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April - May 2022



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Overview

This introduction usually starts with a comment on the weather, which is gloomy and wet as I write. We have experienced some very extreme weather over the last few months with the last arrival - Storm Eunice - darkening both the skies and our homes for anything from a few hours to several days!

The power cuts reminded us all of how much we rely on electricity to live our modern lives - but the collateral damage and relatively short period without light and heat pale into insignificance when compared with the suffering and devastation being endured by the people of Ukraine. I'm sure everyone's thoughts and prayers are with them at this time.

Our thoughts very shortly will be focussing on the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrating 70 years of her reign. Whether you are a staunch royalist or a committed republican, HM Elizabeth II seems to be universally respected for her total devotion to serving this country for so many years. Lots of events are planned both to give people the chance to enjoy a good time and to suitably mark the occasion. Many of our local groups are hosting or involved and you'll find the provisional list on page 15.

Local groups are the topic of an interesting article by Rob Grimmond who has some worrying facts to share. Find out more on page 8.

With new equipment installed, the Village Hall is once again hosting films and the one on Friday April 1st is bound to be popular, unless they're trying to makes fools of us!

Recently, the Village Agent for the Combe St. Nicholas area contacted Cloverleaf to publicise the services on offer. Operated by Community Care for Somerset, these local agents can help to find solutions to many problems for the elderly, sick and vulnerable. Find out more on page 29.

After a very long lay off, the Combe 10k is back on May 15th. Help with stewarding is welcomed. See page 23 for more information. And John Phillips returns after his hospital stay to take us back to the 11th century!

As not all of the groups are up and running, we have shelved our 'Regular Village Activities' feature and incorporated more of the weekly/monthly dates into the calendar. Please let me know if your club or group is missing out.

Lesley Cole

Editor

In the Garden..with Claire at Combe Dingle Nursery

It was lovely to see so many people braving the wind at Combe Dingle for the annual spring plug plant weekend. It is always a pleasure to see everyone enjoying their tea and cake, thinking about the year ahead and swapping ideas with friends old and new.

The main job over the next few weeks will be potting up plugs and pricking out seedlings. This year, for the first time, all of these will be potted up into peat-free compost. I have had great success seedisowing using peat-free with added John Innes. Firstly, almost fill your seed tray with compost. Flatten with an equal firmness. This is important to ensure that all your seedlings are germinating and growing all at the same rate. The warming benches in the greenhouse are usually short of space so I often divide each tray into three. A label dividing each variety.



I rarely sow seeds without vermiculite. It is so easy to use. The amount you use will depend on the size of the seed. Vermiculite is light weight, making it easy for seedlings to push through with no risk of capping. It holds a good amount of moisture and will absorb any excess and it is sterile so damping off is greatly reduced.

People often remark that my bedding plants last for so long. For best results it is best to grow them slowly. I keep them in a polytunnel or greenhouse without any heat. If the forecast predicts 3 degrees or below then they are covered in fleece. There is quite an art to getting the fleece right which the children have mastered over the years.

By the end of March your winter pruning should be done, herbaceous plants cut down to expose emerging growth and any dividing of plants done. Now is the time to divide up snowdrops. They respond best from being moved in the green.

The ever-popular vegetable plugs will be here from 8th April. There will be the usual wide range. I like to say, 'almost any vegetable you can think of.' The variety changes throughout the season and will be here until the end of July. Every year I like to try growing something new. What will be your choice?

Village Hall

Hall users will be aware of our new front door, which is more secure and easier to lock than the old one. The key is in a safe outside the door and the code, which will be changed from time to time for security reasons, is issued to users.

Our overhead projector is now up and running and we have already held two film nights. Look out for details of forthcoming films (which will normally be screened on the first Friday of the month) on the village Facebook pages and on posters.

Our licence doesn't allow us to advertise the titles of the films on social media, but we can (and will!) put the titles on the posters, and if you would like to join our mailing list to be sent details or to find out more, just contact Ian Croucher on CSNVillageHall@hotmail.com. Our next film will be the latest **James Bond: No Time To Die** on **Friday 1st April**. Doors open at 6.30pm and the film starts at 7.00pm. Choc ices, popcorn and soft drinks available!

Reminders of events mentioned in the last Cloverleaf:

- Free Buckingham Palace Jubilee concert (broadcast via our wifi and projector) in the hall on Saturday 4th June, subject to availability.
- Easter Table Top Sale in the hall on Saturday 2nd April from 10 am – 4 pm. Email CSNVillageHall@hotmail.com for table size/cost/availability.
- Open Gardens on Sunday 26th June.
- Village Hall Sunday roast café on the last Sunday of each month.

Village Hall Committee

Combe St Nicholas Parish Oil Co-Operative

The oil co-operative enables residents of the Parish to obtain heating oil at bulk discount prices. The minimum order will be 500 litres. There will be deliveries every two months.

Cut-off date for May will be Monday 9th.

Please check subsequent issues of Cloverleaf or the Parish website (**www.combestnicholas.org.uk**) for the following months. For more information, please ring the number below. Please note there is no fee for membership or placing an order.

To place an order, please contact Kay on 01460 261234 or by email to motcombe@btinternet.com (stating contact details and amount required).

Underway Meade



Our group of volunteers working on the pond

We held a very successful pond clearance day in February, with thanks to over 14 volunteers turning up to help us remove reed and silt on the only dry day that week. Four brave souls donned the waders, and apart from one over enthusiastic person who managed to trip over, all came back out reasonably dry, if a bit muddy!



Using the pump

The silt was pumped onto the big field where it will soon be covered by the grass and the reed roots were left near the stream edge so that any creatures that might have been removed with them could find their way safely back into the water.

The pump performed well, and the open water surface can now be seen again leaving a perfect environment for the moorhens to set up home once more. The reed will no doubt grow again but now we have the necessary equipment to keep it under control in the future, volunteers willing!

As well as working on the pond, other volunteers set to spreading the huge heap of chippings that had been donated following our request in the last issue of Cloverleaf. Fortunately, we have had more delivered since, and just in time for the Wessex Water volunteer team who will have been by the time you receive this issue.

The Wild Play area has got rather muddy underfoot in the last few weeks and the Combe Critters have had fewer meetings as a result, but hopefully with improved weather conditions it will dry out and they will be having regular sessions again soon.

Sadly we didn't receive any of the hoped-for apple trees from Thatcher's Cider, but I am pleased to say we have had some other saplings, including four wild cherry and a Judas tree, donated by some Friends of the Meade. These will provide valuable nectar and pollen for bees and other insects as they mature, as well as some lovely spring colour.

Talking of lovely colour, the daffodils (kindly provided by Combe Dingle Nursery) and crocuses planted around the Meade have been looking splendid this year and the primroses on the mound have also been putting on a great show. Gill Wright, one of our volunteers is currently busy sowing seeds for transplanting later in the season so watch out for ragged robin, corn cockle, corn marigold and other wildflowers later in the year.

Dates for your diaries:

We will be holding our **AGM** in the village hall on **Tuesday 3rd May at 7.30pm**. Everyone is welcome to attend, and we look forward to seeing you there.

On **Sunday 5th June**, everyone is invited to bring a picnic to the Meade as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration weekend. Watch out for further details on posters and Facebook nearer the time.



The pond after restoration

Lynn Osborne, Chair, Combe St. Nicholas Parochial Trust.
Tel: 01460 62015 Email: lynnosborne99@gmail.com



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Do we want our local groups to survive?

When I arrived in Combe St. Nicholas in 2004, I was impressed by the strength of the local groups. Within a short time, Kay and I joined the Horticultural Society and, later, its committee, with me becoming Chairman.

We soon discovered why the same names kept cropping up on local group committees; a lack of volunteers. It became a problem in recent years, when local group numbers began to fall. For example, regular membership of the Horticultural Society was around 100 in 2009 but fell to 35 in 2019. To thrive, groups have to cover the costs of the village hall and hiring speakers and you need people to turn out. Before COVID, some groups struggled, but its effects might finish them off.

The Horticultural Society has lost most of its committee (not because of COVID). Without people coming forward it will end. We re-named it a Gardening Club, hoping that would give it a greater appeal. We also decided to cut the number of meeting with speakers to reduce costs and perhaps have just spring and autumn shows in the village hall, an annual cream teas and plant sale and, the big annual event, the summer show in the church. Meetings are yet to resume, because of COVID and lack of committee members.

Other groups face similar problems. Indeed I believe one of them has already been wound up. Don't think, though, that these problems affect just our parish groups; they are widespread. From my involvement in other groups outside of the Parish, I can speak with some knowledge.

Why has this been happening and what should we do? The first question may be easier to answer. Local groups have generally had an older membership. Unfortunately, as the population ages, membership numbers fall. COVID has also had a significant effect because people have got used to not turning out of an evening (when most meetings tend to take place) and may still be reluctant to turn out because of the COVID risk. Nowadays there are many ways to seek entertainment at home.

As to the second question, we must ask whether local groups serve a useful purpose now. Do they still have a value? Before social media, they helped people meet. If they are still of value, they need younger blood to survive. How can that be achieved? What will make them attractive?

Would it be a good idea for local groups to merge into one community group in the hope that something will survive? Or do we need to think outside of the box and come up with something that takes advantage of the digital age? I've asked many questions but am still struggling for answers.

Rob Grimmond

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Wadeford Charity Book Club

Since my last report we have held two further book sales this year already . The numbers of books donated, the number of attendees and ultimately the money collected have all been very good.



We estimate that we have about 1,500 books at every sale and it is physically taxing setting up and packing them away but our expanded team of helpers has made a big difference. Remember, if you want us to keep offering this service then please come along. The "use it or lose it" expression applies!

Our next sale will be on Sunday May 15th, at the Village Hall as ever, free entry of course. All proceeds to Prostate Cancer UK and Coeliac UK. If you'd like us to collect your book donations, please call Moira on **01460 261950**.

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Sunday School Wood

First of all, a big welcome to our latest volunteer worker, Greg Hoare. He has already shown his worth rotavating 'Brian's patch'. We still have work to do on it, but that should now be a bit easier. We had to get the rotavator seen to again by Phil Roper at AGM. It seems it was a problem with the points caused by the very damp conditions in the shed. I do not know what we would do without his help - thanks Phil.

On the bad news side, it was reported to us by a very public minded resident of Combe that someone had deposited various panes of glass, some of which had been pushed into the ground near the steps and rail up to Green Lane. This must have been brought in from outside SSW because there is none anywhere near. This part of SSW is regularly used by children from the school as a 'safe' access to their playing field. Thank you to the person who reported it for also removing it.

On a brighter note, the wild daffodils have been fantastic, starting to bloom very early before the end of January, and still going well into March. It looks as though this display will be followed by bluebells. There is already lots of growth emerging, so it does look promising.



The wild weather has resulted in lots of scattered branches which we are gathering up otherwise they will cause problems when we need to strim later. It means we have already got a significant heap of wood on the bonfire heap. One of the log piles that we built some long time ago looks as though it has been inhabited by reasonable sized wild life, eg hedgehog. Whatever it was really burrowed into the heap.

We have already had to do a bit of grass mowing following the very mild winter. This has also meant that we had to empty out one of the compost bins to make room for new grass cuttings. Fortunately, the compost was well rotted.

Frank Warriner (67407)

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Queens 70th Jubilee Weekend 2nd – 5th June.

Events planned so far

Friday 3rd June

Afternoon: **Football Club** Five-a-side football competitions

Evening : **Football Club**

Save the Dragon BBQ with band. (Tickets needed)
Bar open. (In nearby Barn if wet)

Saturday 4th June

Morning: **The Lawns** Rev. Georgina will dedicate the new Play
Equipment and commemorate new Tree Planting

All Day **Parish Church**

History exhibition and display of old Parish
photographs and history information. If you have
any old photographs of the Parish and/or any
souvenirs from the Coronation or other Jubilees and
would be willing to loan them for the day please
contact Penny Croucher (**07780 081081**) or Anne
Hunt (**61296**) Teas and cake will be for sale.

Evening: **Village Hall: Queen's Concert** from Buckingham
Palace to be shown in the Hall on the big screen.
Bring your own drink/eats

Sunday 5th June

Lunchtime: **Underway Meade** Bring your own Lunch for
a Parish Picnic

There may be other activities arranged, such as Morris Dancing, tractor
pull, but no details at this time. If you have any bunting please do
decorate your houses

**Look out for posters and more information
on the Village Facebook page**

Flower Arranging Workshops

Spring has sprung and is one of my favourite seasons for flowers - so I thought you might like these hints, tips plus a design idea.

Let's start with daffodils (*Narcissus*). All daffodils have a sap in their stems that is poisonous to other flowers. The best way to overcome this is to isolate them in water on their own for 24 hours. Then, discard that water and you can safely mix your daffs with other spring flowers. Daffodils should have a fresh green calyx – this is what holds the flower in place. Don't buy them if this is yellow. And remember – the sap can irritate your skin and contact with your eyes or face should be avoided.



Moving on to tulips (*Tulipa*). I love these as their growth is so unpredictable! The shape and length of cut tulips changes dramatically as they mature. They will twist and turn towards the light and often grow up to 4 inches higher than when you first buy them - so you may need to cut the length a few times. Here's a design idea. Once the flower is almost open, roll your thumb gently underneath each petal turning it inside out. You now have what looks like an amazing tropical flower! Then simply cut the heads off into a dish of water with floating candles. This is really easy to do – so why not have a go at creating a totally tropical arrangement?

If you would like something very special for your table for Easter, here is our next workshop:

Easter Eggstravaganza

Saturday 9 April 2022, 10am-12.30pm and 2pm-4.30pm £25

Come and learn the latest award-winning continental floral techniques to create an eye-catching Easter design that will be the envy of your friends. This magnificent table centrepiece will definitely "wow" everyone. It's gorgeous... and such fun!

All events held at Combe St Nicholas Village Hall. For more workshops and further information contact Jackie Nicholls, Ashville Design on 01460 67795 or 07906 259 683 or email ashvilledesign@outlook.com – www.ashvilledesign.co.uk – www.facebook.com/ashvilledesign

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Combe St. Nicholas Parish Council

The Lawns, Play Area. Children are getting excited about the new play equipment currently being installed – a good climbing frame and a skyrail (although short due to space but should be good fun)

3 members of the Parish Council and 1 resident from Nimmer attended the meeting in Chard to find out details about setting up a **Flood Resilience scheme**, and also met with the **Flood Warden** from Martock to find out about finding a Flood Warden for this Parish. The outcome of the various Flood Management teams and Somerset Rivers Authority are still awaited to see how matters can proceed to stop future flooding, especially regarding the Leat that runs through the Parish.

Some residents still do not clear up any dogs mess. This is a real problem so please ensure you clear up after your dog.

Council Elections take place on 5th May. All Parish Council places are up for election – most existing Councillors will be standing again, but if you would like to stand please contact the Parish Clerk for details. Application forms have to be delivered to Yeovil by 5th April. Candidates for the New Unitary Authority of One Somerset will also be elected.

The next Parish Council meetings will be held on **Monday 25th April and Monday 23rd May 2022.** 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Anne Hunt – Parish Clerk, Tel. 01460 61296
combestnicholaspg@gmail.com website – www.combestnicholas.org.uk

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

As part of the celebrations, we are planning to open the church all day on Saturday 4th June to display interesting village photographs old and new, plus any memorabilia relating to Combe. Also join us for refreshments and to share memories over a cuppa.



If you have any items/photographs, we would be very grateful. Can we ask if you could display your photographs on boards - if not, drop them in to Penny at Green Oak Cottage, Frog Lane, TA20 3NX. *Please make sure everything is named so we can return them to you.*

Thank you in advance.

Penny Croucher (07780 081081)

April

Sun	3		See Church Services
Tue	4	10am-1pm	Upholstery Class - Village Hall
Wed	6	7pm-9.30pm	Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall
Fri	8	10am	Art Group - Village Hall
		2pm-4.30pm	Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall
Sat	9	10am -12.30pm & 2pm-4.30pm	Flower Arranging Workshop -Village Hall
Sun	10		See Church Services
Tue	12	10am-1pm	Upholstery Class - Village Hall
Wed	13	7pm-9.30pm	Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall
Thu	14	7.30pm	Combe Folk Dance Club - Village Hall
Fri	15		Good Friday NO Short Mat Bowls
Sun	17		Easter Day - See Church Services
Wed	20	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship - Methodist Rooms <i>Gordon East -Syrian Refugees</i>
		7pm-9.30pm	Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall
Fri	22	10.00am	Art Group -Village Hall
		2pm-4.30pm	Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall
Sun	24		See Church Services
		12pm-2pm	Combe Café Sunday Lunches - Village Hall
Mon	25	7.30pm	Parish Council - Village Hall
Tue	26	10am-1pm	Upholstery Class - Village Hall
Wed	27	7pm-9.30pm	Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall
Thu	28	7.30pm	Combe Folk Dance Club - Village Hall
Fri	29	10.00am	Art Group -Village Hall
		2pm-4.30pm	Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall
Sat	31	10am-11am	Combe Lego & Duplo Club - Methodist Room

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OCTOBER 2022**

**EXISTING BOOKINGS HONoured WHERE POSSIBLE
INFORMATION ON NEW TICKET SALES COMING SOON!**

your diary

May

Sun	1		See Church Services
Tue	3	10am-1pm	Upholstery Class - Village Hall
Wed	4	7pm-9.30pm	Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall
Fri	6	7pm-9.30pm	Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall
Sun	8		See Church Services
Mon	9		Cut-off date for Oil Co-operative
Tue	10	10am-1pm	Upholstery Class - Village Hall
Wed	11	7pm-9.30pm	Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall
Thu	12	7.30pm	Combe Folk Dance Club - Village Hall
Fri	13	10am	Art Group - Village Hall
Fri	13	7pm-9.30pm	Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall
Sun	15		See Church Services
		2pm-4pm	Wadeford Charity Book Sale - Village Hall
Tue	17	10am-1pm	Upholstery Class - Village Hall
Wed	18	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship - Methodist Rooms
			<i>AGM</i>
		7pm-9.30pm	Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall
Fri	20	10am	Art Group - Village Hall
		7pm-9.30pm	Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall
Sun	22		See Church Services
Mon	23	7.30pm	Parish Council - Village Hall
Tue	24	10am-1pm	Upholstery Class - Village Hall
Thu	26	7.30pm	Combe Folk Dance Club - Village Hall
Fri	27	10am	Art Group - Village Hall
		7pm-9.30pm	Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall
Sat	28	10am-11am	Combe Lego & Duplo Club - Methodist Rooms
Sun	29		See Church Services



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Combe St Nicholas PFA 2k/5k and 10k

Sunday 15 May 2022

approx. 9am-12noon



We're back! We will be running our 10km, 5km and 2km Fun Run in May this year. Racing starts at 10am. This is an important fund raiser for the school and we need your help to make it a success.

Combe PFA has received many accolades from runners over the years, particularly about the level of stewarding. This is largely down to the assistance we receive from the local community. If you are willing to enjoy a couple of hours in the fresh air for good cause, then please give me a ring on **07768 055517** or email **combe10k@gmail.com**.

If you would like to enter, the 10km is described as a testing road run with undulating and hilly terrain. If it seems too daunting, have a go at the 5km or take part in the 2km Fun Run. To enter please check our website for links www.combe10k.org.uk. I look forward to seeing you on the 15th.

Thank you.



Anyone for Tennis? *Everyone for Tennis!*



Come and join **Chard Tennis Club** for exercise and fun and/or competitive play in local leagues. We offer:

- a simple annual membership, including family and junior options
- plenty of court availability, a choice of surfaces and 2 floodlit courts
- LTA accredited coaching for juniors & adults to learn to play or improve skills
- club sessions through the week or choose a time that suits you!

The Tennis Club is next to the cricket and football grounds near the town centre, off Zembard Lane. Plenty of car parking available.

Find out more about membership from Bettina on **07799 416296** or through the website: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/ChardTennisClub>

- **Open Day Saturday 14th May – check the website for event details**

Another moment in time... with John Phillips

In 1084 the inhabitants of Combe, Whitestaunton and Wambrook were probably cursing King Cnut of Denmark and his father-in-law, Robert Count of Flanders. Their threatened invasion of England had caused William I (The Conqueror) to decree the raising of the old Anglo-Saxon geld land tax at a rate of 6 shillings (30p) per hide. A hide was an area of land, usually between 150 and 300 acres, which had to pay the tax for the defence of the realm at the rate set by the king. 6 shillings was a considerable sum; the equivalent of 18 sheep or 12 pigs per hide.

The silver penny of circa 1.5 grams was the only coinage at the time. Whitestaunton had to pay 126 pennies (52.5 p). Combe paid 864 pennies (£3.60) and Wambrook a proportion of the 576 pennies (£2.40) owed by the large manor of Chardstock in Dorset, of which it was then a part.

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records William's other characteristically decisive actions. Being in Normandy at the time, he then "went to England with a larger force of mounted men and infantry, from France and Brittany, than had ever come... so that people wondered how this country could maintain all that army. And people had much oppression that year and the King had the land near the sea laid to waste". This was an early example of the scorched-earth tactic.

Each manor made its payment to the tax collector who took it to the hundred court to which the manor belonged. There it was counted (by talle) or weighed, recorded and sealed before the hundred jury. Remarkably we have the name of one of these Somerset tax collectors. The Bishop of Wells, Lord of Combe, owned circa 10% of Somerset. He paid the bulk of his tax at Congresbury hundred court. The subsequent geld inquest for the hundred records "and from one hide from which Ansger and his fellows, who collected the geld, acknowledge that they receive the money but that the King has no geld". The Bishop's tax for Combe, Chard and Winsham was paid "at the Bishop's hundred at Kingsbury episcopi". The money from Whitestaunton was sent to the hundred court at South Petherton and the money from Wambrook to the hundred court and Beaminster, Dorset.

All the money from Somerset was taken by wagon and escort to Winchester. It is recorded in the geld inquest "The King has £509 of his geld from Somerset and the men who brought it to his treasury at Winchester have had £2 for their maintenance and they paid 9sh 8d (48p) to waggoners employed and to a scribe and for coverings bought and for wax [for candles and seals]. And the King has not been paid 51sh 3d (£2.56) which the bearers of the geld have received but for which they cannot give any account. They have given security that this will be paid to the King's officers legati [lawyers]".

This shortfall, amongst many others, led the King to order further more detailed enquiries, resulting in that unique survey of England - the Domesday Book.



Whitestaunton Church

Summer Afternoon Music Concert And Cream Tea

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Clubs and Societies

Combe Football Club



Time seems to be absolutely flying by and we are very excited to see that for the first time in three years, we may actually finish a season of football! All three of our men's teams are in good positions with the Firsts most notably hoping to win their League and bag that promotion! We are extremely proud of the performances and results at Combe so far this year so please do come along and support our players. Information on games are posted on our Facebook page.

Off the pitch, we recently hosted a Combe FC quiz and raffle. Our local businesses were incredibly generous with their raffle donations and of course, thank you to all of the community who bought tickets to help us raise money to make our club even better. We have been able to use recent fundraising money to help buy new goal nets for both pitches as well as brand new goals for our training pitch shared by the adult teams as well as our Avishayes Youth sides.

We are also very pleased to soon be holding a community event to celebrate the Jubilee at our clubhouse on Friday the 3rd of June! We will be looking to host a Combe FC Superstars game in the afternoon before a Save The Dragon barbecue with a band, so keep your eyes peeled for more details as we head towards summer.

Thank you to everyone for your support so far this year, we hope to see you at the Club to use our wonderful facilities soon.

James Gilbert
Combe FC Chairman

Various Parish Group Meetings

Since Covid has caused a lot of meetings to be cancelled for all Groups, a meeting was being held in March to see if there is a way round this, by combining various Groups into a Community type Group.

The last date for putting articles in for this magazine has meant we can't give you the decision yet, but please keep a look out for posters or notice on the Combe Facebook page for more details. Let's hope we can all meet again sensibly soon.

Anne Hunt 01460 61296 or annehunt1909@btinternet.com

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Get Outside in Somerset

It has been a little damp in Somerset, but good news is the start of spring is on its way! Bringing longer and lighter days, milder weather and hopefully... a much-needed dose of vitamin D. Get ready for spring adventures and outdoor fun with Get Outside in Somerset. From activities to events and challenges, you can find a roundup of our latest stories and all the great stuff happening near you at www.getoutsideinsomerset.co.uk

Talking Cafés

Many of our Talking Cafes have returned with no need to book or make an appointment. To find your local Talking Café visit:

<https://somersetagents.org/talking-cafes/>

or watch our Talking Cafes LIVE on Facebook <https://somersetagents.org/talking-cafes/talking-cafe-live-sessions/>

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**Please contact your local Village Agent:
Pete Coller 01823 331222**

Combe St Nicholas Lego & Duplo Club

A FRIENDLY COMMUNITY WITH LOTS OF FUN

Thanks to everyone who came to our first session in February. Here's some feedback from one of the families:



AL, aged 13, is a huge Lego fan and told us: *"Club was fun with a very good collection of bricks. Friendly people and plenty of space in two rooms so it was not too loud. Might need more Lego if more people come along!"*

IL, 14, had this to say about helping at club: *"I helped set up and chatted with families. We made a model display to leave in the room for other people to see. Some other families helped when it was tidy up time. A friendly community with lots of fun."*

-L, told us what it was like as a parent at Lego club: *"a well attended club with everyone engrossed in building. It was a nice sociable group."*

If you have any spare Lego you'd like to donate, please get in touch. Join us at the Methodist Church Hall, 10am to 11am on the last Saturday of each month.

Deborah (07879 698920) Denise (07743 021881)

Find us on Facebook: **Combe Lego & Duplo Club**

Weather watch – local rainfall report



Period	2022 Actual	2021 Actual	10 Yr Ave 2002-2011	10 Yr Ave 2012-2021
January	45	147	120	128
February	80	139	83	120
TOTAL	125	286	203	248

All measurements in millimetres 25mm = 1" = 45 gallons/sq yard

January's rain fell mainly in the first half on the month. Compared to previous years, January's total of just 45mm was the 8th lowest on record, with all those seven happening before 2007. The rain in February was spread throughout the month, with the most significant amount falling in the latter part of February.



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Yarcombe Young Farmers

On Sunday 6th February, we put on a re-run of our pantomime Aladdin, followed by entertainment by our vice chairman. This event was well supported by club members, parents and friends all coming to watch, thank you to those who helped support us. We raised just over £1200 for our charity of the year Exeter Foundation NHS Trust. To celebrate our great achievement and all the hard work, the cast of Aladdin and directors had a meal together on the 17th February at the Sidmouth Arms, where we watched back our performance.

The club has been busy with sports activities. On the 15th February members played against Culm Valley YFC in pub sports taking part in pool, darts and skittles. We won the skittles and darts, but lost pool. On the 22nd Feb we competed against Whimble YFC, winning the skittles but losing darts and pool. Members participated in the East Devon group round of mixed netball on the 27th Feb., where we came 3rd out of the 5 clubs competing.

Our charity Tractor run took place on Sunday 20th Feb. It started at Stopgate farm and finished at Barleymow's farm shop, where hot food was provided. Thank you to Rose Burrough and her team for providing the food and somewhere to finish. Also thank you to the Barnes family for letting us gather at the start. 105 tractors took part in the run and people were able to test out their tractors on the Dyno, which was kindly supplied by Hambly's. An amazing £2000, was raised for our charity of the year - Exeter hospital.

Recently we presented cheques for the money we raised in the years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 to the FCN on the 21st February at our club meeting. The FCN (Farming Community Network) gave a short talk about how the money we raised will help their charity and the work they do. On the 1st March Natalie, Laura & Dan (previous secretaries and chairman), went to the Mardon Neurological Rehabilitation Centre in Exeter to present the cheque. It was great to hear and see how the money raised will help them. Each charity was presented with cheques of £3868.73. Coming up we are all looking forward to South West Area weekend away in Weston Super-Mare on the 4th, 5th & 6th March and the Devon YFC ball on the 19th March.



If anyone has any further questions and would like to become involved with Young Farmers, please contact our Chairman Jack Tomlinson on 07712 479384, or our Secretary Emily Dunster on 07368 654447. We have our club meetings every other week on Mondays in either Yarcombe or Upton Village Hall 8pm start.

Natalie Sampson - Press Secretary

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Cloverleaf Parish Pages

Rector's Letter

We all need stories.

Stories are how we make sense of our lives. If a story is told well it will have the power to help us place ourselves within it and perhaps change our perceptions and ideas.

Stories have unexpected twists and turns. Stories find heroes and heroines in strange places. Stories reveal something about our human nature and can challenge the status quo. In stories we are drawn into the lives of characters, and we identify ourselves with this one and that one. Stories help us to empathise.

We are hearing many, many stories in the news at present coming out of Ukraine. Some will make us cry, some will make us angry and ask how this could be happening. However, we are also hearing stories of great courage, of compassion and decency. Without hearing these stories we would not be able to cope and we might fall into despair and a feeling of hopelessness.

In our Lent course this year we are reading the Book of Ruth in the Old Testament. It tells a great story. It is a story that crosses borders, a story about being 'the other' in a foreign land and is also about recognising one another first and foremost as human beings, children of God. It is about acceptance, hope and about love.

It really is a good story, and it is also short! It only has four chapters, and I would encourage you to read it.

The Book of Ruth is a very human story and in fact God is hardly mentioned. However, it does show us how we might behave if God is at work in our lives. A story of loyalty and small kindnesses which lead to growing love.

As we move into Spring and see signs of new life all around us, let us take hope and courage as our watchwords and not give in to despair. The greatest story ever told, that of Jesus, his life, death and resurrection, tells us this, just as the story of Ruth tell us, that there is always the possibility of new beginnings and new life.

I finish with the words below that we say in some of our church services:

***Goodness is stronger than evil,
Love is stronger than hate,
Light is stronger than darkness,
Truth is stronger than lies.***

New Pattern of Services for St Andrew's, Whitestaunton

NB The road from the A30 is now open again.

At St Andrew's we are aiming to change the pattern of some of our services in order to reach a broad congregation. We want to provide a variety of services, including all-age services, that are interesting, inclusive, enjoyable and encourage people to come together at our lovely historic, community church.

Services will be a mix of traditional Holy Communion and BCP and all age services based on a relevant festival/theme for that month.

From May, Book of Common Prayer Evensong will continue on the 2nd

Sunday of the month at 6.00pm unless advertised differently.

In some months we will continue with Holy Communion on the 3rd Sunday, **but the time will be changing to 10.30 am.**

In other months we will be planning special seasonal services. Here are some dates for your diaries:

Friday 15th April	9.15am Reflections at the Cross for Good Friday (with hot cross buns)
Sunday 17th April	9.15am Service for Easter Sunday (with the Whitestaunton choir)
Sunday 29th May	1.15pm Rogation Sunday prayers in the churchyard and lunch
Sunday 17th July	3.00pm Summer Songs of Praise with Pimms and cake
18th September	10.30am Pet Service for Creation Season
9th October	6.00pm Harvest Songs of Praise with an auction of goods

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Marriages:

Tony Collins and Rachel Bragg	Whitestaunton
Toby Knight and Katherine Cleal	Combe

Funerals:

Pam Lawrence	
Vera Root	Combe
Terence White	

Holy Week - all are Benefice Services

	Combe	Wambrook	Whitestaunton	Ham	Chard
Monday 11 April				7.00pm HC	
Tuesday 12 April					7.00pm Taize Service
Wednesday 13 April	7.00pm BCP Holy Communion				9.45am HC
Maundy Thursday 14 April					6.00pm Passover Supper
Good Friday 15 April	10.00am Family Service 12.00noon Stations of the Cross	2.00pm Reflection for the Final Hour	9.15am Reflection at the Cross with Hot Cross Buns		10.00am CCT Walk of Wit- ness 2.00pm The Final Hour

Church Services across the Benefice

APRIL	Combe	Wambrook	Whitestunton	Ham	Chard
April 3rd 5th Sunday of Lent Passion Sunday	10.30am Family Service	9.15am BCP Holy Communion			8.00am HC 10.00am MW 10.30am Family Service
April 10th Palm Sunday	10.30am Liturgy of the Palms/ Passion	9.15am Holy Communion	6.00pm Evensong BCP		10.00am Liturgy of the Palms/ Passion
April 17th Easter Sunday	10.30am Holy Communion	5.56am Red Post layby Sunrise Service 9.15am Holy Communion BCP	9.15am Holy Communion	6.00pm Evensong BCP	10.30am Holy Communion
April 24th 2 nd of Easter	10.00am Breakfast Church with Holy Communion at Chard				10.00am Breakfast Church with Holy Communion

BCP Communion: 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10.00am at Combe

For enquiries about Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals please contact the clergy. If you would like us to visit you or just want a chat please do not hesitate to contact me. Rev Georgina

Church Services across the Benefice

MAY	Combe	Wambrook	Whitestunton	Ham	Chard
May 1st Easter 2	10.30am Family Service	9.15am BCP Holy Communion		6.00pm BCP Evensong	8.00am HC 10.00am MW 11.00 @ St Mary's
May 8th Easter 3	10.30am Holy Communion APCM	9.15am CW Holy Communion	6.00pm BCP Evensong		10.00am HC
May 15th Easter 4	10.30am Together at Methodist Church	6.00pm BCP Evensong	9.15am CW Holy Communion		8.00am HC 10.00am Service of the Word APCM
May 22nd Easter 5	10.30am Holy Communion				10.00am Songs of Praise Flower Festival
Thursday 26 th Ascension					7.00pm Benefice HC
May 29th Easter 6 ROGATION	3.30pm Prayers + Tea	10.30am Holy Communion CW + coffee	1.15pm Prayers + lunch	5.00pm BCP Evensong	8.00am HC

Wambrook Flowers and Cleaning

Altar Flowers

Cleaning

April 3

LENT

Vanessa Hothersall

SATURDAY 9 APRIL: SPRING CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE FOR ALL

16 APRIL: ALL DECORATE FOR EASTER

April 10 & 17

Sue Wallace (17th only)

Kay Clegg

April 24 & May 1

Penny Luther

Hilary Dixon

May 8 & 15

Ally Eames

Carole Fowler

May 22 & 29

Janie Hurrell

Mary Perry

Cloverleaf Parishes Information

Clergy contact details:

Rector: Rev'd Ann Kember

The Vicarage, Forton Road, Chard TA20 2HJ

Tel: 01460 351521 Email: annkember58@gmail.com

Associate Rev'd Georgina Vye,

Vicar: The Vicarage, 57 Caraway Close, Chard, TA20 1HP

01460 66159 or 07950 989916 Email: g.vye@btinternet.com

Cloverleaf Churchwardens

St Nicholas, Combe:

Penny Croucher (07780 081081)

Keda Horn (07867 300795),

St Mary's, Wambrook:

Graeme Pidgeon (07807 284738)

Visit the Wambrook website

www.wambrookparishchurch.com

St Andrew's, Whitestaunton:

Jane Harris (PCC Secretary - 239113),

COMBE ST NICHOLAS METHODIST CHURCH

Services: 10.30am fortnightly (as per plan on Noticeboard on railings)

Minister: Rev Anna Flindell (01460 261766)

Steward: Arnold Coleman (64892)

Copy date for June/July issue of Cloverleaf

*Items for Cloverleaf should be e-mailed to csnparishmag@btinternet.com or delivered to **The Village Shop & Post Office, Combe** NO LATER THAN 12noon on **TUESDAY 17th May**. Please note: long articles may have to be edited and inclusion cannot always be guaranteed.*

Distributors: June/July Magazines will be in Combe Church ready for collection after 2.30pm on Friday 27th May.

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