

FROM ST PETER'S WILLITON

Imagine a village church. As you stand in the porch you can hear voices – it is a group of pensioners crowded round a table, chatting over coffee and cake. Younger voices can be heard on the other side of the church – it's a group of pre-school children with their parents and carers. In a quiet corner, a small group is planning a schools visit during Holy Week – who is going to staff the Garden of Gethsemane this year?

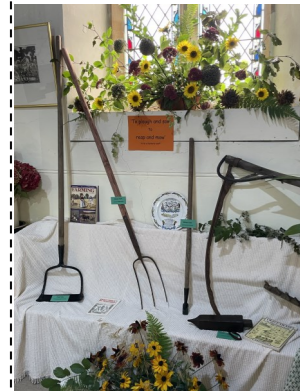
All these things happen in St Peter's, though not all at once! But our vision for the church is much bigger. Our village is growing; 350 new homes are soon to be built, and the new people will need ways to integrate into our community. In this Magnificat parish, we know already of poverty and social isolation, we know the need for a place where people of all ages can enjoy friendship, where they can find both practical and spiritual help. We long to share in God's work of lifting up the lowly and filling the hungry with good things. We have the vision, and we are committed to making it a reality – BUT...

We are waging war on dry rot. Before we can reorder our building to make it usable for all the people we want to invite in, we need to starve our enemy of its water by fixing the roof. Then we need to remove the softwood floorboards on which it feeds. We are working with the Diocese to find ways of funding the urgent work, so that we can go ahead with grant applications that will enable us to provide the kind of space this village needs.

We are on the edge of the Diocese. But perhaps next time you drive through Williton on your way to the coast or to Exmoor, do a small detour and visit our church – it is open during the day. Enjoy its peace and beauty, and with us imagine its future.



Harvest Celebration at Stringston Church



This Harvest weekend, the church was decorated not only with a wonderful array of floral arrangements, but also some interesting harvest artefacts. There were also refreshments on hand to enjoy as we looked at the displays. The weekend ended with a Harvest Songs of Praise. Donations raised over £450 for church funds. With a huge thank you everyone who made the superb weekend possible.

Save the date...

The launch service of the Deanery Mission Project 2025 is Sunday 26th January 2025 at 3pm in Nether Stowey Church Centre.

This year the Deanery is raising money for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. Steve Atkinson from Cannington is leading on this project. Please do make contact with him if you are planning a fund raising event: steveatkinson@uwclub.net or his telephone number: 07747 127334

Save the date...

The second Deanery Quiet Day is in the planning... It is set for Tuesday 13th May 2025 from 10am to 4pm, at Hill House Christian Conference Centre, Otterhampton, to be led by Revd. Preb. Alastair Wallace. Further information to follow; please save the date.



Enquires about any article or organisation featured here should be made to kate.kinkiizi@gmail.com or phone 01278 671168

Contributions for next issue should be submitted by the last Friday of February please to Kate.



Quantock Good News!

Autumn 2024

Stories of faith in action from around Quantock Deanery

NEWS UPDATE

THE QUANTOCK FOOD PANTRY

SERVING STOGURSEY AND NETHER STOWEY FOR OVER FOUR MONTHS



NOW IN WILLITON



The service to Williton began on Wednesday 24 July 2024 in time for the school holidays, when mums with children in tow no longer had to make the trip to Watchet.

It has been good to welcome the Pantry and its team to Nether Stowey on a Tuesday. They are also able to take our food collection back with them to Watchet which is a great help to us. As Christmas approaches, if you would like to leave a donation at Nether Stowey Church Centre on a Monday morning or any week day between 9:00am and 11:00am, we know it would be appreciated and we'll pass it on to the van. The last date for Christmas goodies is Monday 16th December.

SPAXTON'S FIRST DOG SHOW (IN RECENT YEARS)

Yes! And what a success it was, enjoyed by adults, children and – of course – dogs (nearly 20 of them). It turned out to be a glorious day on the last Saturday afternoon of August.

The show was held in the green spaces of the Church car park area and, with the church open for the loo and a look around, the venue proved to be very convenient and attractive with the sun shining down on us all. Two retired local vets were the judges and the organisation was shared with other helpers, many of whom themselves dog owners.

Of the seven classes the most popular proved to be Best Child Handler, Golden Oldie, Obedience, Best Trick and Dog most like its Owner. The show ended with a grand parade at which the spectators were invited to be the judges; everyone went home with at least one rosette!

We hope to run this event again and, even at this early stage, if you would like to come on board with the team and be involved with new ideas for next year please get in touch with either Kate Sax or Sarah Upfield.

Some beautiful photographs were taken by Quantock Photography and here's a selection below. More images can be obtained from Quantock Photography.



A REFLECTION ON THE WAVE OF PRAYER ON SATURDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2024

FROM SHEILA GELL, LAY ASSISTANT IN BICKNOLLER

I went by invitation to the 2nd venue, St Francis of Assisi in the middle of a housing estate in Bridgwater. It was a peaceful, informal, inspiring and communicative experience. We had a warm welcome, with the clergy visible but merging in with everyone. It was well attended. There were lots of thought provoking display tables and opportunities to add prayers. The church had been preparing for months to support the Archbishop of Canterbury and his team in *The Wave of Prayer* mission. The



hospitality was generous with laden tables and such a good team of ladies serving, so no queueing. It was a very interesting and informative way of spending a Saturday morning and it helped me think about ways of transforming our village communities through a deepening of prayer. Before arriving at St Francis, the Archbishop attended the Old Cattle Market in Bridgwater (see photo). I was very

pleased to be introduced to Archbishop Justin Welby, by our retired Bishop, Nigel.

A LOCAL WELCOME OF REVEREND NICKY MORGAN AT A VERY SPECIAL SERVICE ON 15TH SEPTEMBER AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY GHOST, CROWCOMBE AS RECTOR OF QUANTOCK TOWERS BENEFICE WITH THE RT REVD MICHAEL BEASLEY, BISHOP OF BATH AND WELLS.



The benefice service in September was rather different as we finally formally welcomed Nicky as Rector of our benefice, now all the legalities had been completed, and we also welcomed the new parishes of East and West Quantoxhead to the new enlarged Quantock Towers Benefice.

Bishop Michael was invited to lead the service, and he gave the formal welcome to Nicky as our Rector. Representatives from the school, councillors and the Quantock Foodbank offered their own words of greeting and former parishioners wished her well.

All the parishes contributed to the service and the singing was led by Stogumber choir with Christopher as organist and choir master.

The sun shone and there was a very warm and friendly feeling in Crowcombe church that morning. In the congregation were some who had helped the "old" QTB during the period of vacancy and representatives from the wider community.

After the service many went across to the Church House where there were delicious refreshments to be had, and Bishop Michael spent quite some time chatting to all. Many took the opportunity to catch up with folks they had not seen for a while.

With thanks to all who contributed to make the service so special, and it was good to have people from all 8 parishes present. Particular thanks to Geoffrey who had had a very busy week of weddings in the church prior to this service! We have received a lot of lovely comments about the service from those who attended.

There has been a lot of change over the last couple of years and much work behind the scenes to become the "new" QTB. We have already seen that Nicky has been working very hard in the benefice before all became official and, along with a house move, it has been a great period of change for her. It was good to at last to recognise and celebrate all that in such a lovely service. Now we can say at last Welcome Nicky, to the new QTB.