

The Link

The magazine for Rode, Tellisford, Woolverton and
Farleigh Hungerford, part of Hardington Vale



DECEMBER 2023/JANUARY 2024

St Lawrence Roof and Somerset Council Updates

Latest Fundraisers - Didn't They Do Well!

Check Out December and 2024 Events Details

By the way we still need an Editor...

and much more local news and details inside...

£1



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² Safeguarding Officer
³ Chapel or Deputy wardens at Farleigh Hungerford,
Rode and Tellisford.

HARDINGTON VALE WEBSITE

www.hardingtonvale.org.uk

Hemington and Hardington

are in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust
Keyholder Peter Simper 01373 834315

THE LINK MAGAZINE is published by the
Parochial Church Council which reserves the right to
edit any material submitted for publication.

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the
PCC, the Rector or the Editor.

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The Link February 2024 issue
COPY DEADLINE 22ND JANUARY 2024

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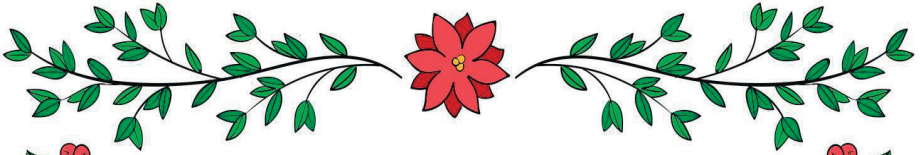
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Organisation	Contact Name	Contact Number
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Community Speed Watch (CSW)	Malcolm Wood	830301/mwood17@uwclub.net
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Post Office (Rode)	Sam	830321
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Rode Parent/Carer/ Toddler Group	Ros Jackson	rosjackson@btinternet.com
Rodevillage.com website	Jim McAuliffe Hugh Williams	jim.mcauliffe@btinternet.com clerk.rodeparishcouncil@gmail.com
1 st Rode Scout Group Beavers Wed 5.30-6.30pm Cubs Thu 6.15-7.45pm Scouts Wed 7-8.30pm Scouts Edor Explorer Unit Every other Tuesday 8-9.30pm NB During school terms only	Group Scout Leader: Howard Russell	hdrussello1@gmail.com 830640/07736 739680
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NHS 111 24 hour medical care help	Contact 111 if you have an urgent T: 111 Online: 111.nhs.co.uk	medical problem and you are unsure what to do

Editor's Message...



...and here we are, the last issue of The Link for 2023, already! Yet another year seems to have just sped by and Christmas and the new year are fast approaching.

As with last year, 2023 has brought many new residents to Hardington Vale and we do hope you've enjoyed your first months here and will enjoy your first H.V. Christmas. Sadly, this year we have again seen the passing of several Hardington Vale residents and characters, they will be missed and remembered at this special time.

As ever a huge thank you to all our Contributors for your invaluable help with the contents of the magazine and to our Distribution Team for your efforts in delivering The Link (whatever the weather!). My thanks also to all our Subscribers and advertisers for your contributions to funding the magazine.

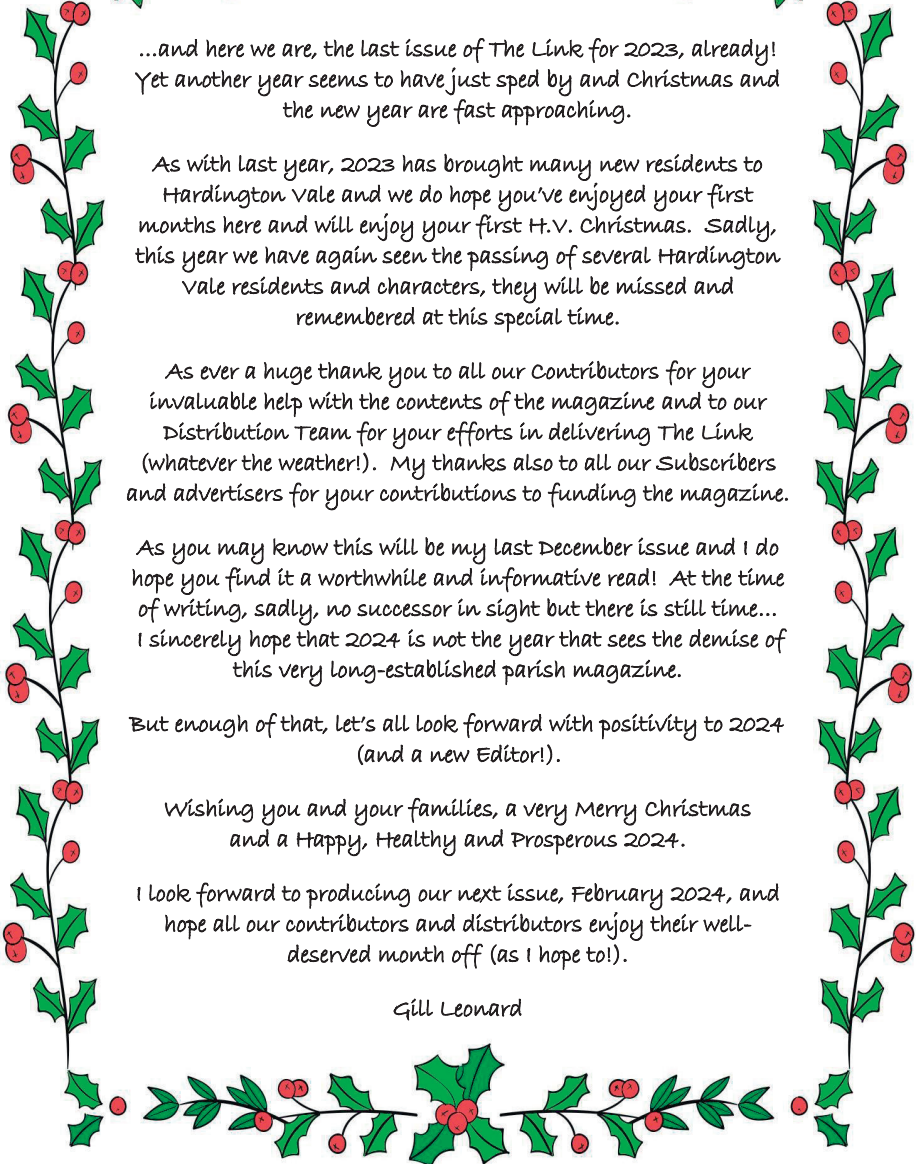
As you may know this will be my last December issue and I do hope you find it a worthwhile and informative read! At the time of writing, sadly, no successor in sight but there is still time... I sincerely hope that 2024 is not the year that sees the demise of this very long-established parish magazine.

But enough of that, let's all look forward with positivity to 2024 (and a new Editor!).

Wishing you and your families, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2024.

I look forward to producing our next issue, February 2024, and hope all our contributors and distributors enjoy their well-deserved month off (as I hope to!).

Gill Leonard



Church Reflection, News & Events

REFLECTION

There was an excellent play at the Theatre Royal Bath recently called *The Score*. I know several people who saw it but for any who didn't, the plot concerned a visit of Johannes Sebastian Bach to the court of Frederick the second (the Great) of Prussia.

The King had invited him as he was an admirer of Bach's music and also intrigued about the man. Bach is loath to go as he abhors the behaviour of Frederick's troops who commit only what can be described as war crimes as they rampage through the area conquering region after region. Bach does visit and the play culminates in a massive row between the king and the composer. The two men thunder at each other across the stage, Bach accusing Frederick of his wicked assault on innocent people and the king robustly defending his position saying he has to recapture lost lands to create a greater Prussia, sounding very like the rhetoric of Putin! It was a great piece of theatre, and very thought provoking the thought I came home with was that in spite of war and turmoil surrounding his town and region, Bach was able to create the most sublime music. The world seems to be in terrible turmoil today. It's worth remembering that it always has been. Is it worse today or do we simply hear more about it? I'm not sure.

We are coming close to the Christmas season now. Lights are beginning to twinkle and soon we will be hearing Christmas music, jingling bells, and familiar carols. We will be told its "The most wonderful time of the year" and for many that will feel true, although the gloss and glitter will start to fade soon after. The Christmas story that lies at the heart of all our celebrations is beautiful. We love the baby in a manger and Mary his mother all in blue. We love the docile gentle eyed animals, the shepherds with their lambs and the regal kings with their camels and expensive gifts. And the angels... Oh Hark the Herald Angels.

But all this beauty and loveliness is set against a backdrop of an embittered people living in an occupied territory, a distant emperor who orders people to move from place to place on a whim, and a despotic king who massacres baby boys in an insane fit of jealous insecurity. Jesus' parents had to run for their lives, taking him to Egypt, a familiar story even today. Jesus was born into this mayhem and yet it truly is the most beautiful story.

He was called the Prince of Peace and as a man he showed us how to live in peace, with justice for all. He cared for the poor and outcast as well as the rich and privileged, and foreigners. He showed us God's love and forgiveness and even cruel betrayal and death at the hands of the Romans couldn't keep him down. He came back and showed us that even death need no longer be the great

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enemy. What beauty in the midst of such terrible times. And best of all he is with us all the year, not just Christmas, present in our world and walking beside us, if we wake up to his reality.

J.S. Bach believed all this. No wonder he wrote such sublime music.

Barbara Day

Hardington Vale Reader

NEWS FROM ST LAWRENCE

It was lovely to see so many people turn out on Remembrance Sunday for the Parade and the Service on the Green and weren't we lucky with the weather?! It was very encouraging to see so many members of the 1st Rode Major Scout Group out on parade and we were very fortunate to be joined by the army.

We didn't hold Breakfast Church this month due to it falling on Remembrance Day and it will return on the 14th January at 9am. Everybody is welcome to come and join in with our delicious breakfast and informal worship.

No doubt December will be a busy month at St Lawrence as we look forward to all of the various Services during Advent and at Christmas.

We have our family Carol Service at 3 pm on 17th December and our Outdoor Nativity starting at the top of Marsh Road on Sunday 10th December, also 3pm.

If you would like to play a more active role in the outdoor nativity, either musically or playing a part, then please do contact me (Sally 831796), there's something for everyone – adults, children and animals!

There will be Midnight Mass at St Lawrence at 11pm, and then our Family Service on Christmas Day at 10.30am – please bring along any visiting family and friends. We look forward to seeing you at any of our Services.

Geoff Banwell and Sally Pickett

CHRISTMAS SERVICES & EVENTS...

Please see our Christmas Section commencing on page 33 for details of Church Christmas Events and Services.

Details of all Parish December and January Services can be found at the back of this magazine.



UPDATE ON ST LAWRENCE CHURCH ROOF WORK & FUNDING

As some readers will have noticed, the scaffolding went up around the South Aisle on the 13th of November.

Removal of the existing stone tiles from that part of the church started on the 20th of November.

Work will continue until mid-March and then cease for the summer, because that is when the bats take up residence again.

It is good to see work under way. Phase 1 of three phases to take place over three winters will then be complete.

Since last month we have received £250 from the village pantomime committee for which we are very grateful.

Many people assume that massive grants are available to fund this kind of work, but this is far from the truth.

However, we have just received the fantastic news that the Garfield Weston Foundation are going to make us a grant of £20,000.

We are not there yet as far as the funding for the whole project is concerned but this is a huge help.



THE HEART OF R♥DE

For those who are interested, Garfield Weston was the founder of Associated British Foods (ABF) and gave away 80% of the Weston Family's wealth for the benefit of the nation. ABF continues to be a very successful company.

The Foundation shares in that success and so now do we!

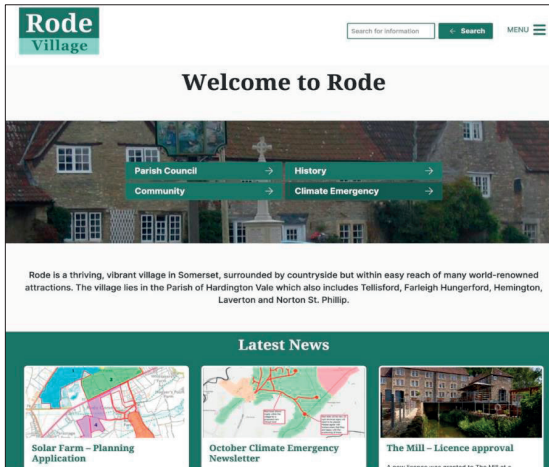
Geoff Banwell and Sally Pickett

Parish News

RODE VILLAGE HAS A NEW WEBSITE!

As many will know, Rode Parish Council has had a website for a number of years. However, we recognised that it was probably not as visually enticing as we'd like and was fairly basic. It compared relatively poorly to other local Parish Council websites (e.g.: Beckington, Southwick...). There were some other challenges with the old site (including accessibility).

Earlier this year, therefore, the PC decided to put together a new website – primarily aimed at widening engagement with what the Parish Council is doing, but also acting as a portal/information hub for a whole range of activities in and around the village. This includes things like the school, scouts, buses, cricket club, local businesses, community groups, comedy nights, Climate Emergency Group, Playing Field etc, etc.



Of course, we already have a couple of great sources of local information - The Link, plus the village Facebook site. The new website is not designed to replace either of these – hopefully it will complement them and provide information in a different way.

To produce the new site, we've used a local web design agency who specialise in town and parish council websites (they do the Frome Town Council website, amongst many others). The site follows a very standard template, which is pretty fixed, but we will be responsible for the content.

The new site is now live at www.rodevillage.com – take a look and feel free to provide feedback (either to myself: jim.mcauliffe@btinternet.com or Hugh Williams: clerk.rodeparishcouncil@gmail.com)

Parish News

You will see there are a few gaps.... we're still working on completing the content - in particular, although the History section is huge, there's still quite a bit more to transfer over from the old site (we're aiming to have this completed by the end of the year).

At the end of the day the website is aimed at meeting the needs of Rode residents, so if you have ideas for improvements, please let us know. We're actually keen to have a village logo on the home page – if you've got an idea or a design, feel free to pass this on!

Jim McAuliffe

Rode Parish Councillor

PROPOSED SOLAR FARM UPDATE

The planning application for the proposed Solar Farm in Rode has now been published, and anyone who registered to receive progress updates on the website should have received a short confirmatory email with details of how to access the planning documentation. If you haven't got the email, but would like to better understand the proposed development, full details are available on the Somerset Council website: <https://publicaccess.mendip.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=S3WYXFKPIAOoo>

Or go to the “View and Comment on a Planning Application” section, select “Mendip”, then “Find an Application” – the application number is 2023/2183/FUL: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/view-and-comment-on-a-planning-application/?district=Mendip>

The Parish Council requested an extension to the deadline for responses, and Somerset Council initially confirmed an extension to 15th December. However, it appears that this may now be 21st December.

Notwithstanding these extensions, it would be very helpful if local residents could also copy any submissions made to the Parish Council* to enable the PC to better understand local views. [* clerk.rodeparishcouncil@gmail.com]

The PC will be debating the application at its next meeting on 11th December.

Jim McAuliffe

Rode Parish Councillor

Parish News

SOMERSET COUNCIL UPDATE



Greetings all. As one of your local Somerset Councillors I need to update you all on a few things.

Environment and Climate Change: As part of Somerset Council's response to the climate and ecological emergency we have introduced a new Tree Strategy, and a Local Area Energy Plan is being prepared to promote renewable energy opportunities. A Local Nature Recovery Strategy is also being prepared and there is a current public consultation on securing 'biodiversity net gain' from new development, to deliver nature recovery. An earlier consultation also took views on proposed more sustainable future transport and planning policies for new developments.

Somerset Council's climate strategy is being refreshed, but it has just been recognised as a leader in its work to respond to the climate emergency, with an 'A-' grade for its performance in 2023 from CDP, a global sustainability disclosure charity, based on its projects, strategies and activities.

Recycling is also increasing, and Somerset Council achieved its highest ever recycling rate in 2022/23, with 56.6% of all household waste being recycled, and 96.6% staying in the UK for processing.

The Climate & Place Scrutiny Committee (which I Vice-Chair) has been reviewing the Councils economic development, planning, transport, energy and environmental policies and initiatives. We will look into water quality in Somerset (including phosphate pollution of the Levels, and the need for mitigation in the planning system, which is holding up planning permissions in the Somerset Levels *Ramsar site* catchment) early in the new year.

Solar Farm: I am keeping abreast of this application and its progress – please see page XX for the latest news on this development from Rode Parish Council.

Road Safety And The Local Community Network: We are still awaiting the proposed extension of the 30mph zone along the A361, and a new 20mph speed limit for Rode village, but Somerset Highways have given reassurances that the public consultation on this should be very soon now.

Road safety issues and issues surrounding a potential future reorganisation of schools in the Frome area were the subject of the very well-attended October meeting of the 'Vale of Frome' Local Community Network (LCN) in Buckland Dinham.

The Vale of Frome LCN covers 18 parishes around Frome, including Rode, Tellisford/Woolverton and Farleigh Hungerford. LCNs are a way of bringing together all the parish councils and other public, voluntary and community organisations in an area with their Somerset Councillors and officers, to work out issues and ideas on a more local level, to counteract the inevitable centralisation effect of having a single unitary council for Somerset.

Parish News

The next meeting is on Thursday 7th December in Wanstrow Village Hall (and online). We will hear about the work to improve road safety by council highways officers and the Police and discuss the Somerset Council financial situation and how parish and town councils might take on more local services. As Vice-Chair I can say all are welcome, so please come along and join in if you have any interest in these issues (please see my website for details).

Local Plan: The Local Plan for the former Mendip District is also being updated in the next few months, after a call for sites was required to replace the sites previously allocated for housing but which were removed from the plan in Norton St Philip Parish Council's successful High Court challenge. Having a site allocated for development in a Local Plan really helps get planning permission. Somerset Council officers are currently assessing over 140 sites that were submitted into the process by landowners, including several sites around Rode, Beckington and Norton St Philip. We will soon know which sites have been judged suitable, sustainable, available and deliverable by 2029 in a draft Preferred Options report to committee which will be available online before a 6 week public consultation begins. No doubt there will be great interest in this, so I will post details on my website when they are available.

Somerset Council Finances: The rumours were correct; Somerset Council is now in a financial emergency. Somerset Council's projected overspend for 2023/24 is now close to £30 million and projections for next year suggest that budget gap could be £100 million. There is a danger of a Section 114 notice being issued under the Local Government Finance Act - this is what happens when a council's chief finance officer judges (independently of councillors) that the council is no longer able to balance its budget because it does not have sufficient resources (either income or reserves) to meet its outgoings. Unless the Council takes significant action, we have been warned that a s114 could be issued in or before February's Full Council budget setting meeting, which would mean a halt to all non-essential spending, and expensive appointed commissioners coming in to make financial decisions without democratic accountability.

The vast majority of the overspend and projected cost increase for next year come from adults and children's social care, which take up about 2/3rds of the council's budget, looking after some of the most vulnerable members of all our communities. Central Government is neither resourcing councils properly to afford to provide these care services, nor giving councils the flexibility to raise the funds themselves.

Much of this is driven by forces outside the council's control, especially the cost of residential care, which has risen enormously (from roughly over £500 a week to over £900 a week) largely as a result of the Government's own aborted Fair Cost of Care policy which opened the books and revealed previous low costs. Other budget pressures include inflation (which is hitting local government particularly hard) and the difficulty recruiting staff in many areas (such as social workers and planners). Somerset also has a relatively low council tax base (with

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a high number of properties in the ABCD bands), and the six year Council Tax freeze in 2010-16 by a previous County Council administration reduced Somerset Council's income by over £200million.

Local Government has seen grants from central government fall by about 40% over the past few years. The recent Autumn Statement indicates further budget cuts are coming. There have been discussions with the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities about the financial sustainability of the Council, and the Government has a chance in their Local Government Settlement in December to show that they understand the situation and care about the residents of Somerset, so we will see if they do.

Somerset Council intends to avoid a s114 being issued if at all possible, so officers and the Executive teams are drafting proposals for the December 6th Executive meeting. These are likely to include:

- financial controls to reduce projected overspends.
- disposal of the Council's commercial investment portfolio.
- bringing forward the disposals of some of the Council's non-commercial assets and the rationalisation of the council's offices.
- work with city, town & parish councils & voluntary, charity, faith & social enterprise sectors to seek alternative ways of safeguarding many services.
- reductions to some non-statutory service levels.

Setting a budget for 2024/5 (at Full Council meeting Feb 2024) is going to be extremely challenging, some very difficult decisions about services look likely. I have discussed the situation with Parish Councils, and Somerset Council has written to all parishes setting out the situation and inviting discussions on how some services could be supported and/or devolved locally. By the time you read this the details of the above should be public, so please see my website for updates. I and other local Councillors will be scrutinising the proposals for the likely effects on local public services and working to get the best outcomes possible for our communities.

Keeping In Touch: As one of your Somerset Councillors I need to keep in touch with you on what's going on and what your concerns/issues are. I do an email newsletter and an online Residents Survey so you can have your say directly, both are on my website (see below). This magazine is another important way to keep in touch. I can always meet residents in person, so please just get in touch. To subscribe to my newsletter or contact me about any issue please email me (see below for website and email addresses).

Lastly, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Merry New Year.

Adam Boyden

Somerset Councillor for Frome North Division

M: 07809 284817 E:adam.boyden@somerset.gov.uk or ellrboyden@gmail.com

Web: <https://adamboyden.mycouncillor.org.uk/>

DECEMBER NSP MATINEE CONCERT

Night River presents Beth Rowley, DG Solaris and Maggie Christmas who will be performing at an all ages matinee show at St Philip & St James Church, Norton St Philip on December 2nd at 3pm. Tickets available at: nightriver.net

- Beth Rowley is a successful singer songwriter from Bristol, straddling the genres of folk, rock, gospel and blues, who has shared stages with Burt Bacharach and Jools Holland.
- DG Solaris is the name given to talented Rode singer songwriter, Danny Green.
- Maggie Christmas is a young, upcoming songwriter also based in Rode who will be performing one of her first ever live shows.

Hope to see you there.

Night River

THE SUPER SLEUTH IS BACK...

Who Killed The?

Saturday March 2nd 2024 at 7.30pm, Rode Memorial Hall

For one night only we ask the residents of Rode to be the super sleuths of the Southwest and work out who killed the... (yet to be decided!).

Yes, we are back again in March with another murder mystery play. This is our follow on from our successful one night only 'Who Killed The Caretaker?', staged in March 2023.

You can guarantee that there will be many familiar faces among the cast, and we do require some audience participation to work out 'Who Killed The?'

This is a family event, and everyone can join in the fun.

Tickets are available from The Post Office at the very reasonable price of:
£10 per adult including a glass of wine and cheese and biscuits
£5 per child including a soft drink and cheese and biscuits.

Profits from this year's Murder Mystery play will be going to The Heart of Rode (see page 5 for an update of our roof project). Please come and support us.

Sally Pickett

Parish News

RPF LOTTERY WINNERS & 2024 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Playing Field Lottery winners in October 2023, drawn by staff & customers in the Cross Keys:

1st - £50.00 ... Sarah Coumbe, Rode.
2nd - £25.00 ... Mr. & Mrs. Harper, Rode.
3rd - £25.00 ... Graham Noad, Rode.
Sunday Roast for two at The Cross Keys,
courtesy of Mark and Hannah ... James Joyce,
Rode.



If you would like a chance to get a slice of this action, remember only 200 tickets available and a share of £100 and two Sunday roasts, all possible for £1.00 per ticket!

And remember you are supporting the Playing Field (which needs all the help it can get right now!) when you buy your ticket.

Tickets on sale at the Post Office, or directly from Jane and I.

Next draws Saturday 30th of December and 21st January. 8PM at the Cross Keys.

A new year, a new chance to support the Playing Field...

By buying lottery tickets to perhaps win one of three cash prizes (£50.00/£25.00/£25.00), plus Sunday Roast lunch for two at the Cross Keys (courtesy of Mark and Hannah), every month.

Only 200 tickets are available, drawn in the Cross Keys on the last day of every month. Tickets are only £1.00 each.

If you would like to subscribe for the year, let Jane or Keith Sharman have the appropriate amount for how many tickets you would like (£1.00 per ticket per month).

Cash, or cheque (made out to *Rode Playing Field*), either in person, to 9 Langham Place (T: 830408), or to the Post Office, in a *clearly marked envelope by the end of January at the latest please. Thank you for your support.*

Keith Sharman

T: 830408

1ST RODE MAJOR SCOUT GROUP 200 CLUB

The results for the Scouts 200 club for October were:

1st prize £50 - Mike & Linda Greenwood

2nd prize £25 - Charlie Russell



Drawn at the Monday Lunch Club.

The Xmas 200 Club results were:

1st prize £100 - Linda Pobjoy

2nd prize £50 - Barry Gilroy

3rd prize £25 - Tracy Mulcrone

Drawn by Demi and Jaime at Rode Post Office.

February 2024 sees the start of the New 200 Club year:

We are always looking for new members.

- For just £10 a year you will be given your own number, this will be included in 12 monthly draws.
- Each month we draw 2 prizes, £50 and £25, in November we have the Christmas draw which is 3 prizes, £100, £50 and £25.
- You must be over 16 years of age to join.
- You don't have to be a member of the Group to join, anyone can join.

Forms are available at Rode Post Office, from Scout Leaders, or contact Howard and Diana Russell1, Walnut Close, Rode, BA11 6QA T: 07736 739680.

We are very lucky in Rode to have an amazing Scout Group with all of the Leaders who volunteer and give up their time to keep this going, but we do need funds.

I know things are difficult for many at the moment, but if you could support us, we would really appreciate it.

Thank you

Janet Jupp

Parish News

'OUT OF THE BLUE'.....ITS A WRAP!!!!

After 18 months of amazing efforts and teamwork, the Rode Panto team crossed the finishing line with 3 triumphant performances at the hall. There is no doubt that this is a unique village event for a number of reasons, but particularly because it brings together a mix of characters with an age range of over 60 years who bond as one team to raise money for a range charities and local good causes.



This was a classic Panto romp, with a fairy (lovely dress and wand action Anne), a Dame, a cute lovesick lad, goodies, baddies, kids, songs, terrible jokes, cross dressing, magic, people dressed as animals, two 'Princesses', love and thwarted love, audience participation and a lot of unscripted stuff!

It was great to see so many people gaining in confidence over the weeks, especially the first timers and reluctant volunteers... Debbie (Billy Mead), Jessie (Midnight), Richard (Dame Mead), Sam (Scratchit), Hilly (General Chaos). Everyone soon got into the rhythm of rehearsals and threw themselves into the show, and it soon became clear that we had something special in the making. The net result was that they brought a bizarre story from panto land to life, including a blue sheep and a rather excitable dog to life in a never to be forgotten way. They should all be very proud.

Of course, the actors were supported by an amazing backstage team who produced stunning costumes, scenery and music all of which added hugely to the experience. I cannot stress enough how important all of the unseen and unsung work is to producing a successful show. NB Thank you Sue, Richard, Martin, Jonny and Barbara, Anne and Mike. I would also like to just give special thanks to Caiden who stepped in as the prompt at short notice following Lesley's accident, we couldn't have done it without you.

The final net profit was £4,300 all of which has now been distributed after an emotional presentation night at the Keys (photos on right). The main beneficiaries were Dorothy House; with whom the Panto team has a long standing relationship with, and Guide Dogs For The Blind. There were also donations to the Village Hall, the Chapel, Heart of Rode and the Scouts which I am sure will be put to good use in the months ahead.

That's it... thank you to everyone who supported us in one way or another, both this year and in the past, it was much appreciated, and I hope that over the last 35 years the Panto has created some good memories for you as well.

Gary Holloway

Parish News



Parish News

CHAPEL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday 18th November saw the Chapel Christmas Bazaar open at 10am to happy throngs of friends bargain hunting for Christmas. There was something for everyone...a vast choice of cake if you didn't fancy a bacon roll with your tea or coffee, jigsaws, cards, sweets, games and a raffle, not to mention the great atmosphere. Top marks go to the Craft Group who put so much time and effort into producing such a myriad of beautiful items and then giving their time to sell them all.

Jean Jones won the "Name the Dalmation" (he was called Harvey). Competition for the Bean Bag Prize was fierce at both adult and young person level. The adult competition ended in a play off between worthy opponents, with the non-wine-drinking winner donating the prize bottle to the runner up!

We owe a huge thank you to everyone who helped in any way, from those running stalls or games to the cubs for making and selling the sweets (and donating ALL their proceeds) and the many helpers in the kitchen who served and washed up and of course the many, many of you who came to support us by spending some of your hard-earned.

We're delighted to report a net profit of more or less exactly £1000...a fantastic outcome and a sizable chunk towards the cost of our refurbished windows.

Thank you all!

Bill Jackson



*New Year, new volunteers -
could you you be one?
Make a positive difference in 2024...*

Alex Sing certainly has in her many years organising Rode's Monday Lunch Club! Alex hands over to Hannah and Mark in January so the December "Christmas Extravaganza" will be her last (as the organiser) – she's going out with a bang! Thank you, Alex, for all the time you've devoted to Lunch Club over the years and congratulations on becoming a grandmother, enjoy!!

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who donated towards this year's Poppy Appeal, to all the wonderful house to house collectors and to the brilliant cash counters.



This year we collected £1760 in Rode and the immediate area. The total may increase when we hear if anyone donated via the QR codes in the pubs and Post Office.

Yet again the village of Rode has made a huge difference to a fantastic charity that supports our veterans.

If anyone would like to get involved in next year's Poppy Appeal, please contact me.

Many Thanks

Jacqui Rottenbury

T: 07795 843035

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY PARADE

We were lucky with the weather this year as the rain held off just long enough for our Service on the Green last month.

Our youngsters all looked very smart led by our dedicated team of Leaders.

We were also supported once again by 9 Regiment REME, who turned out in great numbers to support us all and who had also been along on an evening before the parade to chat to us and given us marching practice.

Our thanks to the small group of people who prepare the Green, read the names of the fallen, members of Rode Chapel, St Lawrence Church and our bugle player.

Also, to Hannah and Mark and the Cross Keys team who opened early and welcomed the soldiers with refreshments.

Lastly, all the villagers who come and pay their respects.

Howard Russell

Group Scout Leader



Parish News



MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

On 10 November I did my usual check to see if there was any rubbish on the screen at Tellisford Mill. I noticed a glass bottle floating and hooked it out to recycle the glass but imagine my surprise when I saw an orange piece of paper inside saying "Message". I opened the bottle and read the message which said it had been thrown "in Nunney Brook by the bridge". There was also an email address.



My message to that email address produced an immediate reply from Ron, who lives in Nunney, and is a retired merchant mariner who over his maritime years threw bottles into the sea in the hope that someone would find them. One that he had thrown into the mid-Atlantic eventually washed up in Ireland. Since he retired to Nunney he has thrown several into Nunney Brook, usually to amuse his grandchildren. He said this was the first time anyone had responded.



It was pure serendipity that I found it: a few moments later, the trash cleaner did an automatic screen clean and its sluice gate opened. If the bottle had still been in the water, it would have washed away downstream.

The bottle had travelled 9.5 miles down Nunney Brook, into the Mells River above Hapsford, down the Mells to join the Frome at Spring Gardens and on to Tellisford at an average sedate 2.9 yards per hour. On this journey it went over 17 weirs, any one of which might have broken it.

Ron says he will put more bottles with messages in the river and I will keep an eye open. So, if you see a bottle floating by, retrieve it. It may contain a message.

Anthony Battersby

NSP CHRISTMAS FAYRE

The Christmas Fayre at NSP on 25th November was very successful with 11 stalls all selling unique gifts, all handmade. Our cake stall (full of homemade cakes/biscuits) and refreshments were popular as was the raffle.

The church was full of visitors from the area enjoying the morning, thank you to all who supported us.

Glenys Brown

Parish News

A HUGE “THANK YOU”

This is a brief, but heartfelt, THANK YOU to everyone who recently donated unwanted men’s coats, gloves, hoodies, plus old tents and sleeping bags.

**CARE 4
CALAIS**

Thanks to all those lovely donors I was able to take a carload of such items to the Care4Calais depot at Sangatte last month. And our car was absolutely packed!



Thankfully the ferry crossings were calm, and P&O did a great job of getting me there and back on time. Plus - the beauty of travelling at this time of year is that the ferries are virtually empty, and queues are pretty much non-existent.

The clothing and other items will be much appreciated by the recipients...the weather in Calais has been wet and cold for the past month or so and will doubtless remain so for much of the winter.

Many thanks again. I will be doing another trip in November 2024, so stay tuned for another appeal!

Jim McAuliffe

jim.mcauliffe@care4calais.org

LAVERTON CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Laverton Christmas Bazaar breaks records - never has so much been raised, at the Bazaar, and so early in the Christmas season too!

Delighted to report that the efforts of the volunteers on 28th November, coupled with great generosity shown by neighbours and visitors (THANK YOU) led to a grand total of £577 for St Mary’s Laverton Church funds - up £100 on last year.

Thanks to Gilli and Graham Weeks for making the Egg House available, to the expert bakers, the jam and marmalade makers, the book sellers and bric a brac vendors and of course the raffle ticket team. A great effort!

Virginia Garaux

Parish Youth News & Events

FRANS LATEST

FRANS are set to have a festive December and fabulous start to 2024.

In December we are hosting Family Carol Singing at St Laurence Church on Monday 4th, 4-5pm.



We welcome all Christmas attire and hope to warm spirits with mulled wine, mince pies and family favourite carols. We welcome all the community to attend and it promises to be a heartwarming way to start off the festive season with the children in full voice. If you would like to come, we advise you to park on the church grounds to avoid the busy (and dark) Trowbridge Road. There is ample parking if a little off road!



In other exciting news and back by popular demand is the FRANS Friday Quiz on February 2nd (2024!). Last year this was a fun-filled evening which proved you didn't have to be the brain of Britain to have a good go at the mix of questions.

It's a parent led event with a fully stocked bar and snacks to keep the grey matter firing. Teams of up to six are allowed and the question master/mistress has the final word! Tickets for this are £5 per person, you can buy single tickets or for a table of 4/6. These can be bought online at <https://FRANSquiz24.eventbrite.co.uk>

As always, all proceeds of our fundraising go to the school and we appreciate all your support.

Early in the new year we will also be planning the colour run which is to be held in March and another disco for the school children. Looks like 2024 will be a busy year.

If you would like to help towards school fundraising, we welcome any donations at any time, even direct transfers:

Friends of Rode and Norton Schools

Account number: 31419160

Sort code: 309875



Parish Youth News & Events

RODE AND NORTON ST. PHILIP FIRST SCHOOL FEDERATION

It has been another busy Autumn term at RNSF! We welcomed a full class of 30 new Gruffalo reception children in **September** who have settled in well.



On September 23rd we celebrated '**Languages Day**' and invited in visitors from around the world who taught us about their language and cultures. Our Ukrainian staff and their children told us all about Ukraine. Steph Fabre, our French teacher, gave us extra French lessons alongside Julian Jarrouisse, who



taught the older children to make crepes. Some of the brave year four children even tried snails! We had four students from Bath university share German, Bulgarian and Spanish. Two Rode residents also taught us Filipino and Dutch.



In September we also had a visit from the **Bishop of Bath and Wells**, who taught the children all about the importance of his robes and mitre.

In **October** we had two outdoor Harvest Festivals and celebrated **National Poetry Day** on the 12th. The theme was 'refuge' so we wrote poems about our safe places and what it must feel like to be a refugee arriving in the UK.

In **November** we have been excitedly preparing for our first ever museum exhibition. We are staging our '**Museum of Me**' history project at Rook Lane Chapel in Frome. Each of our 125 children has researched their family history or shared their own collection or interests. There are going to be some wonderful exhibits describing brave relatives from World War Two, famous racing drivers, rugby players and footballers, designers, and spies! Children have researched their families' lives in Ireland, South Africa, and New Caledonia. I cannot wait to see the final display on opening night!



As we get ready for Christmas we are thinking about others and collecting chocolate Advent calendars to donate to Fair Frome Food Bank.

Parish Youth News & Events

We have had two very busy **Open Days** and shown many families around. Deadline for applying for Somerset school place admissions for Reception starters in 2024 is January 15th. Get in touch if you still need a tour.

www.rodeandnortonschoolfederation.co.uk Or call us on 01373 830523 or 834327
COME AND JOIN THE ADVENTURE!

We have a vacancy to fill, interested? Please see below...

Position: School Minibus Driver Salary Grade:15 point 4 £10.98 p.h. (pay increase pending)

Pro-rata annual salary:£2,630.76 Hours of work:8-9am & 2.45-4pm Mon & Tues only
Contract Type:Term time, Permanent Start Date:ASAP

- This is an exciting opportunity to join our forward-thinking talented team. Rode and Norton St. Philip First School Federation is a popular and welcoming community based across two village first schools 20 minutes south of Bath. Both sites are idyllic, surrounded by countryside and with very supportive parents and village communities. We offer a minibus service to transport our school children between the two village schools at the beginning and end of every school day.
- We are seeking to appoint a minibus driver who is approachable, friendly and has a good driving history. The post would suit someone who has knowledge of the area and who can be flexible. It may also suit someone who is already working part time or has retired.
- The successful candidate will be a team player, have good time keeping skills, be organised and methodical and able to remain calm under pressure.

We are looking for a candidate who is:

- Fun and friendly, genuinely interested in helping children.
- has excellent interpersonal skills and an ability to build strong relationships with parents, staff and children.
- keen to work in a team and contribute to the wider life of our schools.
- interested in developing their own skills and talents.
- has an awareness of safety and good practice.

In return we can offer:

- A stable team of experienced supportive colleagues who enjoy their work.
- An idyllic rural village school environment with single year group classes
- talented creative children and families
- A commitment to developing a healthy work/life balance
- A school in which children are genuinely at the heart of everything we do

Successful candidates would need a D1 category on a full clean driving license – if you took your test before 1st January 1997 this is automatically on your license. If you passed your test after this date, we would organise a theory and practical test for you. Experience of driving larger vehicles and previous employment with children is desired but not essential.

If you believe you could be the person we are looking for we would like to hear from you. Please contact the Office Team on 01373 834327 or 01373 830523. For further information and an application form please visit our website www.rodeandnortonschoolfederation.co.uk

Applications should be emailed to our School Business Manager: ktwitchen@rnsf.co.uk

Hours of work: 5 hours per week Contract Type: Permanent Commencement date: ASAP

Rode & Norton School Federation is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All applicants will be subject to a full Disclosure and Barring Service check before appointment is confirmed.

Parish Youth News & Events

RODE SCOUT GROUP

Bonfire Night:

The Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers enjoyed an amazing display of fireworks prepared by the explorers along with delicious hot dogs and hot chocolate. The weather was cold but kind enough to hold the rain away until the display had finished.



Claire Le Page

Cubs:

Our Rode Cubs had a great time selling their sweet treats at the Chapel Christmas Bazaar on November 18th.

The Cubs and their family members used all their best skills and imagination to make a superb display of sweets,



The Cubs then ran the stall very proficiently and sold out completely, raising a staggering £113 for the Chapel. Thank you to everyone that contributed and, most importantly, bought our sweets. See you same time next year...

Esther Perkin



1st Rode (Scout Group)

Parish Youth News & Events



Open term time
from 8:45am

Beckington Pre-school

Children aged 2-4
welcome
30 hours funding accepted

Beckington Baptist
Church Hall
www.beckingtonpre-school.co.uk
01373 831492
info@beckingtonpre-school.co.uk
Find us on 

Charity no. 1035832

DANCE CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

We've got a class
for your little
princess (and your
little prince!)

Let them dance to their
own tune with our classes
for age 3 upwards.



REGISTERED
ROYAL
ACADEMY
OF
DANCE
TEACHER

FOR FURTHER INFO: CONTACT:
07526 922863
"A DANCING CHILD IS A HAPPY CHILD"
Welcoming all students to explore
their passion for dance.

RODE WEEKLY PARENT/CARER & TODDLER GROUP

Mondays during term time

9.30-11.30pm

Rode Chapel



TOTS AND TOYS

MUMS, DADS, CARERS AND GRANDPARENTS...

Are you at home with a baby, toddler or pre-schooler?

Would you like to meet up with others for a chat, tea/coffee and refreshments while the children play and sing?

EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING 9.00am - 10.45am

in St Philip and St James church, Norton St Philip

£2 donation for refreshments

Further information, please contact Maria Fleming, Playgroup Leader email:

totsandtoysnsp@gmail.com

Parish Health & Wellbeing

UPDATE FROM BECKINGTON FAMILY PRACTICE

New Practice Pharmacist: We welcome Lydia Davies our Practice Pharmacist to the team, who will be working to improve the quality and safety of prescribing along with the management of long-term conditions and dealing with prescription problems such as supply issues.

Flu Vaccination: Reminder for any eligible patients to book in for their flu vaccination before the end of the 2023 season. You can book your appointment in the following ways:

- Telephone the surgery after 2 p.m. on 01373 830316 or 01373 464731
- In person at Reception desk in Fromefield or Beckington Surgery
- Via your online Patient Access account

A Reminder Of Recent System Changes: We are asking all patients to complete an online form when requesting a doctor's, nurse practitioner's appointment or have an admin query. This applies to on the day and routine doctor's appointment requests. This form is accessed via the Beckington Family Practice website. All nurse and health care assistant appointments will still need to be booked via the telephone.

The online request form will be available between 8am and 5pm every weekday except Bank Holidays. The service may be unavailable at times due to high demand or staff training. You are able to complete this on someone else's behalf, for instance children or someone you are caring for.

Should you not have access to the internet, you can still call reception on either 01373 830316 or 01373 464731 and a member of the team will be able to fill this form out on your behalf.

All medical issue request forms will be reviewed and assessed by a doctor on the day. You may receive a text, phone call or be invited to come for an appointment at the surgery. Please ensure you keep your phone with you and be aware that phone calls from the surgery will display as 'No caller ID'. N.B. Admin queries include requesting Fit (sick) Notes, test results and repeat prescriptions or anything else admin related.

Christmas and New Year period: We will be closed on Christmas, Boxing Day, and New Year's Day only. If you require non-urgent medical advice during this time, please call 111. Normal opening hours will apply on all other days.

The Beckington Family Practice wishes you a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Parish Groups

RODE OVER 60'S

On Friday 10th November our members listened to Rachel Boothroyd-Walker from Cooper & Tanner give a talk with slides on her specialist subject of Gemology.

First thing we learned was there are no semi-precious stones as previously known. There are classifications regarding mineral based gems and plant based (eg amber, which is a resin from trees). She explained the various tests and tools that she used to determine genuine from imitation. How diamonds and sapphires can come in different colours. How rubies and garnets differ. Where in the world the best stones are found. She talked about how stones like diamonds are measured for quality using the 4 "c's" cut, carat, clarity and colour. Blue John which is only found in Derbyshire is a beautiful stone with blue/purple striations and yellow streaks, the supply is all but mined out. She asked did we know what was the oldest known stone? Someone guessed correctly, it was Zircon. A very illuminating talk! Afternoon tea and the raffle concluded the meeting.

Our next meeting is on Friday 1st December - Carols by Candlelight, including students from Monkton Combe School. Please note this is at 2pm - not our usual time of 2.30pm.

The following members have birthdays in December and January 2024.

6th December. - Mr. G. Nomad

11th. " - Mr. S. Gilbert

16th. " - Mrs. P. Arnold

10th January - Mr. P. Harris

14th. " - Mrs. R. Dymond

18th. " - Mrs. S. Gilbert

24th. " - Mrs. P. Smith

25th. " - Mrs. A. Harper

We wish them all a very Happy Birthday.

The January meeting is cancelled due to the Memorial Hall floor renovation work.

9th February meeting - Favourite Poems read by members. 2.30pm Rode Memorial Hall.

Gail Stinton

Parish Groups

RODE AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

Helen Curwen welcomed members and guests to the meeting and reminded them that next month's meeting, on 11th December will be the Christmas Social, where members meet for a 'bring and share' supper. There will be a welcome drink for everyone on arrival. Members can bring a guest and should provide a savoury or sweet dish to share, plus any further drink they would like. Members were asked to let Helen or Averil know if they are coming.

In January the meeting date must be postponed by a week as the hall is unavailable on Monday 8th because the floor is being restored. Fortunately, the speaker can make the following week so we will be meeting on Monday 15th January to hear a talk on pruning by Neil Ross. On February 13th our speaker will be Derek Dexter, who will talk on fuchsias. It will also be the time to renew subscriptions.

On a windy, chilly November evening it was good to be transported over 1,400 miles south to the warm island of Madeira to discover the delights and history of this island in the Atlantic. Alan Eason was well informed and through his slides shared images and information of this small fertile mountainous place.



Madeira is a volcanic island with a warm climate. It is often wet, especially in the north and has an extensive system of irrigation, so it is fertile. They produce three crops of potatoes a year and export a lot of produce: fruit, vegetables, and flowers. It has been a tourist destination for over two hundred years. Many people coming to exploit the riches its trading position, created gardens that are open to visitors today. Plants grow profusely: pelargoniums the height of trees, huge poinsettia shrubs and bougainvilleas in a variety of shades, including a very attractive pale orange. Even the planting of agapanthus, when roads are reconstructed, reinforces the structure of banks at the side and adds colour and lushness to this fascinating place.

Definitely a place worth a visit but sadly too far to put on our list for trips next summer.

Sharman Flindall

R&DGC E: rodeanddistrictgardeningclub@outlook.com

Parish Groups

RODE WALKING GROUP (2ND THURSDAY IN THE MONTH)

We had a very muddy walk around the Faulkland area in November, which was hardly surprising given the amount of rain that had fallen at that time!

However, the group struggled on cheerfully and were rewarded by a warm welcome at Somerset Lavender Cafe at the end and delicious cakes.



Next month's walk, on Thursday 14 December, we will be walking locally and following the Tellisford loop, so no transport arrangements necessary.

Meeting at 10 am on Rode village green and returning to Rode for coffee. This walk is approximately 5 kilometres.

In the new year, the monthly walk will take place on Thursday 11 January 2024 in Bradford on Avon.

Meet at the Tith Barn car park at the usual time of 10 am and we will walk to the Avoncliff viaduct and back, by various routes. There will be a coffee stop, either en route or on returning to Bradford on Avon.

Please contact me if you would like to join this group, or for any further details of the walks.

Liz Dinnis

E: elizabethdinnis49@gmail.com T: 07788656337



Parish Groups

MONDAY LUNCH CLUB - FROM JANUARY 2024

We are delighted to be taking The Lunch Club over from the wonderful Alex.

We will be starting on Monday 8th January, following on from then it'll go back to the first Monday of the month as usual.

The Lunch Club will still be held in the Memorial Hall and will be served from 12.30pm, with the help of Kim and her lovely class. £5 for a freshly cooked 2 course meal, bring your own wine or tippie of preference if you fancy a drink with it (the Hall is Licensed).

...And there'll also be a raffle.

Menu for Monday 8th January:

Slow Braised Beef Brisket, Mash Potato, Roasted Carrot & Parsnip and Greens.
Sticky Toffee Pudding and Rum Ice Cream.

Please confirm attendance by Monday 1st January - 01373 830900, letting us know of any allergens.

Can't wait to see you!

Thanks a million.

Hannah Lovell and Mark Warrener

The Cross Keys

Editor's Note: Please see page 41 for details of December Lunch Club – Christmas Extravaganza! N.B. last Lunch Club organised by Alex Sing.

RODE CRAFT CLUB

We each bring along whatever we are working on, share ideas and skills and enjoy each other's company over a cuppa and biscuits. Weekly on Thursday afternoons, 2-4 pm at Rode Chapel. There is no need to book or to commit to coming every week.



We have knitters, embroiderers, crocheters, card makers, leather workers and cross stitchers. The list goes on! All abilities too. We all help each other.

Val Parker

Friends & Family Notices



William Arney, the blind man of Langham Place, Rode wishes to send Seasonal Greetings and thanks to all who see and speak to him while he is out on his daily walks with his Carer.

Please continue to speak to him and introduce yourself by name so that he knows who he has met. You are all welcome to sit on the bench and enjoy the view.

Sue Fear
William's Daughter

GREAT NEWS!

I'm one very proud grandma! My 24 year old grandson, Tom Stinton of Cool's Organics East Knoyle, was recently awarded Young Farmer of the Year Southwest! Next stop the nationals.

Well deserved, well I would say that wouldn't I?

Gail Stinton

*We are so
proud of you*



On Saturday 21st October, Jenny Hill and Simon Reitter were married by Caroline Walker in St Mary's Church, to the surprise and delight of their family and friends. Simon's sons, Will and Teddy, acted as best men and Lexi the Lurcher was in attendance.

After cutting the cake with Bob Hill's naval sword and several glasses of bubbly, the bride and groom left for the reception at the Mill at Rode in a red vintage Alvis driven by Chris Haynes.

Debby Hill



A REMINDER...

"The Link" is here if you would like to remember the life of a family member or friend, or to celebrate and mark other events such as births, birthdays, engagements, weddings, anniversaries and more. N.B. No charge for this.

Parish Gardening

Storm Debi did her utmost for a couple of days, but generally this has felt like quite a slow-burn autumn and it's only over the last week or two that we've enjoyed some beautiful autumnal colours. So it feels like it's been a quiet time in the garden - apart from the thousands of bulbs I've been planting – and that has made me think about the quiet plants that take a supporting role in the garden until just this moment, when they shine for a brief few weeks.

There are many plants that deserve to be celebrated for their autumn fireworks, but the one I'm particularly thinking about at the moment is *Euonymus*.

Lots of you will already know about *Euonymus alatus* or the winged spindle - fairly anonymous spring/summer foliage and greenish flowers, turning a fabulous red in the autumn.



Best of all, it has extraordinary purple-red fruits with orange seeds - such an unexpected and exotic sight in late autumn.

However, I've recently been discovering the huge range of *Euonymus* and appreciating their terrific variety and also their adaptability.

They're definitely worth a few minutes of googling and scrolling time while the next rainstorm batters at the windows. There's a good article from Gardens Illustrated that you can view online and check out colours, sizes etc., but here are a few great options:

- *Euonymus hamiltonianus* 'Pink Delight' (to 3m height x 2m spread)
- *Euonymus carnosus* 'Red Wine' (to 4m x 4m)
- *Euonymus europaeus* 'Red Cascade' (to 4m x 2.5 m)
- *Euonymus hamiltonianus* 'Indian Summer' (to 3m x 2.5m)
- *Euonymus alatus* 'Compactus' (to 1m x 1.5m)

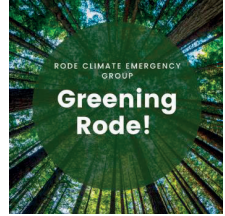
Surely you can find room for one of these beauties.

"Muddy Fingernails"

Parish Christmas ...

HAVE A GREAT CHRISTMAS – BUT MAKE IT SUSTAINABLE!

There are plenty of guides to having a greener Christmas – a good starting point is the WWF guide (www.wwf.org.uk/top-tips-sustainable-christmas). And if you're buying a real tree, ideally buy local. Osborne's grow their trees locally and supply them in the village – an ideal combination!

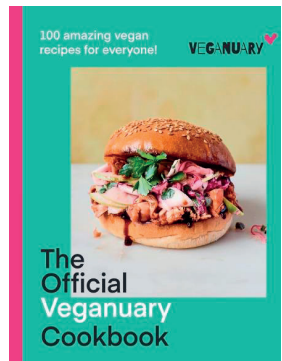


And once the decorations are down, if possible, recycle your tree. A two metre tall real Christmas tree, with no roots, has a carbon footprint of 16kg CO₂e if it ends up in landfill. This is because the tree decomposes and produces methane gas, which is 25 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.

If you have it chipped to spread in public parks and gardens it will significantly reduce the carbon footprint by up to 80% (around 3.5kg CO₂e). And if you sign up for a tree collection through Just Helping, you can donate the collection charge to with Dorothy House: <https://just-helping.org.uk/>

Climate Emergency Group – CHRISTMAS PRIZE DRAW!

The Climate Emergency Group has a monthly newsletter, which now reaches around 90 subscribers. If you're not already on our list, here's an extra incentive...if you sign up before **December 15th**, you'll be entered in our Christmas Prize Draw – giving you the opportunity to win a copy of The Official Veganuary Cookbook (worth £20, published on Dec 7th).



To subscribe, drop me a line at the email address below, or enter this link in your browser: <https://mailchi.mp/4b503e0ba20c/initial-sign-up> (sorry for the rather un-friendly web address!).

The Prize Draw winner will be notified via email on December 15th and the book delivered in time for Christmas! The Climate Emergency Group is still small, and therefore the capacity to deliver projects on our own is limited. Primarily we aim to “initiate, inform, educate, encourage...”. But we can also act as a focal point for residents to come together to deliver projects as a community. If you have an idea that could be worth exploring, please get in contact.

Jim McAuliffe
jim.mcauliffe@btinternet.com

Parish Christmas...

OSBORNE'S CHRISTMAS TREES

Hillview Farm, Marsh Road, Rode BA11 6PE

**OPEN DAILY FROM SATURDAY 25th November
9am - 5.30pm**

Traditional Norway spruce, Nordman & Frazer fir

Potted trees

Large trees up to 15ft

A variety of stands

Holly & Mistletoe

Wreaths

Loads and bags of logs and Kindling

Don't Forget your FREE Reindeer dust!!



Any latest updates and news will be listed via our facebook page and our website

www.o-christmas.co.uk

[01373 830571](tel:01373830571)

[07494 015440](tel:07494015440)

SEND A LITTLE LOCAL
LOVE THIS CHRISTMAS.



Free local delivery to Rode and surrounding villages - Postage available.
To place your order please email orders@melvinglynnart.com or call Mel on 07825 076 310.



Parish Christmas ...



ENJOY A LITTLE FUSSELS THIS
CHRISTMAS

Hamper & Foodie Gifts

AVAILABLE NOW!



Shop instore at Church Farm, Rode BA11 6AA
Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm

See all our Gift Boxes, Hampers and the full Fussels range at
www.fussels.co.uk

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS



GIN & TONIC GIFT SET



GIVINO
GIN & WINE

6 PORT BOTTLES GIFT SET



- GIFT VOUCHERS FOR TASTING EVENTS
- WINE, PORT, GIN & RUM GIFT SETS
- GLASSES GIFT SETS
- RUMS, BRANDYS & LIQUEURS
- 5% OFF 6 BOTTLES OF WINE
- 10% OFF 12 BOTTLES OF WINE

Tuesday - Friday 10am - 5.30pm | Saturday 10am - 4pm

WWW.GIVINO.CO.UK 0330 056 2995

R18 Marshall Way, Commerce Park, Frome, BA11 2FE
Follow directions from the Budgens roundabout.



Parish Christmas...

Somerset Foodie

ingredients to inspire

Inspiring ingredients for adventurous cooks
with recipes to show you how to use them!

Shop online - FREE local delivery in our electric van
Warehouse Shop open at Church Farm, Rode, BALL 6AA



Over 300 FIVE STAR reviews
Plastic free packaging
on all wholefood ingredients

Great value - go on foodies, give us a try!



 [somersetfoodie.com](https://www.somersetfoodie.com)

THE MILL *At Rode*

INVITES YOU TO OUR NEW YEARS EVE

GATSBY NIGHT

31ST DECEMBER 2023
1800 UNTIL LATE

THE MILL AT RODE
RODE HILL BA11 6AG
INFO@THEMILLATRODE.COM

Parish Christmas ...



**RODE GENERAL STORE,
CAFE & POST OFFICE**

More than just stamps

Open Monday – Saturday

32a High Street, Rode BA11 6PA

01373 830321

USUAL OPENING HOURS

Monday 9.00-17.30

Tuesday 9.00-17.30

Wednesday 9.00-13.00

Thursday 9.00-17.30

Friday 9.00-17.30

Saturday 9.00-13.00



We look forward to welcoming you to our modern shop and café to enjoy a warm welcome, home cooked food and buy local produce and goods.



CHRISTMAS FOOD ORDERS

Due to difficulty finding suppliers and the cost increases we are unable to provide turkeys and veg boxes this year, however we will still be offering a selection from some of our trusted suppliers.

Order forms for following suppliers available in the shop.

- Hobbs House Bakery - bread, pastries, mince pies etc.
- The Smoke Folk - smoked salmon, cheeses, nuts etc.
- Ivy house creamery - Milk, cream, butter.
- Padfield Porkies – Ham, pork sausages.
- Wiltshire Bacon

Sam and the team thank you for your continued support and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

SEASONAL

OPENING HOURS

Sunday Dec 24 Closed

Monday Dec 25 Closed

Tuesday Dec 26 Closed

Wednesday Dec 27 9-13.00

Thursday Dec 28 9-17.30

Friday Dec 29 9-17.30

Saturday Dec 30 9-13.00

Sunday Dec 31 Closed

Monday Jan 01 Closed

Parish Christmas...

Everything you need for Christmas



● **Food** Orders now being taken for local free range turkeys, grass fed geese, handmade sausages, local meat and vegetables, homemade Christmas cakes, puddings and mince pies. Take the strain out of food shopping – simply place an order and collect on your chosen day.

● **Drink** A fantastic range of specially sourced wines. Case discounts available.

● **Festive Menu** Our fabulous cafe is offering a Christmas menu Monday to Saturday lunchtimes from 1st December; booking essential see website for menu.

● **Gifts** Fabulous hampers to suit all tastes and budgets. Great selection of gifts for the foodie in your life. Gift vouchers also available.

Ample FREE parking on site.

Why shop anywhere else this Christmas?



Hampers from £20



Giftboxes from £10



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FARM SHOP & CAFÉ

Farleigh Road, Norton St Philip, Bath BA2 7NG

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Parish Christmas ...

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NEAR BATH

www.chatleyfarmbrownies.co.uk



Lovingly handmade on the farm
9 Delicious flavours
Delivered by Royal Mail

FREE Gift Wrapping & Gift card
Gluten free options
Local Collection from Norton St Philip

OUR MULTI BUY OFFERS

£8.50

For 1 pack

£8.00

each for 2 or 3
packs

£7.50

each for 4 or
more packs

Follow us on facebook! www.facebook.com/ChatleyFarmBath

Parish Christmas...

Some
December
Christmas
events for
your
diary...

THE FRESHFORD UNITED CHRISTMAS PARTY

DISCO
TOP BIN
CHALLENGE
FOOTBALL
GAMES

MEAL DEAL
TICKETS
£5*
SIBLINGS
WELCOME!

CHRISTMAS
RAFFLE
DRAW

FULLY
STOCKED BAR

HOT & COLD
FOOD

Contact Brandon on 07867545720 for more details or scan the below to book

*Tickets include childrens main meal, snack and drink. Free entry for all adults.

DECEMBER 1ST, 6PM - 11PM
RODE MEMORIAL HALL, HIGH STREET, RODE



A BIT OF FUN...

"**Three Wise Fools**" a comic fantasy on the nativity. To be performed at Rode Chapel, High Street, Rode on Sunday 3 December at 6pm(if you're busy on that date also performing at Wesley Methodist Church, Wesley Slope, Frome on Sunday 10 December at 10.30am).

Admission is free (donations towards costs are welcome).

Gerard Crawshaw

THREE WISE FOOLS

BY MARGARET FRANKS
A Comic Fantasy inspired by T S Eliot

Rode Chapel, 47 High Street, Rode, BA11 6PB
Sunday 3rd December @ 6 pm

Wesley Methodist Church, Wesley Slope, Frome, BA11 1HA
Sunday 10 December @ 10.30 am

Admission FREE. Donations WELCOME.

Produced in association with the Religious Drama Society of Great Britain (www.radiusdrama.org.uk)

More Information: gerardcrawshaw@hotmail.com

Parish Christmas ...

MONDAY LUNCH CLUB

🎄 🍷 🧑🏻🎅 CHRISTMAS MEAL – 4TH DECEMBER 🎄 🧑🏻🎅 🧊

Very much looking forward to our Christmas get-together, always a real feast and great fun with our in-house entertainment with our fab Year 4 children from Rode School - can't wait to see their performance this year!!!

Hope to see you all there - still time to book your place but be quick - you must have booked your place for our very special Christmas Extravaganza!!!

Arrival slightly earlier at 12 midday!

Alex Sing and the Lunch Club Team

01373 830836

0782860095

**Family Carol Singing
and nativity**

*🎄 ' come all ye faithful! 🎄 ' come dressed as
your favourite nativity character. Bring
friends, grandparents, neighbours & babies,
but mostly bring your voices.*

Monday 4th December
4-5pm
St Laurence Church, Rode
BA11 6PW - parking available at the church

mulled wine - hot chocolate - mince pies

IN AID OF FRIENDS OF
RODE & NORTON SCHOOLS **F · R · A · N · S**

Parish Christmas...

A Celebration of Christmas by the Epiphany Choir will take place on **Saturday 9th December at 3pm in Rode Chapel.**

This will be an informal gathering followed by mulled wine (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic!) and mince pies.

All are welcome.

The Choir has been meeting monthly in the Chapel throughout 2023 so would like to invite you to join in some of the carols and listen to others that they have been rehearsing.



We very much look forward to seeing you there.

Hardington Vale invite you to join our

Outdoor Nativity

Sunday 10th December 3pm

meet at - top of Marsh Road, Rode

- Hear and see the Christmas story
- Join in the Carol Singing
- Live cast, including a donkey



MULLED
WINE &
mince pies

If anyone would like to dress up and take part in our annual Outdoor Nativity please get in touch; adults, children, animals and musicians are all very welcome!
Sally Pickett
T: 831796



...PLEASE COME AND JOIN US
CAROL SINGING AROUND THE VILLAGE
WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER 6.00PM



Starting from Rode Scout Hut
and ending on Rode Village Green
at 7.30pm with mince pies and mulled wine.



We are raising money for
a local children's charity.



Parish Christmas ...



Once again, we will be carol singing this December to raise money for the three charities which Hardington Vale supports. You are welcome to join us at these venues:

Thursday 14th The Fleur de Lys
7.30pm NSP

Wednesday 20th Tucker's Grave Inn
8.00pm Faulkland

Friday 22nd The Green by the
6.00pm School NSP



RODE CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 17 December

3.00 pm in St Lawrence church, Rode

Join us, our choir and organist to sing some of your favourite carols, and enjoy a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie!

Merry
Christmas

Carols for Christmas

A traditional
service of
lessons and
Carols

17th December 2023 at 18.00
St Leonard's, Farleigh Hungerford

Mince pies and mulled wine served in The
Old Schoolroom opposite the church at 17.30

(Donations to support the upkeep of the Church and Old
School Room: Reg. Charities. Nos. 287097 and 1050991)

Forget-me-not Café

When? Dec 18th (with festive  treats!)
(3rd Mon of every month)

Where? St Philip and St James Church, NSP



Come and enjoy a cuppa and friendly people
to chat with. We have a great café team, all
Dementia Friends, who are looking forward to
meeting you! **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Contact Jo for more information 321jorobinson@gmail.com 01373 831381

Parish Christmas...

**FATHER CHRISTMAS
WILL BE PAYING HIS
ANNUAL VISIT TO
RODE ON SATURDAY
18TH DECEMBER**



Starting at The Bell at 5.15pm his route through the village will be as follows: Church Street, Orneage Close, Nutts Lane, Marsh Road, Main Road, High Street, Fairfield, The Mead, High Street, Lower Street, Walnut Close, Main Road, go to junction BOA Road, towards Trowbridge Road, towards The Bell, Church Field, end at The Bell.

Letters to Santa can still be posted on the float too but remember to include your name and address!

Nativity Service in Tellisford



Saturday 23rd December, 5pm
Come to All Saints' Church for
the Nativity in Poems & Carols
If you would like a part in telling this
story, email Rachel: fa@batm.biz

*Happy New
Year*

CRIB SERVICES

Christmas Eve - Saturday 24 December

3.00pm The Chapel, Rode

5.00 pm St Philip & St James Church, Norton NSP



A short service specially designed for young children and their families.
Retelling the Christmas story, singing Carols
and welcoming the Posada into church.


Forthcoming Parish Events

NIGHT RIVER PRESENTS

BETH ROWLEY

DG SOLARIS

MAGGIE CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 02 | DOORS 3PM
CHURCH @ ST. PHILIP & ST. JAMES



PROGRAMMING: DG SOLARIS TICKETS: WWW.NIGHTRIVER.NET LOCATION: NORTON ST. PHILIP



Talking Café Rode Chapel

Looking to meet up to chat with other people?

When: 5th & 19th December
2nd & 16th January
(Every first and third Tuesday)
Time: 10.30am – 12.30
Where: Rode Chapel



Talking cafes are a place to meet new people, make friends and chat to a Health Connector about activities, support groups and services in your community. Everyone is welcome.



Give us a call, we'll be happy to help
Call: 01373 468368
Visit: www.healthconnections Mendip.org



RODE MONDAY LUNCH CLUB 8th JANUARY 12.30PM
RODE MEMORIAL HALL See page 41



FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER

7.30 pm Memorial Hall

A ward-full of British talent – including Judi Dench and Jennifer Saunders – star in this darkly amusing look at frontline healthcare. *The Telegraph*

WHATS NOT TO LIKE?

Tickets: £ 6.00 in advance from Rode Post Office - £ 6.50 on the door

- Doors open 7pm •
- Licensed Bar • **Mulled Wine!** • Raffle

Forthcoming Parish Events

LUNCHTIME CONCERT SERIES 2024
THE CHURCH OF ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES, NORTON ST PHILIP

JANUARY
CONCERT
DETAILS

Thursday 11 January
12.30 for 1pm
Tickets £5 – available on the door
John Law / Nick Sorensen duo



Once more John Law (piano) and Nick Sorensen (sax) kick off the New Year with a concert of jazz standards and original compositions.



Future concerts: dates for your diary:

8 February: Roger Heaton
outstanding clarinetist specialising in contemporary music

14 March: Trio Paradis
Beautiful chamber music by women composers

11 April: Band of Pilgrims
Blues, gospel, folk and more

9 May: Charles Wiffen
Classical recital from an internationally renowned pianist

Forget-me-not Café 

When? Jan 15th 2.30 – 4 pm (3rd Mon of every month)

Where? St Philip and St James Church, NSP

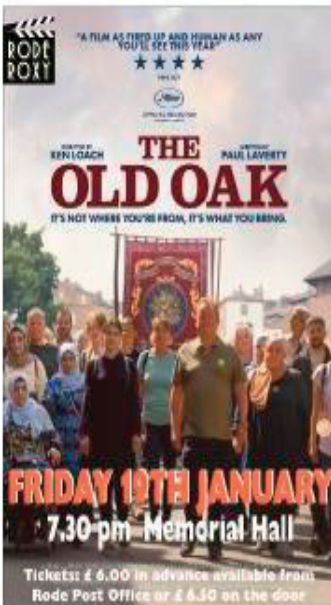
Come and enjoy a cuppa and friendly people to chat with. We have a great café team, all Dementia Friends, who are looking forward to meeting you!



ALL ARE WELCOME!

Contact Jo for more information 321jorobinson@gmail.com 01373 831381

Forthcoming Parish Events



RODE ROXY "A FILM AS TIGHT UP AND HUMAN AS ANY YOU'LL SEE THIS YEAR" ★ ★ ★ PRESENTS
DIRECTED BY REN LOACH THE OLD OAK SCREENPLAY BY PAUL LAVERTY
IT'S NOT WHERE YOU'RE FROM, IT'S WHAT YOU BEING.
FRIDAY 19TH JANUARY
7.30 pm Memorial Hall
Tickets: £ 6.00 in advance available from Rode Post Office or £ 6.50 on the door

RODE ROXY **FRIDAY 19TH JANUARY**
7.30 pm Memorial Hall

"Went to see movie last night in Edinburgh, absolutely beautiful film so well played thought provoking, well acted. One of the best films I've seen this year, desperate for rest of my North East family to watch. Go see it"

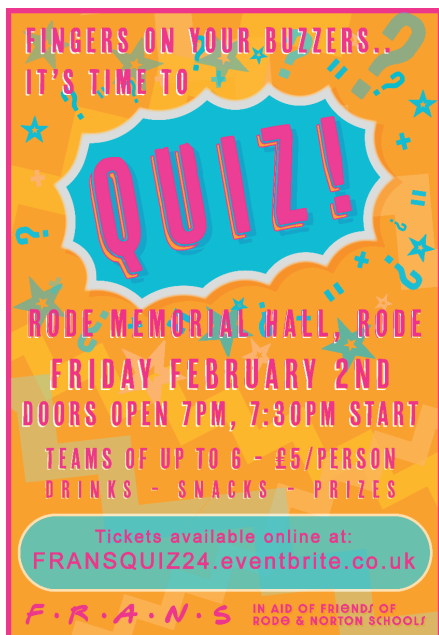
Tickets: £ 6.00 in advance from Rode Post Office - £ 6.50 on the door
Doors open 7pm • Licensed Bar • Raffle



*New Year
new volunteers
could you you be one?*

Make a positive difference in 2024

Forthcoming Parish Events



FINGERS ON YOUR BUZZERS...
IT'S TIME TO

QUIZ!

RODE MEMORIAL HALL, RODE
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 2ND
DOORS OPEN 7PM, 7:30PM START

TEAMS OF UP TO 6 - £5/PERSON
DRINKS - SNACKS - PRIZES

Tickets available online at:
[FRANSQUIZZ24.eventbrite.co.uk](https://fransquizz24.eventbrite.co.uk)

F.R.A.N.S IN AID OF FRIENDS OF
RODE & HORTON SCHOOLS

BINGO

Bangers & Mash Evening

Saturday 24th February 2024

Rode Memorial Hall

Doors open - 6:45pm, Eyes down - 7:15pm

Menu

Local Bangers & Mash (vegetarian option available)
Caramelised onion gravy and peas
Followed by a selection of desserts

Licensed Bar

Entrance Ticket prices:

Adults £10.00

Children/Smaller portion £5.00

Tickets available from the Post Office January 2024



THE SUPER SLEUTH IS BACK...

Who Killed The?

Saturday March 2nd 2024
at 7.30pm

Rode Memorial Hall

See page 11 for details



RODE PARK FEST

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
13TH & 14TH JULY

LIVE MUSIC | BBQ | BAR
TRACTOR RIDES | TOMBOLA
COMEDY | RACES | DISCO
TRADITIONAL FETE GAMES
TALENT SHOW | SHOPPING VILLAGE
TUG OF WAR | CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING
.. AND LOTS MORE!

RODE PLAYING FIELD
ORNEAGE CLOSE
RODE

rodeparkfest@gmail.com

Noticeboard

Be an Independent Visitor or Advocate for Children in Somerset

There's a famous quote from Rev Sydney Smith "It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do a little. Do what you can."



From as little as a couple of hours a fortnight and less than a week's quality training, you could be making purposeful contact with a young person and make a positive difference for them through outings, conversations, activities and more...

Route1 have two volunteering opportunities: Independent Visitor and Advocate.


Independent Visitors are volunteers who befriend and spend time with a child or young person who is in the care of the Local Authority. We will match your interests and skill set with a young person who will best suit your support. You and the young person have the freedom to decide what you do, how you do it, to build a meaningful friendship. One young person with an Independent Visitor said: "Things I get from my IV relationship... is space from the world, where I can have an open and honest conversation with, at first a stranger, that becomes a friend. I would be happy to say it is a really good experience!"

An Advocate is an independent person who can offer one-to-one support to children and young people to have their voice heard when meetings are taking place concerning their wellbeing. It's the role of the Advocate to speak up for the young person, make them aware of their rights, listen to them and represent their views, wishes and feelings.



The Chair of a Child Protection Conference said "I am always amazed by the calibre of the volunteers and how generous they are with their time." Why not join our bank of advocates?

Your volunteering can be arranged to suit your availability. Your life experience will be highly valued, and you will be trained and supported in developing key skills.

To find out more, contact us:  01749 822801



 route1businesssupportadmin@somerset.gov.uk
 www.route1advocacy.co.uk or scan the QR code

 Route1 Advocacy & Independent Visitors

 @route1advocacy

 route1advocacy

Noticeboard

NEW!

INTRODUCING MY NEW RANGE OF MIX AND MATCH GREETING CARDS. AVAILABLE NOW £2 EACH OR 6 FOR £10!



Free local delivery to Rode and surrounding villages - Postage available. To place your order please email orders@melvinglynnart.com or call Mel on 07825 076 310.



DOLCE SINGERS

BRANDON HILL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
MUSICAL DIRECTOR: DANIEL ROBERT CUSHING

Barber *Adagio for Strings*
Gjeilo *Sunrise Mass*
Vivaldi *Gloria*

Saturday 2nd December, 7:30pm
St. Margaret's Church, Corsley

Tickets - £16 | Under 18 - £8
dolcesingers.co.uk

Dolce
Singers

making
music

Children love this game!

A great Christmas stocking filler for anyone aged 6 + yrs

Sequo helps children to enjoy Maths and to learn their times tables.

Reviews , FAQs, photos and films on the website - www.sequo.co.uk
created by Liz Edmondson-Smith Cert, Ed.Dip R.S.A.SpLD AMBDA

To receive a game at the Special Seasonal price of £7.95 contact Liz
on: email: e.edmondsonsmith@gmail.com



Proceeds go to the charity 'An African Dream' www.aaduganda.org

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Frome and everywhere in between
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Parish Council Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN
RODE MEMORIAL HALL
ON MONDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7.30 pm

UNCONFIRMED

Present:

Cllr Mike Salmon (MS) – Chair, Cllr Ann Edney (AE), Cllr Peter Travis (PT), Cllr Jim McAuliffe (JM), Cllr Andy Pickett (AP), Cllr Pat Restorick (PR) and Cllr Moira Punt (MP).

In attendance: Hugh Williams – Clerk, Cllr Adam Boyden and Cllr Dawn Denton (County Councillors) and 6 parishioners.

1. Parishioners Participation: Concerns were expressed over the proposal to build two houses on The Mead. These would not be in line with existing properties and would be very close to an existing property, and even closer as this house had an extension agreed (yet to be built). The erection of a high fence would be out of place and there were concerns over parking and access to these two houses.

There was concern over the amount of water on Crooked Lane with blocked drains, the Parish Council (PC) was asked to report these.

The length of grass on the playing field was too long for junior football and required cutting.

It was brought to the PC's attention that there were plans for a village day on 13th July 2024 and there could be a request for seed funding.

2. Apologies for absence: Cllr J Bowler

3. Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th October were approved.

4. Declarations of interest: None.

5. County Councillors Report: It was reported that there had been 140 sites identified by landowners for meeting the shortfall of 505 houses within the 'Mendip' area. Somerset were currently reviewing these and would be issuing a consultation document to identify those to accept. It was added that there was a good chance none would be in Rode or Beckington as the Beckington roundabout on the A36 had been identified by Highways as requiring improvement and this could prevent any house building not being completed before the end of 2029 deadline.

The other major concern was the current financial situation faced by Somerset Council, this had been the result of large increases in care costs for the elderly and children. Somerset was looking at cuts across the board and a draft budget was being prepared. The Council had until February to agree a budget for 2024.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Somerset was approaching Councils to see if they were interested in taking on any services from Somerset.

Night speed monitoring had been carried out in Berkley and Rode Hill was being looked at as a location for it to be carried out on.

Discussions were still ongoing regarding the slip road onto the A36.

Tellisford and Woolverton Parish Councils had raised the possibility of merging with Rode.

6. Actions from previous meeting:

i. The Mill: It was reported that the appeal submitted by the Parish Council had been rejected as it was a day late. It was agreed that the Parish Council still required clarification over the wording of the new licence. Therefore, Somerset would be approached for clarification.

ii. Defibrillator: It was noted that a Defibrillator Awareness Course was to be held in the Memorial Hall on Monday 27th November starting at 6.30pm.

iii Grass cutting: The length of the grass on the playing field had been an issue this year along with the frequency of cutting. Also, concerns were expressed that Eagle had only been contracted to cut until the end of October and with the continuing mild weather cuts in November are required. Quotes had been received from Eagle and J H Jones for 2024. After discussion it was agreed to go with J H Jones for 2024 due to the greater flexibility they offered over cutting schedules. The unpredictability of the climate made flexibility of cutting a major factor now.

iv. Paths at playing field: A quote for laying scalplings and boarding the path round the back of the children's play area had been received. The alternative was to cut through the fence and insert a gate and put down short path to join up with the skateboard area. It was agreed that one of these would be done but to refer to the Playing Field Committee to agree which route to proceed with.

7. Climate Change Group: JM reported that the Group were now keen to do something beyond informing people about the issues. Thoughts on possible community energy projects were being considered along with encouraging residents to install solar panels etc.

On the request to support the Climate and Ecology Bill the meeting agreed Rode PC should register support for this.

8. Highways issues:

i. Street Lights Turn off: Discussion was held over the agreed street light 'turn off list' and Somerset requirements. It was agreed that another circular would be sent to all householders to seek approval for the Somerset compliant switch-off lights and give possible costs to residents.

ii. 20mph limit: The Chair reported he had just had a discussion with Sara Davis at Somerset and had been informed that the TRO should be issued before the end of November. However, with Somerset moving to a new highways

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

contractor is unlikely the 20mph would be installed until the next financial year – i.e. after April.

iii. A361: Chevrons are to be installed near the bends by the church.

iv. SID posts: These are to be installed as agreed a couple of years ago.

v. Signs at Rode Hill/Bradford Road: These are still to be straightened/undergrowth cut back.

9. Planning:

i) New applications:

2023/2036/TCA: Fell apple tree and reduce another by 1m to leave height and lateral branch length of 3m – 13 High Street. No objections.

2023/2103/FUL: Erection of 2no. semi-detached houses – 4 The Mead. It was agreed with these not being in line with other properties, their closeness to 6 The Mead, parking and access issues that the Parish Council would register a recommendation for refusal for this development.

2023/2135/TCA: To fell cherry and reduce cypress by 50% - 25 Lower Street. No objections.

ii. Somerset decisions:

2023/1817/TCA: Crown lift holly by 2-3m, re-pollard limes and fell elm to approx. 2m – Christchurch House, Rode Hill. Approved.

2023/1870/TPO: Cedar – crown clean and remove significant deadwood – Christchurch House, Rode Hill. Approved.

iii Other:

2022/1516/OUT: Outline planning permission for residential development at rear of 41A Church Lane. It was noted that Somerset Highways had recently registered a rejection to this application as well as Somerset Ecology recommending rejection unless conditions were implemented to protect bat presence. However no final decision had yet been made by Somerset.

10. Website: It was agreed this should go live even though there were still some missing content. It was hoped that once live organisations could complete their sections. It was agreed that an article would be put in The Link and information would be put on the Village Facebook. It would also be advertised on the questionnaire regarding street lights going to all residents.

11. Conservation and Neighbourhood Plans: AP reported he still had to work on the Conservation Plan and would approach Concept Planning. It was agreed that Councillors would review the Neighbourhood Plan and initial discussions on it would be held before the January Parish Council meeting (15th January).

12. The Link: Gill Leonard was going to give up compiling The Link in early 2024 and although the PC was unable to help it was agreed that AP would approach the Church to see if they could help.

13. Solar Farm: Concerns over the access and current archaeological work near Monkley Lane had been expressed by parishioners. JM agreed to send contacts for Low Carbon to them to make direct contact.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

14. Any other business:

i) It was reported that Gigaclear had had a compressor stolen from the village. Gigaclear had asked if there was anywhere to store equipment when they came to install ultrafast broadband. It was agreed that possibly the container near the pavilion could be suitable and would be investigated.

ii) A request for assistance regarding a fence by the closed entrance off the bridge to The Mill had been made. The PC was not in favour and suggested Tellisford was approached as The Mill was outside Rode PC.

15. Financial matters:

i. Precept: Due to increased grass cutting commitments and possibly less support from Somerset due to its financial crisis it was agreed to amend the agreed precept for 2024 to £30,000.

ii. Payments: The following payments were agreed:

Community Heartbeat Trust (awareness evening)	£210.00
SALC (Training)	£25.00
Zonkey Solutions	£622.74
Eagle Grounds Maintenance	£792.00
Clerk Salary	£249.35
HMRC PAYE	£60.40
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	£25.00
Cross Keys Rode (Remembrance food)	£100.00
J McAuliffe (Climate Group room hire)	£14.00

15. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting would be held in the Committee Room at the Memorial Hall on: **Monday 11th December at 7.30pm**

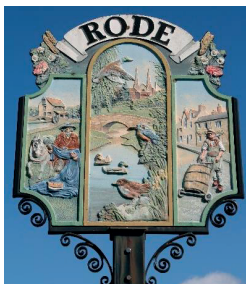
The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

Signed

Date

Print

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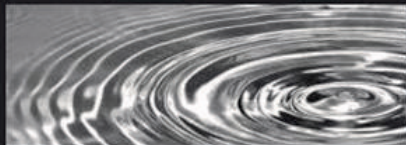
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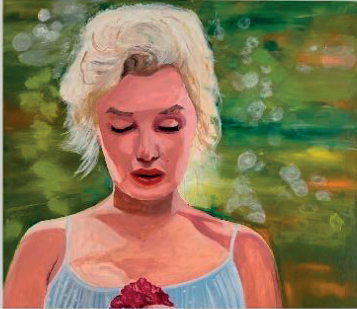
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HARDINGTON VALE CHURCH SERVICES – DECEMBER 2023

DATE	TIME	SERVICE	LEADER
Sunday 3 Dec 1st Sunday of Advent	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Informal Breakfast	R & F Stewart
	10.30 am	Rode St Lawrence , Holy Communion	B Day/J Robinson
	11.00 am	Laverton , Holy Communion	C Walker
	6.00 pm	Rode , Chapel, Meeting Place	
Monday 4 Dec	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 5 Dec	9.45 am	Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Holy Communion	
	5.00 pm	Laverton , Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 6 Dec	8.30 am	Hemington , Morning Prayer	
	5.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer	
Thursday 7 Dec	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer	
Sunday 10 Dec 2nd Sunday of Advent	10.30 am	Norton St Philip , Holy Communion	C Walker/M Harrison
	11.00 am	Laverton , Matins	
	3.00 pm	Rode , Outdoor Nativity	J Robinson
	3.30 pm	Buckland Dinham , Carol Service	P Swithinbank
	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Carol Service	C Walker/F Stewart
Monday 11 Dec	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 12 Dec	5.00 pm	Tellisford , Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 13 Dec	8.30 am	Hemington , Morning Prayer	
	5.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer	
Thursday 14 Dec	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer	
Sunday 17 Dec 3rd Sunday of Advent	10.30 am	Norton St Philip , Christingle	J Robinson
	11.00 am	Laverton , Carol Service	B Day
	11.00 am	Buckland Dinham , Holy Communion	M Weymont
	3.00 pm	Rode St Lawrence , Carol Service	J Robinson/C Walker
	6.00 pm	Farleigh Hungerford , Carol Service	R Hungerford
Monday 18 Dec	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 19 Dec	5.00 pm	Laverton , Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 20 Dec	8.30 am	Hemington , Morning Prayer	
	5.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer	
Thursday 21 Dec	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer	
Saturday 23 Dec	5.00 pm	Tellisford , Nativity	J Robinson
Sunday 24 Dec CHRISTMAS EVE	3.00 pm	Rode St Lawrence , Crib Service	J Robinson
	5.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Crib Service	C Walker
	11.00 pm	Rode St Lawrence , Holy Communion	J Robinson
	11.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Holy Communion	C Walker/F Stewart
Monday 25 Dec CHRISTMAS DAY	9.00 am	Farleigh Hungerford , Holy Communion	J Robinson
	9.00 am	Laverton , Holy Communion	C Walker
	10.30 am	Norton St Philip , Family Service	C Walker
	10.30 am	Rode St Lawrence , Family Service	J Robinson/B Day
Sunday 31 Dec	10.30 am	Rode St Lawrence , United Holy Communion	C Walker/M Harrison

RODE CHAPEL DECEMBER 2023 SUNDAY SERVICES – 10.30 a.m.

03.12.23 Rev Michael White / 10.12.23 Rev Andrew Prout (Holy Communion) /
17.12.23 Jaquie Cobb / 24.12.23 Barry Spendings / 31.12.23 Rev Andrew Prout

RODE CHAPEL MEETING PLACE - 6 p.m. Sunday 03.12.23 “Three Wise Fools”
CRIB SERVICE – 24.12.23 3 p.m.
READERS SERVICE 25.12.23 10.30 a.m.

HARDINGTON VALE CHURCH SERVICES – JANUARY 2024

DATE	TIME	SERVICE	LEADER
Tuesday 2 January	9.45 am	Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Holy Communion	
Thursday 4 January	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer	
Sunday 7 January	9.00 am 10.30 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Informal Breakfast Rode St Lawrence , Holy Communion Laverton , Holy Communion Rode Chapel , Meeting Place	B Day J Robinson M Weymont
Monday 8 January	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 9 January	5.00 pm	Tellisford , Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 10 January	8.30 am 6.00 pm	Hemington , Morning Prayer Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Informal Prayer	
Thursday 11 January	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer	
Sunday 14 January	9.00 am 10.30 am 11.00 am 11.00 am	Rode St Lawrence , Informal Breakfast Norton St Philip , Holy Communion Laverton , Matins Buckland Dinham , Iona Service	A & S Filkins J Robinson/M Harrison
Monday 15 January	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 16 January	5.00 pm	Laverton , Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 17 January	8.30 am 6.00 pm	Hemington , Morning Prayer Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Informal Prayer	
Thursday 18 January	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer	
Sunday 21 January	9.00 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 11.00 am 11.00 am	Farleigh Hungerford , Morning Worship Rode St Lawrence , Holy Communion Norton St Philip , Informal Worship Laverton , Matins Buckland Dinham , Holy Communion	J Robinson/B Day J Robinson/B Day F & R Stewart D Gatcliffe
Monday 22 January	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 23 January	5.00 pm	Tellisford , Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 24 January	8.30 am 6.00 pm	Hemington , Morning Prayer Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Informal Prayer	
Thursday 25 January	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer	
Sunday 28 January	9.00 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Tellisford , Holy Communion Rode St Lawrence , Informal Worship Norton St Philip , Holy Communion Laverton , Matins Buckland Dinham , Evening Service	J Robinson S Pickett/N Jacobs F Stewart/J Robinson
Monday 29 January	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 30 January	5.00 pm	Laverton , Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 31 January	8.30 am 6.00 pm	Hemington , Morning Prayer Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Informal Prayer	

RODE CHAPEL NOVEMBER 2023 SUNDAY SERVICES – 10.30 a.m.

07.01.24 Reader's Service / 14.01.24 Rev Andrew Prout /
21.-1.24 Edith Channon / 28.01.24 Reader's Service

RODE CHAPEL MEETING PLACE - 6 p.m. Sunday 07.01.24

DECEMBER 2023/JANUARY 2024 DIARY

Fri 1 Dec	2.00pm Rode Over 60s see page 27 for details 6-11pm FUFC Christmas Party see page 40 for details
Sat 2 Dec	3pm Concert see page 11 for details
Sun 3 Dec	6pm "Three Wise Fools" see page 40 for details
Mon 4 Dec	12.00pm Monday Lunch Club Christmas Extravaganza see page 41 for details 4-5pm FRANS Family Carol Concert see pages 21 & 41
Tue 5 Dec	10.30am-12.30pm Rode Talking Café see page 45 for details
Fri 8 Dec	7 for 7.30pm Rode Roxy –see page 45 for details
Sat 9 Dec	3pm Epiphany Choir see page 42 for details
Sun 10 Dec	3pm Rode Outdoor Nativity see page 42 for details
Mon 11 Dec	7pm Rode & District Gardening Club see page 28 for details 7.30pm Rode Parish Council Meeting see page 55 for details
Wed 13 Dec	6.00pm Scouts Rode Village Christmas Carols see page 42 for details
Thu 14 Dec	10am Rode Walking Group see page 29 for details. 7.30pm Carol Singing see page 43 for details
Sun 17 Dec	3pm & 6pm Carol Services see page 43 for details
Mon 18 Dec	2.30-4pm Forgot Me Not Café see page 45 for details 5.15pm Santa arrives in Rode! See page 44 for details
Tue 19 Dec	10.30am-12.30pm Rode Talking Café see page 45 for details
Wed 20 Jan	8pm Carol Singing see page 43 for details
Fri 22 Dec	11.15 – 11.45am Mobile Library, High Street, Rode 6pm Carol Singing see page 43 for details
Dat 23 Dec	5pm Nativity see page 44 for details
Sun 24 Dec	3pm Rode Chapel & 5pm NSP Church – Crib Service see page 45 for details
Mon 25 Dec	BANK HOLIDAY - Christmas Day
Mon 26 Dec	BANK HOLIDAY - Boxing Day
Sat 30 Dec	8pm RPF Lottery Draw, The Cross Keys see page 12 for details
Mon 1 Jan	BANK HOLIDAY – New Years Day
Tue 2 Jan	10.30am-12.30pm Rode Talking Café see page 45 for details
Mon 8 Jan	Rode Over 60s CANCELLED see page 27 for details 12.00pm Monday Lunch Club see page 30 for details
Thu 11 Jan	10am Rode Walking Group see page 29 for details 12.30pm for 1pm NSP Church Lunchtime Concert see pages 46 for details
Mon 15 Jan	2.30-4pm Forgot Me Not Café see page 46 for details 7pm Rode & District Gardening Club see page 28 for details 7.30pm Rode Parish Council Meeting see page 55 for details
Tue 16 Jan	10.30am-12.30pm Rode Talking Café see page 45 for details
Fri 19 Jan	7 for 7.30pm Rode Roxy –see page 47 for further details
Tue 22 Jan	COPY DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY LINK
Wed 31 Jan	8pm RPF Lottery Draw, The Cross Keys see page 12 for details

WASTE COLLECTIONS

DEC 2023

JAN 2024

Fri Sat Sun

Fri Sat

-1 2 3

5 6

8 9 10

-12 13

15 16 17

-19 20

22 23 24

-26 27

29 30 -31

● REFUSE ● RECYCLING ● GARDEN

We welcome all content contributions for "The Link"

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