

MOMSS MAGAZINE

This edition of the MOMSS magazine has been sponsored anonymously so that it can continue to be delivered free of charge to each home in our villages. We are very grateful to our sponsor.



Visit of American Choir 2011 – Drawing by Anne Farmer

MARCH 2024

News & Views for our MOMSS villages of
Middlezoy, Othery, Moorlinch, Stawell,
Sutton Mallet and Greinton

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MOMSS MAGAZINE

This publication is hand delivered
FREE to over 1,040 homes within the
villages in the United Benefice:
**Middlezoy, Othery, Moorlinch,
Stawell, Sutton Mallet & Greinton**

It can also be found at:
www.middlezoyvillagehall.org.uk
and www.stawellvillage.info and
www.achurchnearyou.com/Othery page

MOMSS is issued 11 times a year (there is a joint December/January issue) and is designed as a Community Magazine. It is produced by volunteers, with the authority of the United Benefice Churchwardens, for the villagers' benefit.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Committee: Richard Graham, Anita Winslade, Jane Stryker, Isobel Davis

Editor this month: Anita Winslade

Compiler this month: Jane Stryker

NEWS ARTICLES

We regret we cannot guarantee inclusion of articles or photographs and may need to edit copy due to space limitations.

Submitting articles: Copy preferred in Microsoft Word format.

Email to momssgeditor@live.co.uk
300 word limit please.

Submit handwritten copy via one of the members of the committee if you are unable to find someone to help you transfer it to email. We cannot guarantee its accurate inclusion.

Submitting photos or artwork:

also momssgeditor@live.co.uk

We gladly accept news and views from all groups or individuals, however, the Committee has overriding editorial control. We cannot accept liability for loss or damage arising from any error, inaccuracies or omission from any copy or advertising. The views expressed in the magazine are not necessarily those of the United Benefice, the Editorial teams or

the publisher.

MOMSS Publishing House Style

Articles submitted to the magazine are put into MOMSS house style. This uses Gill Sans 10pt for general text with Gill Sans bold 10pt for sub-headings. Arial Black 10pt is used for main headings. Example of our date format is '25 December' – the st, rd, th are only used after dates with no month alongside. There is no need to insert year unless referring to year ahead. We use a 12 hour time format eg '5.30pm'. Italics, bold or underlining will not be included.

Advertising costs

Quarter Page: (A7 size):

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Six editions £95; Annual £175.

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Six editions £190; Annual £350.

For further pricing information and technical details phone

Jane Stryker Tel: 01458 210661

E-mail momssgadvert@live.co.uk

Please note: Copy and payment for adverts must be received by 12th of the month (see date of deadlines on this page).

Advertising space is limited. We cannot guarantee single adverts will be accepted for publication.

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**This magazine is edition
number 2 of volume 21**

**DON'T FORGET !
April edition deadlines:
Adverts 12 March
Articles 15 March**

FROM THE EDITOR

Another wet and windy month has flown by but this year February was an extra day longer as 2024 is a Leap Year! I wonder how many gentlemen popped the question on the 14th (St. Valentine's day) or ladies on the 29th? Our churches and chapels are ready and waiting for weddings and baptisms all year round.

Much has been enjoyed in our villages during February with the special highlight of the weekend visit by St Peter's Choir from Geneva, New York. Reports of this and other events are spread throughout this month's edition.

March is now upon us and we hope for better weather because spring has arrived bringing forth blossoms and flowers and bright coloured birds. We are emerging from the darkness and chill of winter, Nature displays longed-for brightness, we all feel encouraged and expectant of the warmer days ahead which will bring comfortable weather and hopes of a glorious Easter at the end of March and a lovely summer from June onwards. A date for your diary – the 31st, which is also Easter Sunday. British Summertime begins and clocks go forward one hour!



31 March

In the magazine this month you can explore all our articles and adverts, take advice, take part in activities, volunteer to help others, share in the friendliness and neighbourliness that all our 6 villages can offer – or just relax knowing you are 'in a good place' and can call on people for help or companionship if you want or need to.

If you see any 'Mad March Hares' around send us a photo to put in the April edition!

Anita Winslade, Editor

01823 698368

FROM THE VICAR



I heard a conversation the other day in which someone asked a very interesting question: "Why does a society that identifies itself as predominantly not Christian anymore, still celebrate Easter? Why is that?" Another person jokingly replied, "We all love a holiday!"

However, the other person present, after some consideration, answered, "For me, it would still be special if it weren't a holiday ... I suppose, growing up we all have issues and I have always had issues about shame and feeling ashamed, and never being quite sure whether you have done enough,

whether you were acceptable enough. But Easter tells this beautiful story of this man who is not ashamed of me. So even if there were no holiday, Easter is exceedingly precious, and it's important that we still remember Easter and the events of Easter."

While the historical facts are that Jesus was betrayed, died on a cross and rose again, appearing to eyewitnesses on the third day, this event is highly personally significant for all of us. The writers of the New Testament explain that by taking our sins that separate us from God upon himself and freely offering us forgiveness, Jesus has opened the door for us to have direct access to God. This abundant life that he alone unlocks, is filled with the riches

of his love and grace. Behind that door is an unimaginable world of hope and possibilities, a little like Lucy's experience as it is described in the book 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe', when she walks through the wardrobe and into the magical world of Narnia. Here she discovers, like the writers of the New Testament, the answers to the deep questions we all have about who we really are and what our purpose in life is. Easter is the cross-shaped key that unlocks life. Jesus Christ invites us all to come and discover these answers and the unending possibilities for ourselves. He says to all of us who are heavy laden, those of us carrying heavy burdens that weigh us down, to come to Him and He will give us rest. He invites all who are thirsty for real life to come to His living waters and be refreshed; to those of us who are sick, sad or sorrowful to come and receive His love, comfort and support.

"Easter is not just a holiday. It is actually a living thing in Jesus. He is not just a figure locked up in history. He comes to people all the time and brings the reality of what He has done for us all those years ago, to people's lives and hearts."*

So I'd invite you to stop standing at the door looking through the keyhole; and instead, to knock, walk through, and discover the wonders for yourself!

Wishing you all a wonderful Easter filled with all the blessings of Christ.

Reverend Andrea Harwood.

**messagesofhope.org.au*

MIDDLEZOY AND OTHERY SCHOOLS

January left as quickly as it arrived and there has been so much to do and celebrate at our Schools. We have had sporting successes in football, basketball and hockey. Huge congratulations to all the children who took part and a special mention to Mason, Ellis and Tommy - the aptly named basketball 'A team!' who won the competition and brought back a shield.

Our PTA continue to support the school incredibly well. The School Council met earlier this month and have worked collaboratively with our PTA to organise additional playtime games and equipment. In addition, the children have chosen a games-topped picnic bench for the playground at Othery. The playground will have its markings added as soon as the weather permits. All these projects have been funded through the money raised by the PTA.

Our children in Phoenix class have been on a trip to the Tutankhamun exhibition in Dorchester and Unicorns Class went to The Somerset Rural Life Museum. Both trips enriched the children's learning in history.

Start Small, Dream Big—"Raising aspirations, broadening horizons for all!"

Our Start Small, Dream Big project is off to a very positive start. All children have had a chance to share their ambitions for the future, with many ideas including marine biologists, pilots, mechanics, teachers, gymnasts and even a butterfly and a fairy for two of the Unicorns!

We were delighted to welcome Mr Vinnie Maisey into school to speak with the children about his work at Bridgwater and Taunton College. The children really enjoyed the chance to hear about the opportunities that are available to them and the links between career aspirations and subjects we learn in school. Thank you to Mr Maisey for taking the time to come in and visit us.

Further visitors are set to come and work alongside us including: a local make-up artist, our PCSO, Georgia Coles, a London Fire Officer, a pilot and member of cabin crew. If you are willing to come in and speak to the children about your career, either as a whole or in smaller groups, please do let me know.

Mrs Lindsay Hayward, Headteacher

SKY AT NIGHT

Sky Diary

March 2024

Sunrise Sunset

Beginning March 6.53am-5.53pm **End of March** 6.46am-7.43pm

Moon Phases

Last Quarter 3rd / New Moon 10th / First Quarter 17th / Full Moon 25th

Planets

Venus, Saturn and Mars are all lost in the Sun's glare this month with the only bright planet visible being Jupiter in the evening sky which sets around 10.30pm.

Constellation

Leo the Lion rules the night now, to find it look high in the south for stars forming the shape of a backward facing question mark with a bright blue/white star at the bottom this is the lion's head and mane. This star Regulus is the brightest in the constellation and represents the lion's heart.



Leo is one of the few constellations which actually looks like its name in fact all the stars look rather like one of the lions at the foot of Nelson's column in London.

Phenomena

The spring equinox when day and night are of equal length is on 20 March. At 1am on the morning of 31 March British Summer Time begins and we put our clocks forward by 1 hour.

Paul Adamson 01823698156

SOMERSET LEVELS STARGAZERS

Our March meeting is on Wednesday 27th 7.30pm in Othery Village Hall TA7 0QU and is also available on Zoom. This month club members Richard and Sue Horsham will be taking a new look at our solar system: this is along with our usual night sky guide and astronomy news. Admission is £3 with membership available. Free tea and coffee are also provided.

For more details please contact somersetlevelsstargazers@hotmail.com

Follow us on Facebook

Paul Adamson 01823 698156

FARM DIARY

This is written for non-farmers who live surrounded by farmland.

In the field. The excessive rainfall continues. We did redrill about two acres of winter wheat that had succumbed to poor drainage but too much rain again followed; so it was not a great success. If only farmers knew the weather that was coming it would be easier to make decisions. A small dressing of nitrogen (urea) was put on the oil seed rape and triticale early last month. Our GPS guided tractor uses a base station in a village about five miles away and the repeatability (i.e. the repeatable accuracy) is so good we do not need to put in tramlines with the drill any more. We may well still do so though. As gardeners know, the grass has been growing for nearly four weeks now which is keeping the sheep happy.

According to our vet, who doubles as our nutritionist, the pregnant sheep can be grazed very tightly until four weeks prior to lambing as there needs are minimal until then.

Wool. Another farmer was lamenting the low price for fleeces from her shorn sheep. She burnt them. It was not worth the transport to sell them. This has been reported by this farmer last year. The story is repeated because if we are concerned about continued use of mineral oil then stop wearing man made jumpers and other clothes. Replace them with woollen or natural products and we all gain. Lots of people making small changes has an effect.

Vegan diets. This author and producer of farmed meat is very happy for people to use a vegan diet. However, the *push* for vegan diets for us all is based on bad data a recent report claims. Madeleine Ross of the Daily Telegraph of 5th February 2024 wrote about the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study that was published in 2020. It found nearly 900,000 deaths world wide in 2019 were caused by the consumption of red meat. This made it the fifth leading dietary risk factor. The study underestimated the importance of it being easier for bodies to take in proteins and micro-nutrients from meat than from plant-based food. Unprocessed red meat delivers most of the vitamin B12 in human diets and has a major role in delivering other minerals. Red meat can be part of a balanced diet. Prof. Alice Stanton of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland said this report is having a huge influence on policy-makers but some of the recommended diets would cause nutritional deficiencies especially in the young and the elderly. Collaborators of the GBD report have confirmed the error and agreed to amend future reports.

Richard Graham

WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION

The next meeting of the Somerset Western Front Association will take place in Othery Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 13 March. The speaker this month is Darren Berry talking about 'Women in the Great War.' Darren will look at some of the roles that women undertook in the Great War which they would not have normally been considered for or by convention allowed to do.

WFA and non-members alike are equally welcome. We ask for a modest £5 donation on the door to defray some of our costs. Entry will include a free tea or coffee and entry into our raffle.

Should you wish to bring your own drinks, please feel free to do so.

Pat Adamson, Secretary, Somerset Branch WFA 01823 698156

THE WI - MORE THAN JAM AND JERUSALEM

Today's Women Working For Tomorrow's World

There are talks, activities and events for every woman, single or wed. You can have a bit of fun, make friends, try a new hobby or just explore a new venue. Whichever WI you attend you can be sure of a warm welcome.

WIs near us

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Ashcott and Pedwell | 7.30pm | Third Thursday | Ashcott Village Hall, TA7 9PZ. |
| Shapwick Starlets | 7.30pm | Second Tuesday | Village Hall, Station Road, TA7 9NJ. |
| Westonzoyland | 7.15pm | Second Wednesday | Village Hall Cheer Lane TA7 0EZ |

Local times can vary so it is best to contact to Somerset Federation before attending for the first time 01278 287034.

Westonzoyland WI

Our March meeting on Wednesday 13th will feature a talk on 'Islands of the Bristol Channel' a journey from Burnham on Sea to Breaan seafront, over Steep Holm and Flat Holm islands to fishing off Lundy.

So, if you fancy a night out with the girls, come and meet us. We welcome you.

Should you want any further information please email: zoywisec@gmail.com or call Gill Wilkinson, Secretary, on 01823 698429

Gill Wilkinson

MUSIC ON THE LEVELS

Free Concert Sunday 24 March at 3pm

St Mary's Church, Main Road, Westonzoyland, TA7 0EP.

The Wildwood Jack Duo

A welcome return of this unique acoustic guitar and ukulele duo from Kent. Having sold their home in 2013 to hit the road and tour the world they bring an intimate, heart-warming and adventurous spirit to their music, taking their audiences on a musical journey filled with songs inspired by their travels.

Their albums *Liberty Ship* (2018) and *Many More Ways Than One* (2020) expertly blend the genres of folk with Americana, Bluegrass and world music.

This will be the fifth time they have performed at Music on the Levels.

Refreshments are available at a modest charge from 2.15 pm until the start of the performance. In order to help with the artists' and other costs a raffle is held. In addition, donations are encouraged. It costs around £400 to put on a concert.

Up to now we've never exceeded the church's capacity and never had to turn anyone away, BUT please note, seats are available on a first come, first served basis. From time to time, you may need to *budge-up!*

Any further information

Frank Challenger 01278 699071 email: f.challenger@icloud.com





VISIT OF ST PETER'S CHOIR - 17/18/19 FEBRUARY

On Saturday 17 February the Senior Youth Community Choir of St Peter's Episcopal church, Geneva, New York State, and their chaperones arrived at Moorlinch for their 7th visit since the first one in 1999. After an English Cream Tea and a quick rehearsal they changed into their outfits and performed an enchanting and delightful concert of traditional songs and songs from the shows in St Mary's church. There were several superb solo performances. Afterwards the Choristers went with their hosts to their temporary homes and the chaperones went to Mullions Hotel in Street.

On Sunday 18th at 10am all the choristers, chaperones, host families and benefice worshippers attended St Michael's church, Othery, where a Family Communion service was held, led by our vicar Rev. Andrea Harwood. Mrs Sue Adams delivered the Old Testament reading and Rev Jim Adams (both of Geneva USA) gave the sermon, on the theme of friendship and neighbourliness. Immediately after the service a copious finger buffet for everyone was partaken in Othery Village Hall before the choristers departed on their coach for an afternoon in Bath.

In the evening the choristers and chaperones returned from Bath and joined the benefice residents in Stawell Village Hall for an enormous pot luck supper. The meal was followed by





a period of songs and entertainments before the choristers returned to their host families for the night.

As Father Adams is retiring this year, after 41 years as an ordained minister, he was presented with an original painting by local artist Anne Farmer. (See front cover)

As a token of thanks Jane was presented with a plant which represented all the United Benefice.

On the following morning the choristers, chaperones and Rev Jim and Mrs Sue Adams bade sad farewells to the host families and benefice residents and expressions of good will and best wishes for the future were exchanged by everyone present.

United Benefice Team

THANK YOU!

A weekend like the one for the visit of the American Choir only happens because of the amazing people in this Benefice and beyond....like Bridgwater.

So a big thank you to:

Those who welcomed and those who hosted
Those who baked, boiled, stewed and roasted
Those who filled kettles so tea could be brewed
Those who served drinks and masses of food
Those who set up and those who took down
Those who were needed and were always around
Those who did cleaning, scrubbing and brushing
Those who made sure all the toilets were flushing
Those who handled a great deal of baggage
Those who made salads and shredded the cabbage
Those who set up microphones, floodlights or amps
Those who were our wonderful washing up champs
Those who dealt diligently with safeguarding issues
Those who when needed provided the tissues
Those who created true masterpieces
Those who presented them to Father Jim of St Peter's
Those who came to listen and those who came to sing
*Those who in fact did..... absolutely **ANYTHING!***



MOORLINCH VILLAGE NEWS

PIE AND RACE NIGHT

Saturday 16 March 7pm-10.30pm

Join us for an enjoyable night of horse and dog racing accompanied by delicious pies and desserts at Moorlinch Hall.

Price of £15 includes entry and food. Please BYO drinks. Race tickets are £1/animal/race. Contact MGNCS on moorlinchgnc@aol.com to book your tickets. Places are limited.

Organised by MGNCS



STAWELL & SUTTON MALLET VILLAGE NEWS

Information is available on the website www.stawellvillage.info

ST FRANCIS CHURCH EASTER BINGO

Prize Easter Bingo will be on Saturday 23 March, 7pm, eyes down 7-30pm, at Stawell and Sutton Mallet Village Hall. As in previous years, we are requesting donations of prizes which can be brought to Ruth Peberdy, Old School, Stawell. If for any reason you are unable to do that, do contact me on 01278 722914 and I will collect. Come along for an evening of fun. Seasonal refreshments will be available. All proceeds to St. Francis Church Stawell.



LENT LUNCH

The date of our Lent Lunch is Saturday 2 March, at Stawell Village Hall, from 12 midday until 2pm.

This year, the proceeds will be donated to the charity 'Hearing Dogs for Deaf People'. The newest resident of Stawell is Dennis, a hearing dog who has a home with Janet and Phil Dodwell. Dennis is now a fully-fledged hearing dog having graduated recently.

He will be our special guest at the Lent Lunch. Do come along and meet him. We will be serving delicious home-made soup with fresh crusty bread. All donations given for Dennis' charity will be gratefully received.



Hearing Dogs
for Deaf People

COFFEE MORNING

Coffee morning will be held on Saturday 30 March at Di and Chris Brown's Ivy cottage from 10am till 12 noon. All welcome.

Stawell Church Committee

STAWELL OPEN GARDENS AND SCULPTURE WALK

Plans are well in hand with a joint venture between St Francis Church and Stawell and Sutton Mallet Village Hall.

Stawell Open Gardens and Sculpture Walk will take place on Saturday 13 July from 11am to 5pm and Sunday 14 July from 2pm to 5pm.

If you would like to open your garden then let us know by emailing stawellandsuttonmalletvhc@gmail.com by Sunday 31 March, please.

Stawell & Sutton Mallet VH Com & Stawell Church Committee

GREINTON VILLAGE NEWS

VILLAGE EVENTS

On 22nd January, a meeting was held in the Village Hall to discuss options for the future of the church in Greinton. The general consensus of those who attended was that we would like the church building to continue as a place of Christian worship. We would be very happy to see it used for alternative purposes as well but it is difficult to see what might be viable. There are people prepared to join the Parochial Church Council to help bolster the management of the building but there was also a general wariness regarding the structural condition of the building.

We agreed to go ahead with a Quinquennial Review (5-yearly structural survey by a church architect) to establish how much work is required to keep our Grade I listed church safe and useable.

We also agreed that the number of people who attended was not fully representative of the whole village, which is why we sent out the short questionnaire that Greinton residents received with February's MOMSS Magazine. Once we have collected these, we will have a better idea of what your views are.

Later the same week, we had a visit from the Community Engagement Representative for Somerset Council. We walked her around the village and showed her the various flooding hotspots and what we perceive to be the principal causes of flooding in the village: excessive run off from the agricultural land on the north side of the A361 and insufficient capacity of the road drains, exacerbated by frequent

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blockages of those drains. The council rep listened carefully and promised to chase up more frequent drain clearance for us (and especially those that were missed last time) but also to investigate ways of mitigating the problem more permanently. This is likely to require specialist expertise, which may take some time to arrange.

On the first Saturday in February, the Village Hall held its annual Quiz Night. A well-attended evening was enjoyed by all and we raised £180 for village hall funds. Many thanks to everyone who supported the event in any way.

The next event in the Village Hall is Mouse Racing on Saturday 16 March. This is always a popular and exciting evening and Denzil and Terry have promised that the competitors will be fully fit and raring to go. Entry is free and there is a cash bar, so come along and back a winner or two. Doors open at 7pm.

Toby Crispin



MIDDLEZOY VILLAGE NEWS

LEVELS METHODISTS CHURCH NEWS

Thank You

Grateful thanks to the Othery Youth Club for the passing on of their Circus Skills equipment to the Middlezoy Churches united work with families.. we look forward to using them with our families days.

'The Peekaboo Gang!'

The Peekaboo Gang babies and toddler group got off to a promising start in February, with some really lovely comments from the ladies and happy faces from the children! Do come along on a Friday morning after 9.30 to share the fun! (Photo of the chapel set out ready).



Services during March at the Methodist Church:

Sunday 24 March, Holy Communion at 6.30pm led by Reverend Deborah Kirk.

In March we shall be offering a one hour reflection space at 2.30pm on Good Friday in the Methodist Church, in addition to our usual Sunday services. We look forward to seeing you there.

Also in March we are delighted to be the venue for Tally and Brad's wedding, and we pray God's richest blessings on them and their family for their life together.

Booking the Methodist Church for your events:

Don't forget that the Chapel space and Back Room are available to hire. There is a booking form on the website <https://middlezoychapeluk.wordpress.com/bookings> or contact Jill Darby, jilldrb@gmail.com 01823 698000

Revd Deborah Kirk, Minister deborah.m.kirk@gmail.com 01823 334854

Ildiko Haraszti Minister-in-Training

MIDDLEZOY COMMUNITY PROJECT

At the January meeting Ann Lipscombe who had been Chair of the MCP for several years decided for personal reasons to step down. I was asked as chair of the Parish Council to stand in as Interim Chair until the AGM in July at which point a new Chair will be voted in. I would just like to say thank you to Ann for all the hard work and dedication she has put in over the years.

Once again, our bar has been extremely busy giving us an excellent venue on a Friday night for the village. And once again I would like to thank all the volunteers who make this possible.

We have 'Fancy Fish and Chips' every other Friday also 'Oggy Oggy Pasties' and 'Country Bumpkins' once every four weeks in between 'Fancy Fish and Chips'. Look on the Facebook page to see who will be turning up. This does go down extremely well within the village.

We have a number of events coming up - the biggest one being on 6 July, the Village Fete which looks as if it's going to be a spectacular event. Over the coming weeks more details will be posted on the Facebook page. *Paul Baker, Interim Chairperson, MCP*

STICKY CHURCH



Family Filled Fun - Easter

'Sticky Church' is happening again in April. This will be an interactive exciting afternoon for children and young people.

The session will consist of fun activities based around 'Easter and Spring time'

When: Tuesday 2 April 2024 **Time:** 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Theme: Spring Time/Easter **Who:** Children of all ages welcome

Where: Holy Cross Church, Middlezoy

If you require more information please contact Sarah sarah@blaketraining.co.uk or visit us on Facebook

Pauline Davies and Sarah Blake

MOUSE RACES!

(Live mice running along miniature courses)

IN AID OF ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, OTHERY



Saturday 23rd March 2024

from 6.30pm

in

Othery Village Hall

Families Welcome, Admission Free!

Hot Supper purchases from 6.30pm (until Sold Out)

Bar available

'Owner' auctions, Betting and Races from 7pm

Cash Prizes!

Further details from 01823 698368

OTHERY VILLAGE NEWS

OTHERY CHURCH - MOUSE RACES

On Saturday 23 March from 6.30pm onwards you are invited to come along to Othery Village Hall and enjoy an exciting and fun filled night of mice racing along a series of self-contained lanes in 8 small 'Races'!

Entry to the hall is free and a hot food supper will be on sale from 6.30pm and a Bar also available throughout the event.

Auctions of temporary ownership of racing mice 'Competitors' - the owners of the winning mice get cash prizes as do the successful backers - and a cash tote betting system will continue throughout the evening.

Back your choice of mouse, be a lucky winner and win £s but remember you have to be there to win prizes so come along and enjoy the thrill of urging your chosen mouse on!

All profits from the evening will be added to the Othery Street Fayre funds.

Othery Street Fayre Committee

OTHERY BOOK GROUP

'The Railway Navvies' by Terry Coleman

(First published in 1956)

The author now age 93 years has an impressive career in international journalism and producing non-fiction studies. He interviewed 8 Prime Ministers in his career.

This book is the story of men who built railways, unknown labourers of the nineteenth century, who blasted, drank and worked their way across Christian England. 200,000 navvies built 3,000 miles of railways. How they lived, fought, worked, had serious accidents and died.

The majority of book group members were engrossed in the details, history and lives of these men. Famous engineers like Brunel, Stevenson could not have created their bridges, tunnels, viaducts without them. Brute strength and dynamite were their tools. Some group members said they would look at railway



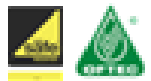
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tunnels and viaducts with different eyes.

Quotes from members: "The navvies built this country to what it is". "It was depressing to read about how they lived and how they treated their women". "The author presented the facts and information in a very readable way".

We meet in an evening on the first Wednesday of the month; our next meeting is 6 March. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Martin Wall: martinwall1@mac.com.

Carole Paterson

OTHERY VILLAGE HALL

Volunteers always welcome – if you would like to help with events or the Friday night bar, or even join the management committee - please contact us.

otheryvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk or 07958 006 403.

Upcoming Events

Ali and the Swing Cats – Saturday 9 March. Vintage swing jazz and toe-tapping gypsy tunes. Filled rolls will be on sale. Doors open 7pm, tickets £7 available on www.otheryvillagehall.org.uk/events or phone/text 07814 754127 or 07958 006403

Quiz Night – Friday 26 April. Tables £10. Doors open 7pm.

Barbecue Night - Friday 26 July. Doors open 6pm.

Regular Events

Wednesday 13 March – Western Front Association

Wednesday 27 March – Somerset Stargazers

Thursdays 10am Toddler Group, 7.30pm Short mat bowls

Fridays 11am Pilates, 7pm Bar night

Bridget Gander, Secretary, Othery Village Hall Management Committee

Email: otheryvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk Website: www.otheryvillagehall.org.uk

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Church opening times

Sadly we have again had some incidents of 'disturbance' in the church during the weekend open sessions so we will only unlock the church from Mondays to Fridays from 9am to 3.30pm and for services. Genuine visitors can phone 07714 672316 to arrange access at other times.

Mervyn Winstlade and Margaret Harris, Churchwardens

BENEFICE, DEANERY AND DIOCESAN ITEMS

CHURCHES AND CHAPELS

Open Daily

The United Benefice churches in Middlezoy, Othery and Stawell are open daily for private prayer. See local notice boards and article above for their opening times.

BENEFICE/MIDDLEZOY PRAYER GROUP

Please do not think you have to be a member of the local churches as we are very willing to pray for anyone who asks. The prayer group feel it is needed so please do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing middlezoyprayers@gmail.com.

The Prayer Group

FROM THE REGISTERS

Deaths/Funerals:

Angela Legg, formerly of Othery, died on 15 January, aged 83. Her funeral was held at Sedgemoor Crematorium on 7 February.

David Crosier of Middlezoy passed away peacefully at the Bristol Royal Infirmary on 21 January, aged 70. His funeral service was held on 27 February at Holy Cross Church, Middlezoy.



LENT COURSE

This year's beneficent Lent Course, based on The Lord's Prayer continues in March right up to Easter. Each week of the course is made up of showing a video, discussion questions and practical prayer activity.

Held on Wednesday evenings starting at 7.30pm with welcoming teas/coffees from 7.15pm

The dates are:

6 March at Stawell 13 March at Moorlinch 20 March at Othery 27 March at Middlezoy.

Contact the Churchwardens direct for exact details of hosting venues.

NEW LIFE FOR ALL THE WORLD

Sowing seeds, chitting potatoes, choosing varieties. Easter acts as starter's orders for the gardening year. Beds are cultivated, lawns mown, plans for all the growth and new life that spring and summer will bring made and then turned into action.

There's a much greater connection between gardening and Easter than it merely being the time to dust off forks and spades. For in the Bible, a garden is the setting for Easter itself.

In John's Gospel (John 20:1-18) Mary Magdalene meets the risen Jesus in a garden. Indeed, Jesus's appearance to Mary is so unexpected that at first she can't believe it's really him. So she mistakes the man she meets 'supposing him to be the gardener' (John 20:15).

In John's account, all the new life contained in the first Easter chimes with a much earlier story set in a garden too. This is of the new life of another man and woman, the creation story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and contained in the book of Genesis (Genesis 2:4- 3:24). In that story, Adam is the gardener (Gen 2:15), only for things to go wrong. In John, Jesus is portrayed as the new Adam – come to bring new life that has no end.

What would happen if we were to think of our churches as gardens, primed to welcome the spring that is the new life of Jesus this Easter? What would happen if we imagined ourselves called to be gardeners –

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like our father Adam and the new Adam, Jesus? What would we expect to grow? What might need pruning or weeding? What new plans for the coming season would we make and turn into action? What would be the harvest that we'd sow for, tend and then reap? For I reckon we should see Easter as the starting point of all that God wants to do among us and with us. Jesus's resurrection opens us to being part of God's new creation. Easter offers us a fresh start for life, relationships and the life of our churches: new life for all the world.

Happy gardening and a very Happy Easter to you all. *Bishop Michael*

USEFUL INFORMATION

FOODBANKS DONATION POINTS

Middlezoy: Holy Cross Church, Village Coffee Mornings or Meadowbank, 11a Main Road.

Othery: St Michael's Church Porch.

Moorlinch: Spring Cottage, Pit Hill Lane, Moorlinch or St Mary's Church Porch

Stawell: The Old Post Office, Stawell

Cash Donation: By contacting the relevant Foodbank you can make either a single or a regular donation. If you are in a position to give via Gift Aid, the Foodbank will be able to claim back the tax you have paid on this.

To obtain assistance from a Foodbank you need a referral from: Citizens Advice Bureau: Clarence House High St, Bridgwater, TA6 3BH 03444 889623 or your Village Agent, local GP surgery, schools, health visitors and social workers. **Bridgwater Foodbank** can be contacted by email info@bridgwater.foodbank.org.uk or phone 01278 434636 or 07804 119273 (Open Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays). They will help put you in touch with one of the agencies that can help with a referral.

Langport Cares email langportcares/foodbank@gmail.com

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DEFIBRILLATOR MACHINES

From the scene of an incident, call 999, ask for Ambulance.

Ascertain the condition of the patient. If a defibrillator is required give the following information about the nearest machine.

| | | Call sign |
|------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|
| Greinton Phone box | TA7 9BW | CHT-RT-1583 |
| Middlezoy Chapel | TA7 0NZ | SC0253 |
| Middlezoy Village Hall | TA7 0PG | SC0254 (machine at car park end) |
| Moorlinch Farm | TA7 9BU | |
| Othery Village Hall | TA7 0QU | |
| Stawell Village Hall | TA7 9AD | |

Within 200m of a defibrillator they can give you the code to open the cabinet on post code alone, farther away the call sign is required.

HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING & REFUSE COLLECTIONS

The new schedules for the MOMSS & G area are:

MIDDLEZOY

Recycling Boxes, every week: WEDNESDAYS 6, 13, 20, 27 March, THURSDAY 4 April

Black Wheeled Bins, every 3 weeks: WEDNESDAY 13 March, THURSDAY 4 April

Garden Waste Bins, every other week: MONDAYS 11, 25 March, 8 April

OTHERY

Recycling Boxes, every week: FRIDAYS 1, 8, 15, 22, SATURDAYS 30 March, 6 April

Black Wheeled Bins, every 3 weeks: FRIDAYS 1, 22 March, 12 April

Garden Waste Bins, every other week: THURSDAYS 7, 21 March, FRIDAY 5 April

MOORLINCH, STAWELL, SUTTON MALLETT & GREINTON

Recycling Boxes, every week: WEDNESDAYS 6, 13, 20, 27 March, THURSDAY 4 April

Black Wheeled Bins, every 3 weeks: WEDNESDAY 13 March, THURSDAY 4 April

Garden Waste Bins, every other week: THURSDAYS 14, 28 March, 11 April

RECYCLING CENTRES

Winter opening hours

9am-5pm weekdays and 9am-4pm weekends.

Full details of each site, location, opening times, materials they will accept etc. can be found at www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycling/centres

MOBILE LIBRARY

Taunton Area, Route P

The service continues every 4 weeks on Fridays but the new schedules have been changed to the following:

Next visits: 8 March, 5 April

Stawell Village Hall 10.10am - 10.40am

Moorlinch Tapmoor Road Junction 10.55am - 11.15am

Middlezoy Main Road Bus Stop 12.20pm - 1pm

For further information about reading books online contact Libraries Direct on 0300 123 2224 or visit www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries

MOMSS COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Please advise momssgeditor@live.co.uk of amendments/additions

ANGLICAN CHURCH INFORMATION

Priest-in-Charge

Rev Andrea Harwood 01458 443239 vicarmomss@gmail.com

Sunday mornings, Tuesdays and Wednesdays plus half a day on Saturdays (by arrangement)

United Benefice Readers

Pauline Davies 01278 451280 and Richard Graham 01278 722284

Parish Auxiliary Lay Ministers

Mervyn Winslade (Othery); Ruth Peberdy (Stawell)

Churchwardens

Middlezoy: Ian Campbell 01823 698790

Othery: Mervyn Winslade 01823 698368 and Margaret Harris

Moorlinch: Fiona Hixon 01458 21 1096

Stawell contact: To be arranged

Sutton Mallet contact: Brian Lishman 01278 722579

Greinton contact: Jean Heywood 01458 210497

METHODIST CHAPEL MIDDLEZOY

Minister: Rev Deborah Kirk 01823 334854

Local Contact: Jill Darby jilldrb@gmail.com 01823 698000

Bookings: <https://middlezoychapeluk.wordpress.com/bookings/> or Jill Darby (above)

PARISH COUNCILS/MEETINGS

Middlezoy—Chairman: Paul Baker 01823 698082

Othery—Chairman: Andrew Tizzard 01823 690284

Moorlinch—Meeting Chairman: Anne Farmer 01458 210393

Stawell and Sutton Mallet—Chairman: Philip Jay

Greinton—Enquiries: Toby Crispin 01458 210227

VILLAGE AMENITIES

Middlezoy: The George Inn 01823 698215;

Shop 01823 587222 open Mon, Tues 8.45am-1.00, 1.30-4.30pm, Wed 8.45am-11.00am,

Thurs, Fri 8.45am-1.00, 1.30-5pm, Sat 8.45am-12 noon;

P.O. 01823 698981 open Mon, Tues 10.00am-1.00, 1.30-4.30pm, Wed closed,

Thurs, Fri 10.00am-1.00, 1.30-5pm, Sat closed; Village Hall 07885 195418

Othery: School 01823 698464; Othery Village Hall 01823 690482

Moorlinch: Ring O'Bells 01458 210358; Church Hall 01458 210755

Stawell & Sutton Mallet: Village Hall 01278 723665

Greinton: Village Hall 01458 210277

POLICE: Emergencies only tel: 999 ; Non emergencies tel: 101

CRIMESTOPPERS: 8am-10pm Weekdays 0800 555111;

NHS: Tel: 111

DISTRICT PCSOs: Georgia Coles 07889 659466; Ben Simpkin 07889 659932

VILLAGE AGENTS

To contact a Village Agent ring 01823 331222 and they will find the most suitable person to deal with your query. Referrals can also be made via doctors' surgeries.

SERVICES CHART FOR CHAPEL AND UB CHURCHES MARCH 2024

| DATE | TIME | EVENT | VENUE |
|---|--|--|--|
| March 3 Sun (3rd of Lent) | 10.00 am | UB Communion service | St Francis, Stawell |
| 10 Sun(4th of Lent) Mothering Sunday | 10.00 am 10.00 am TBA 10.00 am | Mothering Sunday service and Baptism Mothering Sunday service Mothering Sunday service Mothering Sunday service | Holy Cross, Middlezoy St Michael's, Othery St Mary's, Moorlinch St Francis, Stawell |
| 17 Sun (5th of Lent) | 10.00 am | UB Communion service | Holy Cross, Middlezoy |
| 24 Sun PALM SUNDAY | 9.00 am 10.15 am 10.30 am 6.30 pm | United Benefice Big Breakfast Procession with Palms UB Palm Sunday service Circuit Communion service | Stawell Village Hall From the Village Hall to St Francis, Stawell Methodist Chapel, Middlezoy |
| 29 Sun GOOD FRIDAY | 10.30 am 2.30 pm | Walk of Witness with The Cross Joint Service of Reflection followed by the Raising of The Cross | From Ring o'Bells, Moorlinch To St Mary's, Moorlinch Methodist Chapel, Middlezoy |
| 31 Sun EASTER DAY | 10.00 am | UB Communion service | St Michael's, Othery |

The Common Worship (Year B) readings and lessons for the services:

| DATE | SEASON | READINGS |
|--------------------|--|---|
| March 3 Sun | 3rd Sunday of Lent | OT: Exodus chapter 20, verses 1 to 17 Psalm: 19 Epistle: 1 Corinthians, chapter 1, verses 18 to 25 Gospel: John, chapter 2, verses 13 to 22 |
| 10 Sun | 4th Sunday of Lent MOTHERING SUNDAY | OT: 1 Samuel, chapter 1, verses 20 to 28 (the end) Psalm: 127, verses 1 to 4 Epistle: Colossians, chapter 3, verses 12 to 17 Gospel: Luke, chapter 2, verses 33 to 40 |
| 17 Sun | 5th Sunday of Lent (Passiontide begins) | OT: Jeremiah, chapter 31, verses 31 to 34 Psalm: 51, verses 1 to 13 Epistle: Hebrews, chapter 5, verses 5 to 10 Gospel: John, chapter 12, verses 20 to 33 |
| 24 Sun | 6th Sunday of Lent PALM SUNDAY | OT: Isaiah, chapter 50, verses 4 to 9a Psalm: 31, verses 9 to 18 Epistle: Philippians, chapter 2, verses 5 to 11 Gospel: Mark, chapter 15, verses 1 to 47 (Liturgy of the Passion) |
| 31 Sun | EASTER DAY | OT: Isaiah, chapter 25, verses 6 to 9 Psalm: 118, verses 1 and 2 and 14 to 24 Epistle: Acts, chapter 10, verses 34 to 43 Gospel: John, chapter 20, verses 1 to 18 |