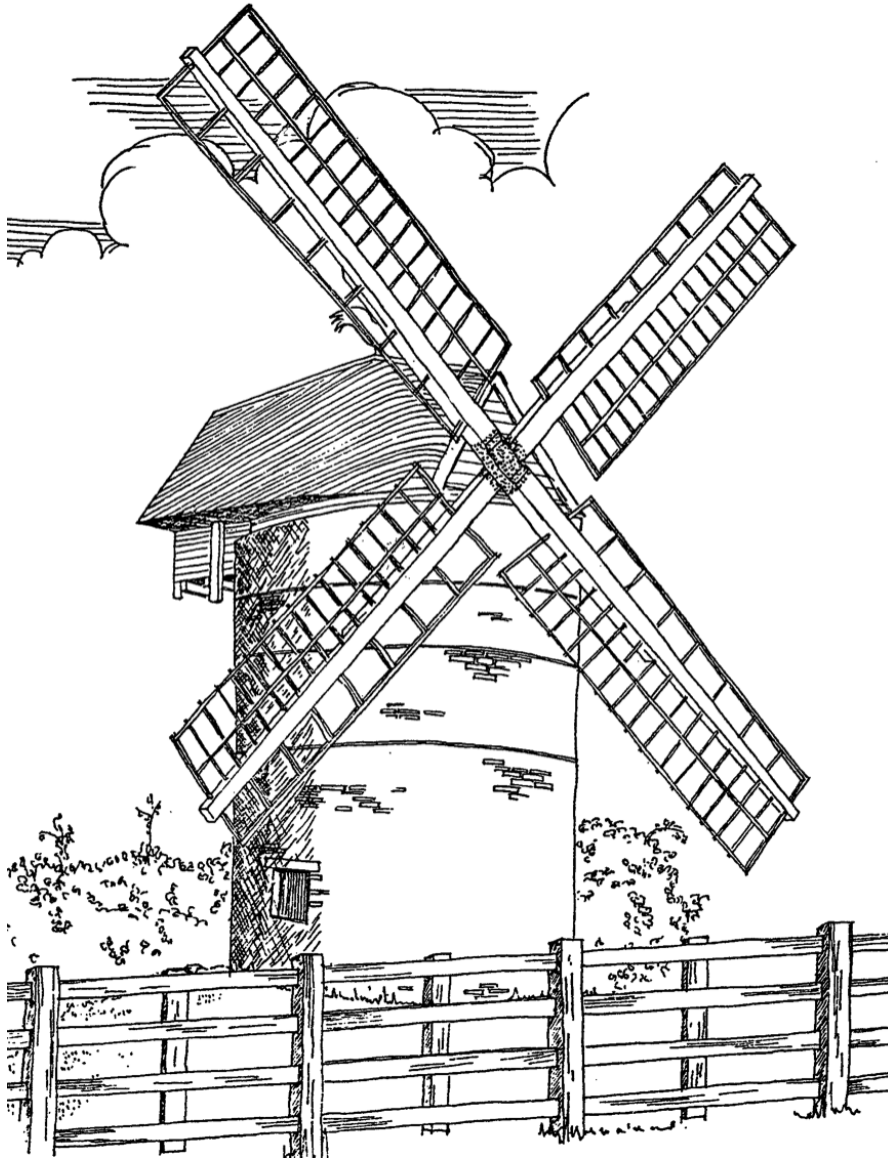


ALLERTON NEWS



October 2023

ALLERTON NEWS

Editor:

Janet Bennett

October 2023

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

(Full details of times and venues are located within the magazine)

OCTOBER

Sun 1 st	Family Harvest Festival, Allerton Church 9am
Mon 2 nd	Parish Council meeting, Old School Room 7.30pm
Thu 5 th	Ad Astra Quiz Night
Tue 10 th	WI, Old School Room 7.30pm
Wed 18 th	FKJHL meeting, Cross Memorial Hall 2pm
Fri 27 th	Ad Astra Hallowe'en Event
Sat 28 th	Simply Sing, St Mary's, Wedmore 2.30pm

NOVEMBER

Thu 2 nd	Ad Astra Quiz Night
Tue 14 th	WI, Old School Room 7.30pm
Wed 15 th	FKJHL meeting, Cross Memorial Hall 7.30pm
Sat 18 th	Safari Supper

DECEMBER

Thu 7 th	Ad Astra Quiz Night
Fri 8 th	FKJHL Christmas Social, Cross Memorial Hall

Editorial Committee

J. Bennett, J. Benson, A. Buckton, T. Crosby,
A. Griffin, J. Pinnock, P. Rich and F. Spinner

Tracey Crosby will be editing the November edition.

Please email your news, views, pictures of pets and recipes of the month to:
allertonnews@hotmail.co.uk

All contributions by 20 October 2023 please.

The newsletter is sent out by Jonathan Pinnock on 1st of every month.
Please contact him on jon@jonathanpinnock.com if you know of anyone wanting to be
added to the mailing list or want your email address to be deleted.

Do please read the magazine right through to the end as our advertisers are very keen that
you see what they have to offer!

NEWS OF THE PEOPLE

WELCOME

Welcome to Andrew and Abby Griffiths and their two sons, Elliott and Ben, who have recently moved into New Tynning, Stone Allerton.

News from the Parish Council

Chapel Allerton Planning Applications

Under Consideration:

15/23/00007

Katherines Farm, Stone Allerton Drove, Stone Allerton, Axbridge, Somerset, BS26 2NR
Outline application with all matters reserved, for the erection of an agricultural workers dwelling (revised scheme).

15/23/00008

Moor View Farm, Ashton Drove, Ashton, Wedmore, Somerset, BS28 4Q
Erection of two storey side (SE) and single storey rear (NW) extensions, conversion of loft to form additional living accommodation with the formation of dormer windows to the front (SW) and rear (NW) elevations.

Permission Granted:

15/23/00006

Orchard House, Front Street, Stone Allerton, Axbridge, Somerset, BS26 2NN. Remove overhanging limb of 1No. Apple (T1) over boundary wall. Fell 1No. Elm (T2).

15/23/00005

Erection of an agricultural building on land to the north of Binham Moor (adjacent to Chapel Allerton old Drove Way to Kingsway)

15/23/00004

Brook House Farm, New Road, Chapel Allerton, Axbridge, BS26 2PA. Conversion of Barn (Class Q) to Dwelling (Class C3) *Prior Planning Approval refused.*

Other News:

During the summer holidays, the Clerk has been working hard to update the suite of policies available to the Parish Council and several were adopted at the September meeting; Training & Development Policy, Privacy Notice & Data Protection and GDPR Policy. These will continue to be updated and adopted over the coming months.

Next month the Parish Council will look at how it can support with the installation of another defibrillator in the village. Research shows that using a defibrillator within 3-5 minutes of collapse can produce survival rates as high as 50-70%. For the defibrillator to be stored outside (for it to be accessible 24 hours a day) a cabinet will require power

to maintain the temperature of the defibrillator and the pads etc. If anyone can recommend a location, then please contact the Clerk (details below).

Flooding

Somerset Council are encouraging people to get in touch if they have been affected by flooding. Go online; <https://swim.geowessex.com/somerset/> or email flooding@somerset.gov.uk or phone 0300 123 2224.

Local Community Networks

Cllr Torrens-Spence attended the first Cheddar and Axbridge LCN meeting on Thursday 3rd August. Cllr Pauline Ham was nominated as Chair and Cllr Frankie Mitton was nominated as Vice Chair. Initial priorities were discussed, highway repairs, speeding, parking, and planning. The next LCN meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday 26th October. If you would like to get involved with the LCN please contact the Clerk.

Road Closures

Temporary Road Closure: On the road from Allerton to Wedmore from 2nd October. The works are expected to last for 12 days to enable Walters to carry out bridge repairs to Washbrook Bridge. The contractor has indicated that access for Emergency Services will be permitted.

The next Parish Council Meeting is on Monday 2nd October at 7.30pm the Old School Room, Stone Allerton. Members of the public are welcome.

Sammie Millard-Jones

Chapel Allerton Parish Clerk and RFO

Email: chapelallertonparishclerk@yahoo.com

SOMERSET COUNCIL **BRIEFING SHEET SEPTEMBER 2023**

Council Finances: Somerset Council has warned that it will have to draw on reserves for the second successive year to meet its budget for 2023/24. A recent Executive report describes the council's financial position as "stark and challenging". The latest budget gap for the current year is £28.6m. The papers reveal that the Council has already drawn £18 million from reserves to fund spending beyond the 2022/23 budgets. These figures are despite an £18.5m annual bonus created by moving to a Unitary Council and which were planned to be fully realised by next year.

Covid autumn booster programme: As the result of a newly identified variant the Covid-19 vaccine is being brought forward by one month and offered to those at high risk of serious disease and who are therefore most likely to benefit from the

vaccination. Specifically, JCVI advises the following groups to be offered a Covid-19 booster vaccine this autumn:

- residents in a care home for older adults
- all adults aged 65 years and over.
- persons aged 6 months to 64 years in a clinical risk group.
- frontline health and social care workers
- persons aged 12 to 64 years who are household contacts of people with immunosuppression.
- persons aged 16 to 64 years who are carers and staff working in care homes for older adults.

Booster vaccinations are now planned to start on September 11th, 2023.

Flu vaccinations: NHS England has confirmed it will start by prioritising flu vaccinations for children from September, to prevent children from getting seriously ill and to break the chain of transmission to the wider population. School aged children will be able to get the flu vaccine at school or at community clinics, Children aged two and three years will be able to get an appointment with their GP practice. This year, based on the latest scientific evidence, the JCVI has recommended adults over the age of 65 and those with underlying health conditions will be eligible for a vaccination in the winter months. The flu season typically peaks in January when more people gather indoors.

Roundabout sponsorship: Local businesses are being invited to take advantage of roundabout sponsorship to advertise socially responsible goods and services. The space is available for advertising a wide range of goods and services. The new ethical advertising policy means that the Council will not sanction certain adverts such as those promoting junk food, fossil fuels, gambling or consumption of alcoholic drinks. The money generated by the initiative will go back into the Council's highways maintenance budget although not specifically earmarked for roundabout maintenance.

Soft plastics recycling: More than four tonnes of plastic bags and wrapping such as bread bags and confectionery packets, have been collected for recycling as part of the Council's role in a national project to expand recycling collections. The small-scale pilot involving 3,600 homes across two locations in Frome started at the end of May.

NOTICES

THANK YOU!

**Our MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING was held at Broadfield, Top Road
on 22nd September**

**My grateful thanks to everyone who attended and donated to this worthy cause.
I was so touched by your generosity and kindness.
We raised the staggering sum of
£640**

A big thank you to my lovely band of helpers and to

Alison & Mike for opening their field for parking.

Sylvia Finch

Looking BACK at the Allertons 1850-1950

Allerton History Society is collecting old black-and-white photographs, documents, letters, newspaper cuttings etc of Allerton before about 1950, for an exhibition early next year. We've got a good collection, but we'd like more! If you have anything like this in your bottom drawer please contact Johnny Torrens-Spence (01934 710188 or johnnytspace@yahoo.co.uk) or Val Wathen (val.wathen@outlook.com or 0750081556). We won't take your original, just re-photograph it in-situ for the exhibition



Shoebox Appeal

It is the time of year when we ask for items for to put in shoeboxes as parcels for young people in hostels, male and female. If you can spare an item or two please could you drop them off at my house, Springbank, Chapel Allerton by 12th October or bring to the October WI meeting.

Toiletries, socks, hats, gloves, teabags, coffee bags, drinking chocolate, sweets, chocolate, puzzle books, notebooks, pens, pencils are just a few ideas, but please nothing breakable or with sharp edges. I will then arrange for drop off of the completed shoeboxes in Bridgwater.

Thank you all in advance
Jean Bevis

ALLERTON ART GROUP

Anyone is welcome to join us whether or not you have done any drawing or painting before, including the people who are convinced they can't draw.



There is no formal teaching but help is given where needed in any medium. We meet every Tuesday in the Old Schoolroom, Allerton from 9.30 am to 12 noon. There is no commitment to come every week, just join us when you can.

There is a charge of £3 per morning and any surplus money at the end of each term is donated to a worthy charity.

This is an opportunity to try something new in a relaxed atmosphere. So if you are interested in joining, either contact me for more information or just drop in for coffee, you will be most welcome.

Sally MacLean
01934 712032

sally_maclean@btinternet.com

SIMPLY SING

Saturday 28th October 2.30pm St Mary's Church, Wedmore

Come along and enjoy an afternoon of music and singing led by

'Music in Mind' and 'Music Matters'.

Groups sponsored by Wedmore & Axbridge Community Health Fund.

'Music in Mind' meets fortnightly on Mondays in the Masonic Hall, Wedmore, 'Music Matters' meets alternate Tuesdays in Axbridge Town Hall. Both groups meet at 2.15pm and are for people, and their carers, living with dementia/Alzheimer's and those with feelings of isolation.

Tickets are FREE and available from Wedmore Village Store and Axbridge Post Office or, you can telephone (01934) 732282 (Stella) or 852869 (Maureen), to reserve your ticket.

Refreshments will be served during the afternoon and donations will be gratefully accepted for Wedmore and Axbridge Community Health Fund.

SEE YOU THERE!!!



SAFARI SUPPER

Saturday 18th November 2023 at 7.15pm

The return of the Safari Supper proved very popular last year, so please put this year's date in your diary.

We require 2 starter venues, 8 to 10 main course hosts and 1 dessert venue.

Helen & Pete would like a year off from hosting the dessert venue, so Matthew & Lindy Paul have kindly agreed to have this at their home. We have a few main course hosts offers but require more plus 2 starter venue hosts please – ideally one in Chapel and one in Stone.

If you are interested in hosting a course, can you please contact Nina on 712692 or 07752 663182 or email nina.reading@hotmail.com

Tickets will be on sale by mid-October priced at £20.00 each. (this will include all food, red wine punch at starter venue and wine with your main course).

An honesty donations bar will operate at the dessert venue.
Please book early as numbers will be limited.

This is a great fun evening and a chance to make new friends!

Contact: Nina 712692 or Jane 712642

CLAY CLUB

Clay Club runs on Tuesdays 2-4pm in Badgworth Schoolroom.

If you would like to join us please contact Tina on tinasalvidgelimited@hotmail.co.uk

No previous experience necessary!

We are partially funded by SEED Sedgemoor and the Wedmore and Axbridge Health Fund which keeps our costs low at £10 per session, which includes all materials and associated costs.

Please contact me if you would like further information.

Tina Salvidge

FRIENDS OF KING JOHN'S HUNTING LODGE



The Friends of King John's Hunting Lodge is an organisation that has been formed by amalgamating the interests of the Friends of Axbridge and District Museum and the Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society. It aims to bring together people with an interest in the preservation of our heritage.

Regular meetings are held throughout the year and include talks, outside visits and social events. The autumn programme 2023 continues as follows:

Wednesday 18th October 2pm at Cross Memorial Hall.

The Strawberry Line Past Present and Future. Speaker Lois Brenchley

Wednesday 15th November 7.30pm at Cross Memorial Hall

Our Sacred Spaces. Speakers Sue and Phil Thorne.

Friday December 8th

Christmas Social.

Further details about membership fees and the benefits of joining the Friends of KJHL can be obtained from Liz Scott at:- moorlandfm@btinternet.com

Non-members are welcome at all meetings but are requested to donate £5.00 per visit.

Madeleine Roberts

WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

Kate Stephen's photo of the month was taken on 3rd September over the fields at the end of her garden in Chapel Allerton.



Each month the Allerton News is looking for a picture that sums up the previous month in the villages.

Each entry will automatically be entered into the Ad Astra summer competition - and may end up on their wall. Send your recent pictures to allertonnews@hotmail.co.uk and you could be next month's photographic star.

Are you interested in

A book festival?



Or a film?

CHEDDAR ARTS @ KING'S THEATRE – NOVEMBER FILM 2023

Cheddar Arts' autumn cinema season continues on Friday 10 November with

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry

starring Linda Bassett, Jim Broadbent and Penelope Wilson.

Pensioner Harold (Jim Broadbent) strolls to the local postbox one morning and finishes up walking the length of Britain.

"Jim Broadbent is a wonder and Penelope Wilton equals him...in an autumn years movie".

Tickets are available online at www.thelittleboxoffice.com/cheddararts

The doors of Kings Theatre at the Kings of Wessex School open at 6.45pm and performances begin at 7.30pm.

For queries and help, email cheddararts@gmail.com

Or some relaxation?

A poster for Forest Therapy. The background is a dark, textured image of a large leaf. In the top right corner, there is a white, torn-edge paper graphic. The title 'Forest Therapy' is written in a serif font on this graphic. Below the title, a paragraph of text describes the practice. In the bottom left, there is a block of text about workshops. In the bottom right, there are two small, square images: one of a hand holding a small object, and another of a close-up of a plant.

Forest Therapy

Inspired by the Japanese practice of shinrin-yoku which translates roughly to forest bathing, forest therapy is a guided outdoor practice where you are gently invited to experience a natural environment at a slow pace while tapping into all of your senses. Forest therapy can help you to feel more connected and will help to reduce cortisol and adrenaline by being guided through a series of invitations helping the body to slow down. It can also boost serotonin and endorphins and the immune system and has also been found to improve sleep quality.

I will be holding group and individual workshops weekdays, and some weekends at numerous locations. Donations for session held are welcome. Please e-mail Lyndsay Andrews for more information on laforesttherapy@gmail.com

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS

UPDATE FROM THE CIDER BARN

October: RUGBY WORLD CUP!! *We will try and show as many world cup games as we can. Keep a close eye on our website and Facebook page.*

7th – Live bands. The Jamestown Brothers Return to the Cider Barn. Also playing at The Beach Buoys (Shanty band).

27th – Halloween Night. Haunted Orchard mwahahahaha.

That's it for now. We will keep our Facebook page and our website up to date with all the events, so please follow us for more info.

www.adastracider.com

Wassail!!

Paul Rolfe

MONTHLY RECIPE

Bramble Mousse

Ingredients:

- 450g blackberries
- 120g caster sugar,
- 2 tbsp of lemon juice,
- 3 tbsp of cold water,
- 1 sachet gelatine (12g)
- 150ml double cream,
- 3 egg whites



Method:

1. Gently heat the blackberries, sugar and lemon juice in a pan, then cover and simmer gently until the fruit is soft.
2. Place the cold water in a small dish or cup, sprinkle on the gelatine and leave to stand for three minutes.
3. Take the pan from the heat and stir in the sponge-like gelatine until dissolved.
4. Pass the fruit mixture through a sieve and make a purée and allow it to cool until it shows signs of setting.
5. Whisk the cream until it forms soft peaks and fold into the purée.
6. Stiffly whisk the egg whites and fold in.
7. Pour into a serving dish or individual ramekins and leave to set.
8. Freezes well.
9. Decorate with whole blackberries just before serving.



J. Bennett

If you have a favourite recipe you would like to share, please email it to:

allertonnews@hotmail.co.uk

A VIEW FROM MY WINDOW

Our Weeping Willow tree has loved the mixture of wet and heat this summer and has now regrown into a decent shape and size for the front garden.



We had it chopped back at the start of March leaving it looking rather bare and stark.

But the last few weeks have seen it flourish and I am already considering if we might need to trim the bottom branches a bit as they are trailing on the ground.



The leaves are proving great cover for birds and squirrels, and we often hear owls in the tree at night.

The squirrels are in big trouble again in our garden as they have stripped the Walnut Tree of the walnuts again. They must go around in gangs as they managed this in one night.

Last year it happened in September, so I marked the date in my diary for this year, but they were early and had cleared the lot.

So having a lot of hiding space in the Willow Tree is a bonus for them currently.

Amy Griffin

NEWS FROM ALLERTON WI

September's W.I meeting was a bit quiet as many members were away on holiday, however, we had an informative presentation and talk by Kirsty from Weston Hospice Care.

Based in Weston Super Mare, the charity has been running for over 30 years providing free care and palliative services for patients with life limiting illness including Cancer, Motor Neurone Disease and Parkinson's disease.

As well as their 10-bed in-patient unit they have a day unit with a wellbeing centre for patients and families to access treatment, care, support and advice and holistic and art therapies are on offer as well.

They cover Clevedon and Yatton to the north; Cheddar, Wedmore and Axbridge to the east; and Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge to the south and everywhere contained within these boundaries.

The care is tailored to each person involved and it can be delivered in the comfort of the patient's home or on-site at Jackson-Barstow House.



The fundraising covers care, staff and running costs and being able to make last wishes come true such as a visit to a safari park and even weddings.

Kirsty explained all about the upcoming fundraising events Weston Hospice Care are planning and how the money may be used.

She also explained other ways to help the charity including volunteering at their charity shops or at their events.

Our next meeting in October will be about British Sign Language.

Should anyone wish to contribute to Jean Bevis' Shoe box appeal she is collecting items that can be dropped off to Springbank, Chapel Allerton by 12th October 2023.

Items can include socks, hats, gloves, sweets, chocolate, teabags and hot chocolate plus toiletries puzzle books, pens and notepads.

Amy Griffin

ALLERTON ANIMALS(S!) OF THE MONTH

From Bev McIntyre -Smith

So there we were in 2015 deciding, that having lost both our dogs to old age and illness, it was time to add to our family again..... I was thinking Cockapoo or Labradoodle. But Sandy Redmore of Stone Allerton had different ideas! Being part of a charity in Romania, rescuing street dogs, we were then subjected to several line ups of very cute dogs looking to swap the mean streets of Bucharest for the mean streets of Allerton! And so it was that in March 2016, having travelled for days on road and boat across Europe, Molly arrived.



A year later Sandy, recognising that we were a soft touch and introduced us to Brillo, needless to say in March 2017 Molly then had a brother!



We have been extremely lucky, Molly and Brillo are fit and healthy and are like brother and sister; they adore each other and love to play fight all day. Molly has a best friend in Chapel, Belle, and if you simply say her name Molly will jump with excitement. We sometimes think she would actually like to move there, and occasionally on a walk she will find her own route onto Helen's doorstep! They are becoming seasoned travellers now joining us on our trips in the Motorhome, and after 7 years, Brillo who hated water, now appears to love playing on Scottish beaches and eating seaweed.

Whilst they are both very different dogs in their temperaments they are equal in the joy and fun we have with them but a word of warning..... don't tell Sandy she will line up number 3!



Peru The Land of the Incas

I have been recounting my journeys following the Pacific coast and the Andes of South America and had reached the northern part of Chile. Travelling north takes one into **Peru**, the third largest country on that continent. It was the first visit we had made to this huge landmass, its very varied landscapes, its people and its history. It had been the start of some truly amazing experiences.



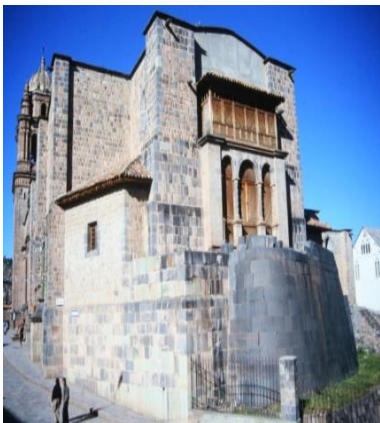
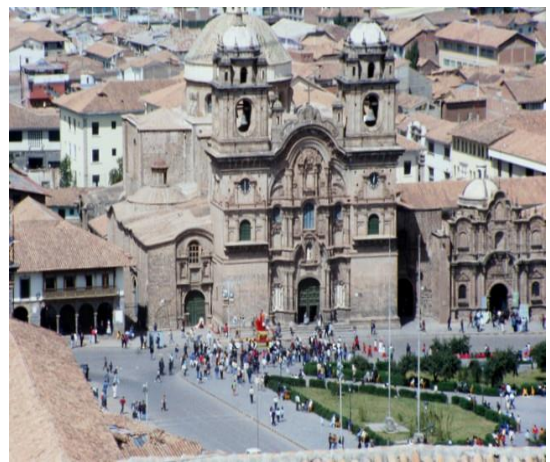
This trip began in **Lima**, Peru's capital, which is roughly in the middle of the Pacific coastal desert, and home to about a third of the country's now 34 m population. Then, we flew from London via Madrid, Bogota (Columbia), and Quito (Ecuador), each leg on a different airline. Lima was a sprawling modern city with little remaining of its colonial past and for much of the year shrouded in fog, thanks to the cold Humbolt current that passes up the Pacific coast. After the briefest of stays we flew up to one of Peru's gems, **Cusco**. It is situated in the Andes at 3326m (almost 11,000'). Flying straight up from sea level in Lima, proved an abrupt introduction to high altitude, but the clear azure sky and crisp air were compensation. One just had to take things slowly for

several days.

Cusco's origins are lost in myths, but it became the capital of a tribal grouping that probably began in the 12thc. By early 15thc a period of significant expansion began and reached its peak at about the time that the Spanish arrived in the Americas. The **Incas** were not the first such indigenous empire but were by far the largest and longest lasting. The *conquistador* **Francisco Pizarro** reached Cusco in 1533. The Inca empire of the time had two rival capitals, **Cusco** and **Quito** to the north, in present day Ecuador. There had been a civil war between these two factions that had severely weakened both. As a consequence, the small number of Spaniards soon achieved conquest. Being a seafaring nation, the Spanish established their capital in 1535, on the coast, now Lima. Cusco's importance gradually waned.



Some Spaniards remained in Cusco and slowly added their architecture to that of the Incas. The large central square became the Plaza de Armas, although smaller than in Inca times. The main building is the **Cathedral** begun in 1559, but it took one hundred years to complete. It is flanked by two other smaller churches.



Nearby is the **Church of Santo Domingo**, built on top of the main Inca temple of Cusco. Earthquakes have destroyed later buildings several times, but Inca walls have withstood destruction. Elsewhere are streets with extensive walls of massive Inca masonry.

Cusco sits in wide valley but many of the streets climb



the quite steep slopes. Most of the houses are two storey and often have balconies overlooking the street. Some are of wrought iron but others are of elaborately carved wood.



Our time in Cusco coincided with the **Festival of Corpus Christi**, one of the main religious celebrations. Here it was observed over three days, starting with a procession. The image of each church's patron saint was carried through the streets to the cathedral. The heavy statues were clothed in elaborate robes and carried by



twenty to thirty men bearing the heavy load of the litter on stout timbers resting on their shoulders. The strain was evident on the faces of these men. Some teams were



dressed in their Sunday best, black suits, but others wore traditional dress of a striped woollen poncho and coloured knitted hat with prominent earflaps.

Some women wore crisp white blouses but others had colourful knitted cardigans, full skirts and a multipurpose shawl around their shoulders (useful for carrying goods or children).

Large crowds sat on the cathedral steps watching the chaotic throng. Bands of wind instruments accompanied the saints, each playing a different and discordant "tune". Truly an amazing spectacle.



Later in the day feasting began. In the streets around the *plaza* food was being prepared on numerous stalls.



All sorts of vegetables, including the native potato, were being cooked in various ways. The air was filled with choking smoke from the many cookers and barbecues. This mingled with all manner of aromas.



Meat too was in plenty. There was the Peruvian delicacy, roast guinea pig. The domesticated rodent is skinned, gutted and roasted whole, displaying the prominent incisor teeth. This differentiated the modest morsel from a similar sized rat.

On the hilltops overlooking Cusco are the sites of several Inca ruins.



The most impressive of these are the huge remains at **Sacsayhuaman**. What is left is thought to be only about a fifth of the original, as the Spaniards robbed much of the site for building material, leaving only the largest blocks, some weighing over 300 tons. The fortress was the scene of a last bitter pitched battle between Inca warriors and the Spaniards, some two years after Pizarro's arrival in Cusco.



The "must see" sight in Peru is of course **Machu Picchu**, S America's most spectacular archaeological site. It is not mentioned in any Spanish chronicles and was unknown to the outside world until 1911. An American historian **Hiram Bingham** was searching for the lost city of **Vilcabamba**, known to be the last Inca stronghold. He stumbled on the ruins at Mach Picchu by accident, lost in enveloping forest. The remains at **Espiritu Pampa**, much deeper in the jungle, discovered some years later, are "Vilcambamba". In the first half of the 1900s the forest was laboriously cleared, and some reconstruction of likely buildings carried out. Historians have much discussed the purpose of the site, and some think it may have been abandoned before the Spanish conquest. In the 1980s more terracing was uncovered on the precipitous mountain sides around. An even larger city was later discovered just a few km away.

Intrepid travellers reach Mach Picchu along the **Inca Trail**. The trail takes three to four days of arduous trekking and camping, over difficult terrain and at high altitude.



Lesser mortals can take a train, on a route running west from Cusco, indicated on the map as the broke orange line.



The station for Machu Picchu is at the small village of **Agua Calientes**. Here the otherwise single track is doubled to allow trains to pass. It was a hub of activity for the village. Several modest cafes served food at tables on the platform. Other trade was done. Things became really busy when the regular train, used by the locals, pulled in.

The railway line runs in the valley of the **Rio Urubamba**. The site of Machu Picchu is several km away, higher on the mountains, overlooking the river, and accessed by a modern track that zig zags up the steep slopes.

The views were unique.



The total silence of this magical place was memorable. Often the surrounding mountains are shrouded in cloud but today all was clear.

Other Inca sites are in the **Sacred Valley**, to be visited in the next couple of days, after a night in a hostel in Agua Calientes and breakfast on the station platform.

Lester Durston

RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

CHURCHWARDENS' NOTES

We're pleased that the regular Family Services have restarted (first Sunday in the month, 9.00 am), after the summer break, with a service on 3rd September on the theme of "Jesus as a Boy" and "Back to School". The story was confidently announced by Finlay and beautifully read by Kieran, Thomas, Lisa and Meghan – this is the first time the "lesson" has been read by the children. We then had a little playlet on the same theme, starring Andrew Midgley as the Chief Priest (!), Steve & Nina Reading as Joseph and Mary, and Kieran as the boy Jesus. Richard then asked the adults to recall their first day at school. Matthew admitted that he had cried, and was made to stand on a chair, while Kevin thought school ended at break time, so walked the mile home through the centre of Manchester, where his mother promptly took him back to school! It was a very happy service.

We were also pleased that some members of the Parish Church Council were able to attend the visit of Bishop Ruth, the Bishop of Taunton, to a meeting of the Deanery in Wedmore Village Hall. Around fifty people attended, representing all the Benefices in the Deanery, and there was a lively discussion about what our communities should be like, and how our churches could (and should?) contribute to this, against a background of declining congregations and shortages of money. There are no easy answers!

Because of financial pressures across the Church of England, and specifically in the Bath & Wells Diocese, it has been reluctantly decided to reduce the number of working clergy in the Diocese. This will be done by natural wastage (no redundancies), but by 2026, the number of clergy in Axbridge Deanery (of which we are a part) will reduce from 9 (now) to 7, so will inevitably be spread more thinly across the 27 churches in Deanery. Our own vicar, Richard Neill, will have to cover five churches – Wedmore, Allerton, Theale, Blackford and Mark.

This will clearly involve a reduction in his "presence" in the individual parishes. The details of

this have yet to be worked out, but we sincerely hope that by using a combination of our own Lay Worship Assistants, plus occasional appearances by local retired clergy etc, we will be able to sustain a weekly service in Allerton, but this is going to be difficult. Nevertheless, the Allerton Parish Church Council has provisionally approved this arrangement, acknowledging that such changes are inevitable in the circumstances, and must be faced head on. We will need to work together and be prepared to do things differently.

And lastly, the good news! Jane and Andrew Midgley have just celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary, and we were delighted to celebrate with them at our service on 10th September, and to thank this wonderful couple for all their hard work and dedication to the church over the last fifty years, including as Churchwardens,



Treasurer, organisers of Quest, and many other roles.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sun 1st October 9.00 am. Allerton Church. Family Harvest Festival.

A cheerful service of thanksgiving for “all the good gifts around us”. Please bring produce to decorate the church, and non-perishable good to donate to the Cheddar Foodbank.

Sun 5th November 9.00 am. Allerton Church. Family Pet Service.

An informal family service of blessing and thanksgiving for our pets. Bring your own pets (from hamsters to ponies) along for a blessing by the vicar.

Sunday 5th November 3.00 pm. Allerton Church. All Souls Service.

Where we remember those members of our community who have recently died, and express our support for those who mourn.

Saturday 11th November 10.45 am. Act of Remembrance and laying of a wreath at the cross in Allerton Churchyard.

With blessings, Jane and Matthew

Allerton Church Services in October

Our worship will also continue to be available online. At least one of our Sunday services each week is recorded and you can join in via the St Mary's YouTube channel. Links for all the above and details of services both online and in churches can be found <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10871/>.

Every week on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday there is Morning Prayer online at 9 am on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Wedmore-384215139101196/>

‘On a Wheel and a Prayer’

On Tuesday 17th October, the vicar will be conducting the next ‘cycle prayer pilgrimage’, cycling around the different villages and hamlets that make up the Benefice of the Isle of Wedmore that our churches serve, stopping at various points and praying for the communities. Details of timings can be found in the Churches and you are welcome to join him at any of the stops.

Bishop Ruth writes:

What an opportunity!

This week I was on a Zoom chat with some of our chaplains around the diocese. I meet regularly with eight or nine of them alongside our Chaplaincy Development Adviser Mike Haslam. These are only a few of the more than 300 chaplains we have, of all ages, lay and ordained, across Bath and Wells.

There are more and more enquiries about chaplaincy from a wide range of communities. They are seeking a chaplain to offer pastoral care and well-being support for an increasingly stressed and anxious workforce. One particular enquiry caught my attention this week.

A local Further Education college has been saying that their first concern is for a chaplain to address the spiritual exploration of its students. What an opportunity! We know from the Talking Jesus research (2015 and 2022) that most practising Christians come to faith before the age of 18. Several of our schools, including primary, have pupil chaplains now and this is a great way of recognising that you are never too young to start in living and telling the story of Jesus!

As a child I was always struck by the Old Testament story of the unnamed little slave girl who served Naaman's wife, (2 Kings chapter 5). Taken from her home to another country, and placed in an alien environment, she was the one who introduced Naaman to Elisha the prophet in Israel. As a result, Naaman overcame his scepticism, was healed from his leprosy, and discovered a faith in God.

Chaplaincy opens up a diversity of contexts in which we can share our faith and I invite you to pray for those here in Bath and Wells who are treading new ground to open up the way for others to discover the love of Jesus for themselves.

However, each one of us has our own possibility of being a chaplain, coming alongside another in our daily life and community. Sometimes our timidity prevents us from speaking up about faith and our personal spiritual journey other than in church where we are known and on familiar territory.

How about taking some time to reflect on where you might live and tell the story of Jesus outside of church, in your everyday context? Is there someone, like a Naaman's wife who is desperate to find help and hope for a loved one but doesn't know where to find it? Maybe you are the only one who could tell them!

With love and thankfulness for you all!

+Ruth

Harvest Festival

One of the high points in the church's year, particularly in a rural area, is when we come together to give thanks for another year's harvest. The churches are always abundantly decorated; the favourite old harvest hymns are sung; produce is brought to church, offered and then given away to charity as a symbol of our response to God's generosity; we remember those in parts of the world where the harvest is poor; and then often food is shared at a lunch or a supper. So whether you are a farmer, an allotment holder, a gardener or simply someone who wants to give thanks for the harvest do come along to one of our churches. Each celebrates harvest in its own special way and on a separate date, so there are plenty of opportunities to join in. Harvest gifts of non-perishable food given at the services will be offered to Cheddar Valley Foodbank.

ALLERTON CHURCH BELLRINGING ROTA



OCTOBER

Dean Underwood
Jim Mathers
John Crosby
Julian Forbes

ALLERTON CHURCH BELLRINGING ROTA



NOVEMBER

Steve Reading
Mark Smith
Giles Floyd

ALLERTON CHURCH ROTA

OCTOBER 2023

Services 9.00 am at Allerton unless otherwise stated

	October 1st	October 8th
	Family Service – Harvest Festival	Parish Communion
		Trinity 18
Officiant	LWA Matthew Paul	Rev. Richard Neill
Cleaning	Fiona Torrens-Spence	Nina Reading
Coffee	Tracey Matthews & Nina Reading	Di & Simon Midgley
Flowers	Fiona Duggan-Rees	Tracey Crosby
Intercessions	Johnny Torrens-Spence	Johnny Torrens-Spence
Keys	Fiona Duggan-Rees	Wendy Pollock
Reader 1	Jane Midgley	Philip Bevan
Reading	Daniel 7; 9-10, 13-14	Isaiah 5; 1-7
Reader 2	N/A	Matthew Paul
Reading	N/A	Philippians 3; 4-14
Sides-Collection	Dot Puddy & Matthew Paul	Nina & Steve Reading

	October 15th	October 22nd	October 29th
	Morning Prayer	Parish Communion	Dedication Festival Communion
	Trinity 19	Bible Sunday	9.00 am Allerton
Officiant	LWA Johnny Torrens-Spence	Rev. Joy Hawes	Rev. Richard Neill
Cleaning	Shirley Turner	Jane Midgley	Matthew Paul
Coffee	Jane & Andrew Midgley	Fiona & Johnny Torrens-Spence	John & Tracey Crosby
Flowers	Anita Tonks	Nina Reading	Kate Fielder
Intercessions	Johnny Torrens-Spence	Andrew Midgley	Matthew Paul
Keys	Martin Long	Elaine Steckler	Ros Prince
Reader 1	Angie Horne	Fiona Torrens-Spence	Andrew Midgley
Reading	Isaiah 25; 1-9	Nehemiah 8; 1-4, 8-12	1 Kings 8; 22-30
Reader 2	Lester Durston	Judith Ogden	Johnny Torrens-Spence
Reading	Matthew 22;1-14	Colossians 3;12-17	Hebrews 12; 18-24
Sides-Collection	Fiona & Johnny Torrens-Spence	Matthew Paul & Irene McIntosh	Fiona & Johnny Torrens-Spence

ALLERTON CHURCH ROTA

November 2023

Services 9.00 am at Allerton unless otherwise stated

	November 5th	November 5th	November 12th
	Family Pet Service	All Souls Service	Remembrance Service
		3.00 pm	St. Mary's 10.30
Officiant	LWA TBA	TBA	Rev. Richard Neill
Cleaning	Judith Ogden & Sylvia Finch	N/A	Fiona Torrens-Spence
Coffee	Tracey Matthews & TBA	Johnny Torrens-Spence	N/A
Flowers	Irene McIntosh	N/A	Dot Puddy
Intercession	John Crosby	TBA	N/A
Keys	Dot Puddy	N/A	Fiona Duggan-Rees
Reader 1	Matthew Paul	Jane Midgley	N/A
Reading	TBA	Psalm 23	N/A
Reader 2	N/A	Angie Horne	N/A
Reading	N/A	Revelation 21; 1-7	N/A
Sides-Collection	Andrew Midgley & Simon Midgley	Matthew Paul & Irene McIntosh	N/A

	November 19th	November 26th
	Parish Communion	Patronal Communion
		Christchurch, Theale 11.00 am
Officiant	Rev. Joy Hawes	Rev. Richard Neill
Cleaning	Nina Reading	Shirley Turner
Coffee	John & Tracy Crosby	N/A
Flowers	Fiona Duggan-Rees	Tracey Crosby
Intercessions	Dot Puddy	N/A
Keys	John Crosby	Martin Long
Reader 1	Fiona Torrens-Spence	N/A
Reading	Zephaniah 1; 7, 12-18	N/A
Reader 2	Lester Durston	N/A
Reading	1 Thessalonians 5; 1-11	N/A
Sides-Collection	Nina & Steve Reading	N/A

VILLAGE DIRECTORY

<p>ALLERTON CHURCH Benefice Vicar: Rev. Richard Neill (713566) Enquiries except personal or pastoral to Churchwardens Mrs Jane Midgley (712642) and Dr Matthew Paul (712934) Or PCC Secretary Mr Johnny Torrens-Spence (710188) Parish Safeguarding Officer Lyndsay Andrews (710305) (07813 931734) lyndsayandrews@hotmail.com</p>	<p>ASHTON WINDMILL Chairman Mr Steve Reading (712692) Open Sundays 2.30 – 4.30pm April – September Open Wednesdays July & August Parties by arrangement with the Chairman</p>
<p>ALLERTON CRICKET CLUB Chairman Mr Andrew Cook (710074) Secretary Mr David Spinner (710784) Captain Dr Matthew Paul (712934) (07703 776447) cricketallerton@gmail.com</p>	<p>BEAVERS, CUBS & SCOUTS at Badgworth Old School Cubs - Mondays Beavers – Wednesdays Scouts -Fridays Contact Mr Mike Wilkinson (713356)</p>
<p>ALLERTON HARVEST HOME Chairman Dr Matthew Paul (712934) Secretary Mrs Sarah Axton (712935)</p>	<p>BROWNIES & GUIDES At Weare Academy First School Brownies Mrs Juliet Dormer (741875)</p>
<p>ALLERTON NEWS Email allertonnews@hotmail.co.uk Enquiries Mrs Alison Buckton (712714) Adverts Mrs J Benson (713112) Benson43@hotmail.co.uk Mailing List allertonnews@hotmail.co.uk</p>	<p>MOBILE LIBRARY See the village notice boards. Usually 3rd Friday of the month. Front Street, Chapel Allerton, between 1.25pm- 1.45pm www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries</p>
<p>ALLERTON OLD SCHOOL ROOM Chairman Mr Johnny Torrens-Spence (710118) Secretary Mr Steve Reading (712692) Bookings Mrs Louise Whittaker (07729 845723) Louise01934@gmail.com</p>	<p>NEWSPAPER DELIVERIES Mr Jeff Savage (744830) (07973 232140)</p>
<p>ALLERTON PARISH COUNCIL Chair Mrs Jasmine Blakemore Mrs Fiona Torrens-Spence, Mrs Margret Wallach Mrs Val Wathen, Mrs Rachel Williams Footpath Liaison Office John Crosby (07470180759) John57crosby@yahoo.com Clerk Sammie Millard - Jones</p>	<p>OIL BUYING GROUP Co-ordinator Mr Jonathan Pinnock theoilbuyinggroup@gmail.com</p>
<p>ALLERTON VILLAGES WEBSITE www.allertonvillages.co.uk</p>	<p>REFUSE COLLECTION Recycling weekly Mondays Black Bins every three weeks For information and dates https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk</p>
<p>ALLERTON WOMENS INSTITUTE 2nd Tuesday of the Month at The Old School Room President Mrs Jackie Klinker (01934 732208) Secretary Mrs Gail Pinnock (01934 709496)</p>	<p>SOMERSET COUNCIL Bob Filmer (01278 760760) bfilmer@somerset.gov.uk Tony Grimes (01278 786308) tony.grimes@somerset.gov.uk</p>
<p>ALLERTON YOUTH CLUB Alternate Fridays in The Old School Room Contact Denise Pope (07786071007) denise.pope101@gmail.com</p>	<p>WEARE PARISH COUNCIL https://www.weareparishcouncil.org.uk weareparishcouncil@hotmail.com</p>
<p>RAINBOW WOODS PRE-SCHOOL At Weare Academy First School Term Time, Monday-Friday Morning, Lunchtime and Afternoon Sessions. Breakfast and after school clubs available. Contact Mrs Lana Whittaker (01934 733413) during school hours Rainbow-woods@educ.somerset.gov.uk www.weareacademy.co.uk/topic/pre-school</p>	

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