives or owns a property within the Parish, or within 3 miles of its boundary. But it is worth saying that the most effective PCs thrive on having a wide range of members – from different ages, backgrounds, professions, locations and so forth. So please don't think that you are not suitably qualified or experienced – it is your experience of living in Lydford on Fosse that will make our discussions richer and better informed and our decisions for the community more representative of the breadth of its residents and businesses.

What is the commitment? If you join the Parish Council, you will become a 'Public Officer', that means that you will be representing our community's interests (and definitely not your own !). To be able to do that effectively, you need to have the time to lead and liaise on your specific portfolio, and to read any papers that are circulated ahead of PC meetings – that probably means that you need to be able to dedicate around half-a-day every month to PC business.



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What is the commitment?

Lydford on Fosse Parish Council (Continued from page 9)

You are also committing to debating all issues at PC meetings with an open mind (you may have a '**predisposition**' on a specific matter but you should not arrive at a meeting with a '**predetermined**' position) and to supporting the majority decision, once reached.

What's in it for me? The main attraction is the ability to serve the community and to positively influence its development in the future. But the PC operates in many ways like the Board of a company or charity, so it can offer valuable insights and experience which may benefit its members in their other professional and personal commitments too.

What should I do next if I am interested in joining Lydford on Fosse Parish Council?

Please just send a short email to clerk@lydfordonfosseparish.gov.uk explaining that you may be interested, and she will arrange for you to have the opportunity to talk with some current PC members and to attend a PC meeting so that you can better decide if it is something that you do want to pursue.

Your Parish needs you ! We look forward to hearing from you

Ann Parkhouse, Parish Clerk, Lydford on Fosse Parish Council

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The Walters and Pope Trust Fund (Lydford-on-Fosse)

- ❖ **HELP!** Do you know anyone in Lydford who needs help and/or support?
- ❖ It may be help with buying books for university.
- ❖ It may be help with buying tools or equipment for a new job.
- ❖ It may be support for someone who is ill, or who is caring for someone.

The Walters and Pope Trust Fund has a small annual income – the Trustees would like to spend this money, fairly and discreetly, for the benefit of anyone who lives in Lydford. If there is anyone who would like assistance, please contact the Trust in confidence: *Secretary, Caroline Seehra tel: 07926 488190*

Benefice Wassail held on Saturday, 10th January 2026

*Thank you to everyone who supported the Wassail
in Lydford on Saturday, 10th January.*

A dry, if very chilly evening made the warming cup of mulled cider on arrival extremely welcome, as did the steaming mugs of soup after what was a very cheerful and noisy event.

Huge thanks to the *Wassail King and Queen* in their wonderful costumes and to *Trevor Ryder* for leading the procession to banish any evil spirits from the apple trees!

Thanks also to Mike and Naomi Pauley for allowing the use of their orchard and to those who provided the cider, soup and rolls, to Ralph Berry and all the helpers who made it such a success.

The grand **total of £350.00** was raised for Benefice funds. Here's hoping for a bumper cider harvest in 2026!





Lydford and District Gardening Club

The morning of Tuesday 13th January 2026 dawned slowly, inauspiciously, reluctantly, damply, grey and cold. Rain clouds lowered threateningly over the sleepy chimneys and barely awake balanced flues of the Lydfords and surrounding areas. Roadside ditches were full, either because they had not been cleared since beer cost 25p per pint or due to the precipitation which had been falling incessantly for several millennia, or so it seemed. Breakfasts had begun to appear on well-scrubbed tables throughout this idyllic area of rural mid-Somerset. Healthy wholemeal toast and homemade marmalade jostled for space with bowls full of coco pops. The occasional guilty rasher of prime back-bacon sizzled in a well used frying pan along with one or two Perry's Bridge eggs. E-mails and text messages were being scanned to check on all the important things which hadn't happened overnight and thoughts gradually turned to what the day ahead might hold. A lucky few were destined for the school bus; some began the daily ritual of procrastination before they eventually headed for the home office, previously known as the back bedroom; others keenly anticipated the challenges that a full appointments diary might bring and quite a few, those who had already put in a serious shift at whatever coal-face had been their career location, settled down with another cup of coffee and the crossword. Dog walking could wait until the rain stopped and 7 across deserved some serious concentration.

If diaries were consulted, foremost amongst the entries for the day was something which did not appear until the bottom half of the page for those with posh page-a-day diaries. *Tuesday 13th January*, being the second Tuesday in the month, was *Gardening Club night*. Working backwards from c.19.00 plans could be made. The evening meal might have to be a little earlier than usual. This might have a knock-on effect on afternoon tea and biscuit time. Which might squeeze the afternoon pooch promenade, making it one lap rather than two. But these changes could be made and were worth it because the Parish Hall promised to be a haven of warmth and security amongst the mean streets of life. And so it proved.

The first meeting of the year buzzed with life and enthusiasm. Subscriptions were willingly paid, representing the best value for money since the demise of green and pink shield stamps. Membership cards were issued containing the programme for the year with details of how to access the Club website. Discount vouchers for Brimsmore garden centre were given to all and sundry as though they were going out of fashion. These were not to be taken lightly as they give 25% off the price of most goods, including all the glorious seed potatoes which have replaced the Christmas paraphernalia cluttering the shelves since August. Raffle tickets were sold, coffee drunk, biscuits eaten and the great 2026 potato growing competition was introduced. All of this before the speaker for the evening rose to her feet.

Katherine Crouch did not admit to any relationship with the tall, gangly but very talented Stoke City centre-forward, Peter, but she did know how to get and maintain the interest of a group of adults for whom 19:30hrs was dangerously close to bedtime! Katherine is a gardener from near Ham Hill with a pedigree as long as a bindweed root. She spoke about her allotment and how her cropping had developed over the years from mainstream vegetables such as carrots to more outre offerings such as Taunton Deane kale, rainbow chard, walking onions and other things that do not appear on the supermarket shelves. She offered many good ideas as to different varieties which could enliven the gardening diet and was not afraid of admitting to using industrial quantities of butter in her cooking!

Future Meetings – the next two months look promising. **February** will see *Dahlia grower extraordinaire, Neal Hatch*, give his secrets, probably not all of them because, after all, prizes are there to be won, on how to grow prize-winning varieties of those flowers. As he lives in Lydford Fairplace his travel expenses should not add too many lines to the worried frown of the Club treasurer!

And in March, providing we reach that time relatively unscathed, *Lindsay and Stephen Lister* will talk about how to attract pollinators to the garden in all seasons and presumably the answer will not be a supply of free beer!





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December 2025 Services - At 10:30 am (unless noted otherwise)

Please Check Notice Board for other Service Details

Sunday, 1st February 3:00pm Covenant Service Rev Collin Moore
Sunday, 15th February Morning Worship Rob Haskins

Covenant Service – On Sunday 1st February, Rev. Collin Moore will be leading a special service of re-dedication at 3:00pm. You are all most welcome to join us!

Memory Tree – Thank you to all those who added a decoration to the memory tree at Christmas. Once again, it was a very blustery and stormy time. Some decorations have been damaged but we have done our best to rescue and mend them. They will ALL be kept safe until Christmas 2026.

And a big *thank you to David Keady* for maintaining the lights, and ensuring the tree was safe and secure.

Talks and Supper

Thank you very much, Neill, for your talk about your experiences during the Falklands War in 1982. It was good to listen to you speak with such pride, modesty – and humour! By the time you read this we will also have heard *Steve McCullagh's* talk about his recent tours of Peru. This promises to be an exciting, illustrated evening of one of his "Top Gear type adventures around the world".

The next talk will be on Thursday, 5th March. The speaker will be *Jon Collins*, who previously spoke about the world of football. This time it will be about the time he spent in Asia. The talk has the intriguing title of 'Lion city to the land of smiles-two decades of daily life in Asia-order and chaos'. Tickets available from, Alison, Celia and Douglas.

Regular Groups – Just a reminder that: 'Knit and Natter' ladies meet on Monday afternoons from 2:00pm – 4:00pm. Everyone is welcome to join this friendly, fun and talented group, including beginners!

Toddlers – Mums, Dads and all carers get together on Tuesday mornings 10:00am -12:00 noon. This is a well equipped group, providing plenty of activities for the children and lots of fun! The grown ups are well looked after too with cups of tea and biscuits. Please pop in – you will be made very welcome.

Services in March have yet to be confirmed. Please look at the noticeboard outside the Chapel for details of dates and time of these services.

Wild Roots Growing for Wellbeing Group

Mondays 10:30 am - 1:00pm at Catsham Nr Baltonsborough. Wild Roots Growing for Wellbeing Project welcomes people who are keen to get outdoors, learn new skills, share their skills or just have the opportunity to spend some time in a peaceful environment. Our main emphasis is on horticulture and rural craft activities which take place in our large vegetable, fruit and flower growing area. Maybe you need an excuse to get out of the house or just want to dip your toe into being around other people again. Whatever it is you're looking for we can always find gardening related activities to suit your mood and energy levels on the day. We are a Covid secure site and we will be working outdoors in a socially distanced way. With two covered open sided sheltered areas and a large poly-tunnel we can cater for whatever the British weather throws at us!

If you want to find out more please contact Ursula Casey at: ursula@wilderwoods.org.

Booking is essential and spaces will be limited to keep the group small.

Central Somerset Outdoor Learning Partnership – Registered Charity Number 1151284 <https://www.facebook.com/wilderwoods.org> www.wilderwoods.org
or landline (press option 4, then option 9)



Majesty in Music – Spring Concert on Saturday, 18th April 2026. The Mid Wessex Singers present a 'royal variety' of music at 7:30pm in St Michael's Church, Somerton. Starting with the stupendous 'Zadok the Priest' and culminating in the beautiful *Coronation Mass* by Mozart, we take you on a majestic musical journey with music from Henry VIII through to modern day Rutter, Lloyd-Webber and Coldplay. **Tickets £15 on the door or £12 in advance (under 16s free)** available late March at Cobbs in Somerton or from choir members also details at www.midwessexsingers.co.uk and info@midwessexsingers.co.uk



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Street Contacts

A37 – Jeremy Spencer 07517 771852

Lydford on Fosse - Cary Road – Lali Seehra 07530 121515

East Lydford - Church Lane (A37 side) – Ian Poynter 01963 240424

Church Lane (Castle Cary side) Lynne Mitchell 07773 345092

West Lydford

South of the Brue – Ann Parkhouse 07977 260110/Mike Pauley 01963 240469

North of the Brue – Linda Foote 01963 240336

B3153 from Lydford traffic lights to boundary with Keinton Mandeville including

King o' Mill – Maggi Hollands 07816 445597

Village Contact – Lynne Mitchell 07773 345092 lydfordnhw@gmail.com

Online scams – take action to stay safe online!

Criminals are experts at using technology to commit fraud. They can spend hours researching you and will use any information they find in their scams. *They might use phishing emails, cloned websites and fake social media or dating profiles to get your information.* They can then use this information to:

- Contact you and gain your trust, then convince you to make a payment or provide access to your accounts
- Set up accounts or take out loans in your name
- Access your accounts directly to steal money

Be mindful of what you share online

- Check your online privacy settings and review what information is currently available online.
- Be mindful of what personal information you share on social media, online forums or dating apps.
- Criminals can use any information they can find online in their scams.

These are just some examples of the information criminals might use in their scams: *full name, date of birth, home address, email address, phone number, card details and bank account numbers, details of recent transactions, or sensitive documents such as bills from service providers.* Even things like *the name of your first pet or the road you first lived on*, as these could be security questions on your accounts.

Use the internet safely

- Avoid clicking on links in emails or messages. *Criminals can use these links to capture your information. Always visit an organisation's website directly from your browser.*
- Be wary of clicking on adverts from websites and social media. *Criminals create convincing adverts that take you through to fake websites to capture your information or encourage you to make a purchase.*
- Criminals can create fake websites or clone the websites of legitimate organisations.
- Check for the 'closed padlock' symbol &/or *https* at the start of a website address, the 's' stands for 'secure'. *These don't guarantee the website is legitimate or reputable, but they do mean your connection to the website is secure, so any information you enter will be encrypted.*
- Be cautious of online approaches. *Criminals create fake profiles and accounts to reach out to you on social media, apps or forums.* They might try to strike up a relationship or offer you an exclusive investment. *Keep your guard up against people who contact you online and find out more about romance scams and investment scams.*

Keep your accounts secure

- Use strong and unique passwords to protect your online accounts.
- Turn on 2-step verification to add an extra layer of security to any accounts that have your personal or financial information.
- Use antivirus software on your devices and keep your apps/software up to date.
- Don't use public Wi-Fi to access accounts that have your personal or financial information.

(Taken from the Action Fraud website.)

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Thursday 26th February 7:30pm Sam Hunt "The History of West Country Spas"

Thursday 26th March 7:30pm Canon Rev Brian Pearson "Psalms, Palms, Passion and Politics"

Thursday 23rd April 7:30pm Professor Paul Hyland "Tales of the Enlightenment in the Eighteenth Century – ideas and events that would change the world"

All welcome. Admission: Members free, Non-members £4 (cash please) at the door.

Barton St David Church

View-from-the-Pew February 2026 "Candles, Lent & Leap Year lessons"

"What's on?"

Early on 2nd February brings **Candlemas**, 40 days after Christmas, recalling Jesus' presentation in the Temple.

Did-U-Know?

Love is at the heart of February, and it's not just St Valentine's Day, but the simple, caring love we show through visits, phone calls, and helping hands.

Our vicar and volunteers regularly visit and celebrate **Holy Communion** in our village care homes, reminding everyone that they are never forgotten.

Inspiration – 'Nothing great is ever achieved without endurance.'

Fun Fact - "Candlemas" was once a time to bless all the year's candles and predict the weather. Ever heard the saying:

"If Candlemas Day be fair and bright, then winter will have another flight!

If Candlemas brings clouds and rain, Winter will not come again!"

Look out for next magazine issue 'View-from-the-Pew' and why not submit your inspirational quote or fun church-related fact to be included in future publications – to the bartonchurchtreasurer@gmail.com

Barton St David Parish Council – Planning Application

A Planning Application has been made to build **24 houses at the bottom of Jarmany Hill in Barton St David**. Whilst the Parish Council recognises and supports the need for new housing, **the location of this development is not safe for vehicles and pedestrians – it is simply wrong: next to a blind bend on a busy through road to Street, narrow road, no footpaths for residents to get to the playing fields, pub, school buses and bus stop – a dangerous place for people, and particularly children, to live.**

It would be great if residents could give your comments on the Application on the Somerset Council Planning website and, if you agree, recommend that the Application is Refused.

The Application is 25/03038/FUL and can be found at: <https://publicaccess.southsomerset.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage> This is the wrong place for 24 houses – there are safer, better locations in Barton.

Simon Jackson

Chair, Barton St David Parish Council

Wanted – Organist/Pianist

**Wheathill Benefice is made up of 4 churches –
Barton St David, Keinton Mandeville
Kingweston and Lydford on Fosse**

We hold a Service every Sunday and alternate our services across our Benefice churches. *We are in need of an Organist or Pianist to support our service's* so that we can continue to fill the churches with joy and fellowship.

If you think you might be able to help us even if it is infrequently, please contact Jo on email address enclosed:

wheathillbenefice@gmail.com

Fiona Gibson, who will be
Bishop of Taunton, 08/02/2026



Growing in Faith Together

Our extended family recently got together for a celebration. We were nine adults from 24-68, one toddler, and one dog, and it was glorious! The joy was simply in being together, whatever our age.

I sometimes wonder what would happen in the life of our churches if we could adopt the same outlook there? Each generation glad that the other is there. Each generation contributing something to the whole. Each generation looking to the interests of the others, making sure there was something that spoke to the others even if not to them.

The writer of the Chronicles records something you could miss if you weren't looking for it. In **2 Chronicles 20**, when Judah was facing attack from Ammon and Moab, King Jehoshaphat proclaimed a fast and summoned the people. This is what it says in **verse 13**: *"All Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives, and their children."*

At a time of great peril, when the king was seeking the LORD, all generations came together to pray. We often think of intergenerational meaning us older ones passing on wisdom to the younger ones, and that's certainly part of it. But a truly intergenerational family, which the church is, means all generations welcoming one another, valuing one another, learning from one another, and praying with and for one another. It's not a one-way thing. Our younger generations are ambassadors from the future, with wisdom to give us about their culture, and how to share the timeless truths of the gospel with their peers. They are leaders and learners, just as we all are.

What might it look like across our diocese if we committed to making room for other generations? What might it look like if, like the people of God in ancient times, we came together in our year of especial focus on prayer – adults, young people, and little ones – and sought the power and wisdom of God together?

I have a feeling we'd be surprised!

Bishop Fiona

Lydford Third Tuesday Group

In late **December**, a few hardy members of our group braved the cold for a pre-Christmas meet-up at The Somerset Rural Life Museum in Glastonbury. The festivities took place in the medieval stone barn which was beautifully decked out with an enormous Christmas tree. We enjoyed a fun evening with plenty of mulled cider to keep us warm and (possibly) improve the sound of our carol singing! And on one of the many rainy days in **January**, members met up for a hearty lunch and a catch up at The Cross Keys.

Next Event – "Travels in Antarctica" - A talk by Jane & Jim Frampton

Tuesday February 17th at 7:30pm in Lydford Parish Hall

Jane and Jim will be sharing stories from their journey to Antarctica, bringing to life the wildlife, landscapes, and sheer wonder of the far south. Their talk will also reflect on Ernest Shackleton's adventures and the wider *"Heroic Age of Antarctic exploration."* This will be an OPEN meeting.

Women Visitors from Lydford and surrounding villages are welcome to ALL our events usually held at 7:30pm on the third Tuesday of the month in the Parish Hall, West Lydford (unless otherwise stated). For details of this year's programme/for more information at : lydfordthirtuesday@gmail.com or take a look at our website at <https://thirtuesday.wixsite.com/thirtuesday>



Lydford Scrapbags

Are you interested in joining a group for: ...

Sewing, quilting, dressmaking or embroidery; also you could do knitting crochet macramé bobbin lace etc.?

We meet in the Parish Hall, West Lydford, on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month between 2:00pm – 4:00pm

For which we all pay a small fee. My contact details are:

Phone: 01963 240435 or 07484 612828 Email: annefleming1@btinternet.com

Anne Fleming



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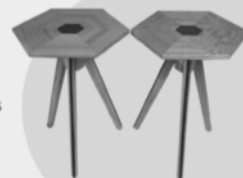


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Pilates

Monday at

Keinton Mandeville Village Hall

09:15am – 10:15am (Intermediate)

10:30am – 11:30am (Beginners)

Private session 1 to 1 also available

Contact **Mo** for details on:

07815748518

mospilates@yahoo.com



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Keinton Mandeville WI

At the 1st meeting of the New Year we welcomed **Jane** - a **First Responder** who gave an excellent demonstration of how 'Bystanders can be Lifesavers'- showing that we can all make a difference by learning about/being confident with CPR and defibrillator techniques.

Our first of Annual Joint Meetings with Long Sutton WI, is on **19th February**, featuring **Liam O'Farrell**, an artist who has exhibited at the Royal Academy. He will very kindly donate one of his original watercolours to raffle, to be won by one of our lucky ladies. On **19th March** we will hear from **Bel Deering** (Somerset Rivers Authority) about Somerset's unique landscape, cause and prevention of flooding and flood management. We are always delighted to welcome new members and visitors to our meetings. You are very welcome to come along too - we look forward to seeing you! Please contact Sarah at: commsskmwi@gmail.com



Keinton Mandeville Meet Up

(includes surrounding villages)



We guarantee a warm welcome for **Carers, the Cared for** and anyone who would benefit from getting together for fun, company, information on hot topics - Fraud, Fire Prevention etc. and availability of local support.

We welcome attendees suggesting ideas for future speakers/topics. Everything is free including refreshments.

Where: Keinton Mandeville Village Hall TA11 6ES.

When: First Wednesday of the Month **Time** - 11:0am to 12:30pm.

For further information contact: jane.carers@outlook.com.

Knit & Natter, Keinton Mandeville

At Knit and Natter, we are always happy to receive donations of wool which are used for community projects.

New members are always welcome to come along and join us. We meet Monday afternoons 2:00 - 4:00 p.m in the Methodist Church rooms.

For further details please contact Emma Stevens 01458 223344

Fosseway Entertainers AGM – 19th February 2026

The Fosseway Entertainers will hold their *Annual General Meeting in the Cross Keys' Function Room from 7:00pm on Thursday, 19th February.*

All current members are invited to attend, as is anyone who is interested in joining the team. We are always keen to attract new talent, and not just those that tread the boards, but also backstage and those willing to help with advertising, ticket sales and running the committee.

At this year's AGM, as well as the regular agenda items, we will discuss potential productions for the coming year.

After the meeting, **there will be a shared supper of sausage and chips while we enjoy the opportunity to watch a video re-run of our latest production, "Who killed the Headmaster!"** on the big(gish) screen.



Our Parish Magazine is Produced by the Wheathill Benefice Parochial Church Council and printed by Snell Print

The Parish Magazine continues in printed form but is also be available on the Benefice Website: wheathill.org plus linked via kingweston.net and lydfordonfosse.co.uk and bartonstdavidparish.gov.uk Copies are also emailed to contacts on Facebook.

We continue to deliver a free copy to every house in the villages of Barton St David, Keinton Mandeville, Kingweston, Lydford on Fosse and Wheathill by our much valued volunteers. *"Whilst the Benefice includes advertisements within the magazine this does not mean their endorsement or otherwise of any of the contractors/advertisers, however please do let any business you may use from the adverts, know that you found them in the Wheathill Benefice Parish Magazine".*