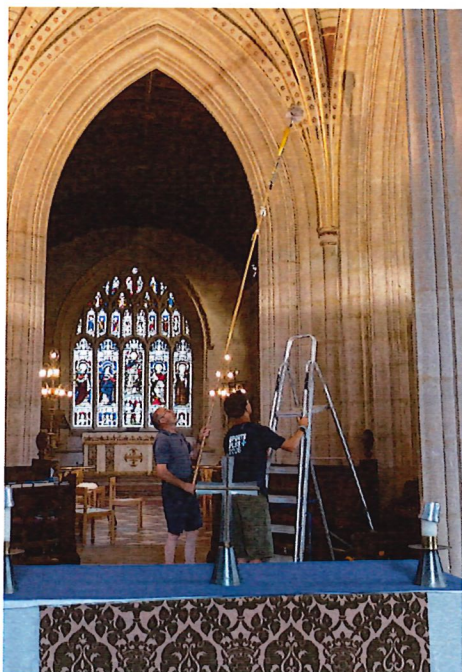


St Mary's Church, Yatton

Summer 2026

St Mary's Big Clean 1st August

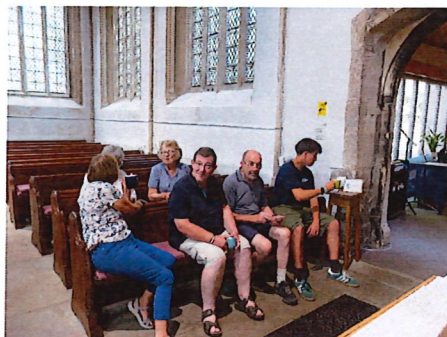


Above right: Derek & his grandson George chasing some of the many spiders with an improvised pole

Above left: The Cookes tackling windows - inside + out

And finally—stopping for a breather...

Well done everyone and a big thank you to you all



If you can't stand the Heat, stay out of the Kitchen

I had a choice of Truman quotes about hot weather, mostly unprintable. The man was from Missouri which is pretty extreme climatologically (and in a few other ways too). I wonder what he would make of the news that 181 alligators are gathering at the Arkansas border, presumably intent on bringing further southern charm to the state. To put this in context, there are thought to be around 35,000 in the Mississippi, but climate change brings its own forward patrols. To date we have been fortunate – a few southern moths and butterflies have arrived, the hoopoes were a bit early and a bit more northerly and our ocean fauna is getting a distinctly Aquitanian flavour but, at the risk of sounding like Senna the soothsayer, (“woe, woe and thrice woe”), worse will come. I don't fancy endemic dengue fever, but Asian mosquitos are already in Northwestern France and British mosquitos are already able to transmit Malaria and did so in the Kent and Essex marshes right up to the early 20th century. We can't pick and choose which visitors will arrive and which endemic species will succumb. If I were a bumble bee I think I would be investing in a Swedish phrasebook.

It seems likely that the current exceptional weather will become the new normal. It is probabilistic in nature – now you see it, now you don't – and it is hideously complex. Next year is likely (probability c. 80%) to be hotter than this year but how and where that extra heat will be expressed is unknowable this far out. The overall trend is set though. If you think heating costs are high, wait till you see the costs of cooling a home.

It is difficult to know how to react to this. Just because humanity in general and Britain in particular has had a massive role in inducing the current bout of warming, historically speaking, doesn't mean that there is a simple set of human actions which can mitigate the worst of its effects. For us, the declaration in Genesis is still true, *“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease”*

Down the road we can plant olive trees and citrus. I wonder what they will do in Seville?

John D

Artificial intelligence

Here are two poems, both with the same title and form. One was written by a human in about 30 minutes, the other by ChatGPT in a second. The prompt used was, “Please could I have a poem of 10 lines in rhyming couplets, entitled Transfiguration, referencing autumn leaves”. It was not refined; this is the first response.

Transfiguration

Do you recall that autumn day
When clouds were thick and sun delayed
To rise? We hardly knew the morning
From the night, no proper dawning,
Just November gloom and dark.
But near sunset, a break, a spark;
Sun angled under leafless trees
And wind disturbed the fallen leaves
Now golden brown, to earth consigned,
But their nature was to *shine*.

Transfiguration

Autumn leaves drift down in burnished gold,
Transforming whispered stories, new from old.
Each scarlet branch reveals a hidden fire,
That lifts the heart to hope and something higher.
The fading light becomes a gentler flame,
Yet every change still softly speaks your name.
What falls to earth prepares the spring to rise,
With quiet faith beneath November skies.
Through every turning season, grace appears,
A transfiguration wrought by passing years.

Can you detect which is AI? Did the author really write *both*, one with AI as a tool? The AI was trained by humans using the vast literature of many libraries, so is it just as human? These are not comfortable questions.

AI internet searches can be very effective at finding information. Many areas of work will be altered by AI – the days of call centres are numbered. How will a human lawyer argue against an AI opponent with complete and immediate recall of all laws and precedents? Probably by using AI to discover counterarguments. AI will alter work but not abolish it.

There are certainly problematic uses of AI:

- It allows relatively unskilled people to create the fake news stories and images swamping the internet, further eroding the idea that truth matters.
- Public AI sources *mostly* use heavy censorship. We can guess that private, uncensored AI now creates lewd images - AI trained on actual pornography.

AI is an expensive gamble by technology companies, who have sunk vast fortunes in creating the models. Some companies now complain that their products are being used by competitors to train their own models at lower cost. The energy needed to create an AI response is vastly greater than traditional computing, with yet more cost and impact on the environment. It is still unclear whether anyone will make money

from AI, but the 'winner takes all' mentality of technology probably makes AI unstoppable.

We are probably all using AI, whether we know it or not. And if we didn't realise it was AI, did this matter? Christianity can help us engage with one question at the heart of this: what does it mean to be human?

Mike Cooke

In memory of Geraldine (Gerry) Taylor

Thank You! We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported and sponsored Lilly, Ava, Dickon, Michael, Tom and Ed in taking part in the Royal Sutton Fun Run.

Thanks to your kindness, generosity and encouragement, the team was able to raise an incredible total of £1,236.25, including Gift Aid, for the Lewy Body Society.*

This achievement is especially meaningful as the funds have been raised in loving memory of Geraldine Taylor. Your support has helped honour her memory while contributing to an important cause that supports research and awareness of Lewy Body Dementia.

We are truly grateful for every donation and for being part of this special effort. Your generosity has made a real difference.

Thank you once again.

Dickon and family

Ed's note: Lewy body dementia is the second most common type of dementia after Alzheimer's disease. Protein deposits called Lewy bodies develop in nerve cells in the brain, causing a decline in mental abilities that gradually worsen over time.



It is with great sadness that we record the sad loss of Joan Davis and her husband Gwyn, whose joint funeral was held on 16th July. Then on 11th July we lost a loyal and long-standing member of our congregation, dear Dot Tutchter, who will be much missed by her sister Jean and all of us. And sadly, on 20th July, Tony Chappell, husband of our organist Liz, passed away in Weston Hospital. Dot's funeral was on 11 August and Tony's on 3 August. Our thoughts and prayers go to all their families.

Dealing with Identity Theft and Building a Digital Fortress

In December 2025 and whilst on the way to spend Christmas with the family, we discovered that Sian's mobile phone had been cloned by criminals, her digital identity stolen and both her personal and our joint bank accounts had been broken into. And so began a worrying period as the extent of the theft emerged. The thieves had not only bought goods using our cards and accounts, but they had also taken out new credit cards, overdrafts and loans. We have written this article as a guide to help you all protect yourselves from this kind of attack and to provide a few pointers should you be unlucky enough to end up in the same place that we were!



A fact of modern life!

According to CIFAS, the UK's fraud prevention service, identity fraud accounts for the vast majority of all fraud cases reported. As we move ever more of our lives online, the risk of 'identity theft' has shifted from a rare occurrence to a constant threat. Protecting against this threat requires a combination of technical barriers and psychological vigilance. If these defences are breached, then it's important to recognise that there is a legal and institutional framework that is designed to help you recover.

Part I: Prevention – strengthening your Digital Profile

The goal of prevention is to make the 'cost' of targeting us higher than the potential reward. Our experience has taught us that there are several things we can do to significantly lower the risk.

Most identity theft begins with us receiving and opening a fraudulent email, a link to a fraudulent website or an unexpected text. CIFAS tells us that fraudsters frequently impersonate trusted organisations like HMRC, Banks, Royal Mail, or TV Licensing etc. No legitimate organisation will **ever** ask you for a PIN, account password, or to move money to a 'safe account' via text or email.

Use strong passwords that you change regularly and where a bank, online retailer or government department encourages you to use what they call 'Multi Factor Authentication' (MFA) then do so. MFA means that in addition to 'logging on' to your account, you enter an additional code or a PIN to prove that it is really you!

CIFAS also tells us that paper identity theft still feeds digital crime; consequently it's important to practise good document hygiene: shred anything containing your name and address before recycling.

If you live in a block of flats with communal mailboxes, ensure yours is secure. If you move house, use the Royal Mail Redirection service for at least a year to ensure your sensitive data doesn't land in a stranger's hands.

Part II: The Early Warning system

Monitoring is the bridge between prevention and recovery. Use the credit rating agencies like Equifax, Experian, or TransUnion. Most offer free services that alert you whenever a 'hard search' is performed on your credit file. If you see a search from a company that you haven't approached, someone is almost certainly attempting to use your identity.

If you know your data has been stolen (ie your purse was stolen or you fell for an email scam), you can pay a small fee (currently £30 for two years) for Protective Registration with CIFAS—a UK fraud prevention service. This places a flag on your digital credit file, telling lenders to carry out extra checks before granting credit in your name.

Part III: Recovery – steps to take when Identity Theft occurs

If you discover unauthorised activity, speed is essential. There is a structured process for victims of identity fraud to follow.

Call your bank's fraud department. They can 'freeze' cards and, crucially, look for 'hidden' changes, such as a fraudster adding a new 'payee' or changing your registered mobile number.

If a criminal has your email, they have everything. Change your password regularly, check for 'forwarding rules' (thieves often set emails from banks to automatically forward to them), and always ensure that you log out of all email sessions.

Action Fraud is the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime. Report the crime online or by calling 0300 123 2040. While they may not investigate every individual case, your report generates a Crime Reference Number (CRN). You will need this CRN to dispute debts and clear your name with credit bureaus.

Notify the big three credit rating agencies—Experian, Equifax, and TransUnion. Inform them that you are a victim of identity theft and request a Notice of Correction. This is a 200-word statement you can add to your file explaining that any recent fraudulent applications were not made by you. Lenders are then legally required to read this before processing an application.

Part IV: Rebuilding your reputation

The fallout from identity theft can linger in your credit score, making it difficult to get a mortgage, a phone contract, or even a basic bank account.

Once you have your Action Fraud CRN, write to every company where a fraudulent account was opened. Demand that they 'suppress' the data and inform the credit agencies that the account was fraudulent. If a bank or lender refuses to remove a fraudulent debt or reimburse stolen funds, you can escalate the case to the Financial Ombudsman Service. They provide a free, independent service to resolve disputes between consumers and financial firms.

Part V: A note on the psychological toll

Identity theft is often dismissed as a 'victimless' white-collar crime, but for the individual, it is an invasive violation. Sian can confirm that the feeling that a stranger is 'living' as you, spending your money, and ruining your reputation can lead to significant stress and anxiety.

There are organisations like Victim Support offer free, confidential help for those affected by fraud. You do not have to navigate the bureaucracy of recovery alone. Prevention remains the best cure. Stay sceptical, stay updated, and never click on an unsolicited link or answer an unsolicited call.

Tony and Sian Lewis

New Treasurer needed for Yatton Moor

Are you an Accountant? Maybe recently retired and have done all those odd jobs! Would you have 3-4 hours a month to spare? Then this role could be for you. Yatton Moor, consisting of 3 churches and a Pre-school, needs a new Treasurer to oversee a small financial team - (book keeper, planned giving officer, pre-school administrator), monthly reconciliations, chair the Finance Committee's 2 meetings per year. Prepare FRS 102 compliant accounts and manage the pay-roll and other ad hoc tasks.

If you are interested in the role and would like a full job description, or would like to speak to the current Treasurer, please contact Karen on:
yattonmoortreasurer@gmail.com

Palestine and Israel now

I am sat in the garden in the warm summer sun with a gentle cooling breeze—beautiful flowers around me and the occasional dipping butterfly alighting on the shrubs. It is so quiet. Idyllic, peaceful, enjoyable.

But then I think of my friends in Gaza and the West Bank and all I experienced, saw and heard in my last visit to the area at the end of May and my many visits in the last few years. Life for them is far from enjoyable or peaceful.

Fighting in Gaza continues, almost daily people are being killed and their homes destroyed. Israel has squeezed the people into 40% of the land and taken over and razed houses to the ground over vast swathes of land. Most of the people are forced into cramped tent 'cities' where there is no sanitation, polluted water and rat and snake infested piles of rubbish. Add to that the severe shortage of food, medical supplies and fresh food due to the Israeli embargo on humanitarian aid and you have a miserable, dangerous and very unhealthy form of life—the people are existing, not living! Trump has promised billions of dollars to rebuild Gaza



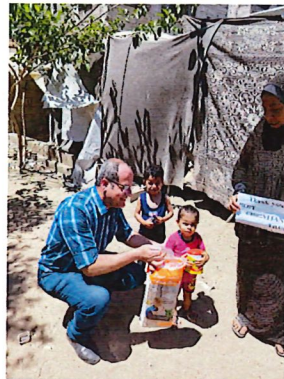
and countries (including our own) lament the evils of Israeli action even calling what is happening genocide, BUT nothing happens to alleviate the pain and the suffering.

And in the West Bank the Israeli government action supporting the settlers (or colonialist as some would call them!) continues to subject the Palestinians to frequent and often horrific and frightening harm. Settlers (supported by the Israeli army) raid villages, destroy homes, cars, their vines and their olive trees. Palestinians are injured, some are killed (just under 60 this year). Roads are closed, raids on homes are frequent, settlements increase on Palestinian owned land and check points proliferate. Travel for Palestinians is difficult. There is no justice.

The General Synod of the Church of England early in July has voted overwhelmingly to listen to the desperate cries of the Palestinians and begin to speak up for their plight affirming that they are subject to genocide in what is an apartheid state. Strong words which have drawn criticism that the Church is guilty of anti-Semitism by taking this stand by some Jewish groups and the Chief Rabbi. Can we remain neutral as Christians? Surely we cannot remain neutral in the face of evil - we follow

Jesus who is “the Way, the Truth and the Life”. What Hamas did on October 7th 2023 was evil! What the Israeli government is doing to Gaza and the Palestinians in the West Bank is evil. It is not anti-Semitic to say that.

The Bishop of Gloucester has helpfully written in the Church Times recently *“.....a spotlight is rightly shone on the heinous anti-Semitism which insidiously prevails in this country but I am deeply disturbed that people are seemingly discouraged from also shining the spotlight of scrutiny on the heinous actions of the Israeli government meted out on the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank”*. She expresses dismay at our inability to hold different things together in tension at the same time!



What is the Hope Christian Trust doing? Whilst speaking up on the issues in this article we are concentrating on encouraging and helping our Palestinian friends particularly in Gaza by sending in thousands of dollars to get food and particularly child and baby care products to families. We are also supporting a Therapeutic Unit seeking to give medical and psycho-social care to children in the Diocese of Jerusalem owned Ahli Hospital in Gaza City.

Please continue to pray.

John & Janet

Sophie Duncan is ordained

St Mary's was lucky enough to have Sophie Duncan with us for a while during her training for the priesthood. Revd Richard Taylor was her training supervisor before she transferred to Long Ashton where the Revd James Harris became Sophie's training incumbent. While Sophie still lives in Yatton, she will be serving her curacy at Holy Trinity, Westbury on Trym, which is high church, with superb music under the acclaimed David Ogden. All at St Mary's send our very best wishes to her for the future.



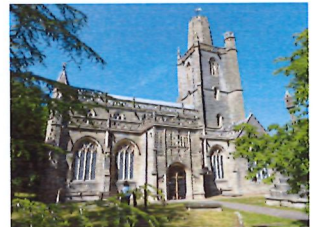
Here she is pictured with Richard and James after her ordination at Bristol Cathedral on 5 July.

St Mary's Fabric – current schedule

South Roof: We have had an approved schedule of repairs for a while now. The work was due to be done in April (approx cost £3000) but we did not receive the faculty until a couple of days after the work was scheduled to be done, consequently it has been postponed and still needs to be rescheduled. The problem is the shortage of builders approved to work on historic buildings. We are still chasing.

Nave Lighting: Many of the spotlights have failed or are intermittent in operation. We need to replace and augment the current lighting with LED lighting and renew a couple of cable runs. We also need to upgrade the lighting in the St John's Chapel area, as this is currently ideal for a Toc H meeting but not great for worship. A ballpark quote is in the region of £8k to £10k. We need to verify the floor strength to accommodate a tower. This work will require a faculty.

Chapter House: Following repeated flooding we have had a survey of the Chapter House to identify sources of water ingress and produce a schedule of remedial work. This has been done and can be treated as list A, meaning no faculty is required. The work is scheduled for this month (August) and will cost in the region of £6000.



The PCC has asked a sub-committee to look at options for refreshing the Chapter House and Atrium area, since this is our primary area for social/outreach/fellowship activities and we are limited by what we currently have. We need however to make the area water-tight and rodent-proof before we can think of the bigger stuff. Similar thinking lies behind our prioritisation of work in the church. If it remains leaky and draughty and with questionable electrics in some areas, there is little point in addressing the cosmetic shortcomings.

Boilers/Heating: We have had a survey carried out by the Diocesan Net-zero adviser and we know broadly where we would like to go. Even in outline we can see that the overall package will require a six-figure investment, though we can break it down into discreet phases. Don't forget to pray for the boilers. That might help delay the pain for a while.

Sound System: When the church is full there is too frequently interference on the wireless connections on both lapel mic channels. You can see the interference signal even when the mics are switched off. We need advice on either retuning current operating frequencies or replacing the wireless receiver with a Bluetooth or other system which will not pick up signals from other mobile devices. *John Dickinson*

Look up!

Have you ever given a thought to the fact, that chimneys and pots are disappearing fast. The pots which stood so proudly on our rooftops, will be there no more. New houses and flats are being built without chimneys, as they will be centrally heated. Nowadays people do not want a draught descending into their rooms, although a cowl can be fitted on pots which helps. Chimney stacks and /or pots are removed and the hole sealed, presumably leaving a small ventilation shaft.



Most buildings have a few chimneys, but in some areas there are multiple chimneys across the roofs. Looking at stacks and pots, some are very plain and others, especially on large and stately houses, both are very ornate.

The drawback of lighting fires with chimneys, is that they have to be swept regularly, or there could be a disastrous fire if the soot caught alight.

When we were children and the Chimney Sweep came, we watched him put a sheet, with a hole in it, over the fireplace. His brushes were put through the hole and he swept the chimney. He always asked us to go outside and tell him when the brush came out at the top. I remember how excited we were when the brush appeared and we rushed indoors to tell him. Although the Sweep cleared up well, the smell of soot lasted for quite a while afterwards. Now most Sweeps use a vacuum machine which is much better.

In the past small boys were used to sweep chimneys. They had to climb up inside and sweep them with hand brushes. It was very hazardous, as in big houses the chimneys ran into each other and it was easy to get lost. It must have been terrifying.

Remember Tom In the *Water Babies*? Eventually in 1875 the practice finally stopped.

My mother told me that with very tall buildings, chimneys were swept from the roofs using a rope, a weighted ball and a brush. In rural areas Cottagers used a rope, tied to a holly bush and a weighted ball.

May 1st was regarded as 'Sweeps Day', and the Sweeps used to join in with the festivities. Chimney Sweeps are supposed to bring good luck and were often asked to attend weddings. I remember seeing one in the churchyard as my husband and I came out of the Church after our wedding. No one would say who invited him!

Ruth Summerell

Update from Tessa Munt, MP for Yatton

Hello everyone, here's my update for the last three months:

Thank you for making David and me so welcome at so many events, including YATT Fest, the Lions Beer Festival and Yatton Schools Carnival. I attended a meeting held by Claverham Futures about proposed developments at Claverham. It was really interesting to listen to what people had to say about development on green fields.

I hosted a meeting for local Headteachers with James McNeillie, Head of Ofsted South West. Feedback reveals that the opportunity to talk to and about Ofsted face-to-face was greatly appreciated. I'd like to thank you everyone who was able to join us, and look forward to following up with a repeat of this event next Spring.

As well as attending the original 'National Emergency Briefing' in London last November, I've been privileged to support community viewings of the 'People's Emergency Briefing' in Cheddar, Easton, Shipham, twice in Wells, Winscombe and Wookey. I'm sorry I missed some of the events due to other commitments, and look forward to future viewings in Lympsham and other communities locally. Thank you to all who've watched and sent me their thoughts—this is such an important discussion to have.

I was so pleased to be able to join one of our local Vicars at the Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast. It was a packed and joyful event, organised by the Christians in Parliament All-Party Parliamentary Group, with excellent speakers and musicians. I look forward to returning next year.

It was brilliant to welcome 11 young adults to Westminster at the beginning of July for my Parliamentary Insight Day. They toured Parliament, watched a debate and took part in a workshop. Thank you to all those who joined me, and I'm looking forward to my next Insight Day in September.

I was delighted to see the Hillsborough Bill finally make its way into law in the last days of July. The Hillsborough families were lied to by public officials again and again and again. That experience isn't unique to families in Liverpool. People here in Somerset have told me about dishonesty and cover ups by public officials, and the injustice and unfairness drives me wild. It's crazy that we need to pass a law to insist officials to tell the truth, but the families who are victims of scandals like Hillsborough, the Chinook helicopter crash, the Post Office Horizon software, infected blood, Primodos, mesh, undercover policing, Covid-19, grooming gangs, Grenfell, Windrush, the Manchester Arena attack and many more tell us that honesty and transparency would have changed their lives and saved years, sometimes decades, of heartache. I was on the Bill Committee, suggesting improvements, raising objections—and the

Minister listened. The Bill isn't perfect, but it's here—well past time, but at least now it'll be the law.

I've also pressed Ministers to make arrangements to provide Legal Aid for families and individuals fighting big organisations and public bodies in Inquiries and Inquests. This is a vital addition to the Hillsborough Law and essential to fairness for Whistleblowers and Victims—individuals must be able to challenge large organisations. Without some level of financial support, this simply isn't possible.

I called a debate in Parliament on changes to the 'National Planning Policy Framework' and how it currently prioritises building homes over protection from flooding. The High Court's 'Yatton decision' clarified that the NPPF allows building on land, even in Flood Zone 3a, when there is housing need, on the basis that residents will have at least 42 hours' warning to vacate their properties before they flood. I believe this misses the point—that existing homes will become unmortgageable and uninsurable, therefore unsaleable—and I share the concerns of many local residents. I've questioned Ministers about the decision, and explained that it is vital that sections of the NPPF are re-examined to protect property from flooding, as well as people. Following the debate, I spoke to the Housing and Planning Minister and have accepted his invitation to meet him and discuss my concerns in detail. I look forward to sharing further updates with you once I have met the Minister.

Please call me or visit my website - www.tessamunt.co.uk - or contact me for the full list of surgeries—01934 440639 (answerphone outside office hours). *Tessa*

Yatton Wellbeing Lifestyle Club

We will be continuing our sessions again in September to give encouragement & information on a variety of Wellbeing topics.

September 24th Worry to Wellness

By popular demand Barbara Hacking (former counsellor at Vine counselling) will be talking about strategies to cope with the worries of modern life.

October 22nd Seated Dancing

Once again Mel from Age UK will run a Fun and Fitness session to music
Coming soon:

Meet your Community Police Team

Healthy Habits to start your new year !

CPR & using a defibrillator

All sessions are on the 4th Thursday of the month 10-12 at Yatton Methodist Hall

Further information from Liz 07801 357238

Interesting graves in St Mary's Churchyard

Augustus Fletcher, who is buried at St Mary's, was a policeman in Malaya at the time of the Emergency in the 1950s. There he survived several encounters with Communist terrorists and was awarded the George Medal—his medal citation hailed his coolness and daring in the face of danger. He later joined MI6. The following account is taken from his obituary in the Daily Telegraph after his death on 9 August 2020.



Augustus Fletcher, who has died aged 91, was awarded the George Medal in 1957 after a combined police and military operation code-named “Googly” during the Malayan Emergency; he later served in both MI5 and MI6.

In 1948, the Malayan Communist Party launched a countrywide insurrection. The militant arm of the Party, the Communist Terrorists or CTs, built large, well-camouflaged jungle camps only approachable by tracks which were booby-trapped and guarded by sentries.

Augustus James Voisey Fletcher was born on 23 December 1928 at Gurney Slade in Somerset. His father had been wounded while serving with the Machine Gun Corps in the First World War. Brought up in a farmworker's cottage, young Gus was educated at Weston Grammar School. He joined the CID Branch of the Railway Police at Temple Meads Railway Station, Bristol, before serving with the Palestine Police from 1946 until 1948 when it was disbanded.

He then joined the Malayan Police and was posted to the rubber estates at Mentakab, in the state of Pahang. Later postings took him to Raub, Fraser's Hill, the Cameron Highlands and Kuala Lumpur. Sightings of the terrorists, let alone arrests, were hard to come by, but improved tactical intelligence—particularly the identification of their contacts, couriers and supply routes—produced dramatically better results.

It was here that Fletcher's gift for languages became apparent, when he spent two years learning to speak Cantonese and read and write Chinese characters at the Government Officers' Language School. Its principal, Robert Bruce, thought him the most naturally gifted of all the students he saw in the years he ran the school. Throughout his life thereafter, Fletcher was regularly taken for a Chinese person when speaking Cantonese on the telephone. He could also speak Malay, Arabic, Hindi and Turkish.

In 1958, as the Emergency was ending, he joined the joined MI5 on the recommendation of its chief in Kuala Lumpur. Finding that there was little scope for his Chinese expertise in MI5, in 1964 he transferred to MI6, for whom China and the threat of Chinese espionage world-wide was a high priority.

Fletcher made an immediate impact in MI6's Chinese cadre. His experience in Malaysia, and his mastery of Cantonese, made him an effective operator, and carried weight both in the office and with many foreign liaison Services, especially those of the United States and the Commonwealth.

He served in Hong Kong from 1966 to 1970, and again from 1973 to 1976. He was head of the MI6 station in New Delhi and Intelligence Adviser to the British High Commissioner with the rank of Counsellor from 1979 to 1982. Continuing his fascination with languages, in 1973 he read Mandarin at the Faculty of Oriental Languages, Cambridge. He was appointed OBE in 1977.

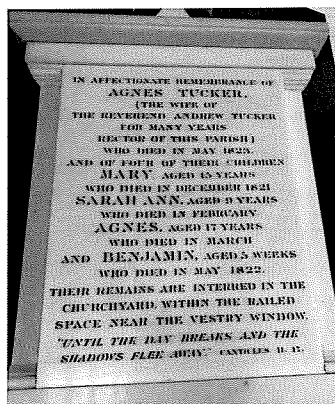
He retired to London in 1993 but continued to lead an active life, and among his many enthusiasms were opera, travel, fly-fishing, gardening and malt whisky. He had a brilliant sense of humour and was excellent company. He loved puns, poems, crosswords and anagrams: he was delighted that 'funeral' is an anagram of 'real fun' and insisted that that was remembered when the day came.

Andy Warren, Yatton & District History Society, with thanks to the Daily Telegraph

Interesting memorials...

Following the above fascinating story, I don't know if anyone else shares my interest in wandering around old churches and wondering about the stories behind the tablets' and gravestones' inscriptions, but I would like to share a very touching memorial I came across when exploring St Paul's Church in Wootton Fitzpaine in Dorset. I often go back to see it when I'm in Dorset as I'm moved by the tragic story of this family.

Between December 1821 and May 1822, the Rector of this church lost four children and a year later his wife also died. Stories like this are not uncommon, there are many 18th and 19th century graveyards telling tales of similar loss, but still it's hard to imagine how families bore such tragedy. We do not know how many children this couple had and I've never been able to find the graves as the churchyard is very overgrown, but still I wonder about them... Val



Barberry Farm House

This well known Grade II listed building, standing back from the busy High Street near the station was formerly a working farmhouse, named after a large barberry bush in the garden, has seen many changes in its lifetime. The original house was built in the latter part of the 17th century (1680-1700) making it one of the oldest farmhouses in Yatton. It has subsequently been extended and modified. From overseeing a large farm of about 60 acres it is now standing on its own piece of land with its back door facing Barberry Farm Road. There were other outbuildings including a barn with a coach house and stables. A Mr Bird rented them many years ago and ran a "taxi" business with horses and traps.

It was originally a cross-passage house with two ground floor rooms and a fireplace in each gable wall. Attached to the rear of the house it had an outshut which is



unusually of two storey eaves height containing the staircase giving access to the first floor. (An outshut is normally a single-story extension built onto the side or rear of a building, typically featuring a lean-to roof that often extends down from the main roofline.) If

you stand on Barberry Farm Road and look at the chimneys you can see the original building on the right although you are looking at the rear of the outshut.

Around the late 1980s the house was owned by Mr Peter Rex, a local builder who was restoring it. Previously the farm belonged to the Sweet family and had been their home for over 40 years, but as the village grew more land was required for house building and the farm diminished in size until only the house was left.

As of 1990 we were pleased to hear that a large part of the land is still together as a holding and was still farmed by the Sweet family, because as a working farm we have been able to trace through various records the holdings back to 1775. Although it is not specifically named in the records it appears that the farm holding goes back at least to 1690.

David Bing, Yatton Local History Society

Dates of upcoming History Society meetings :

- 6 October History, Writing & Publishing. *Clive Burlton*
- 3 November Environmental Health through the centuries. *Tony Lewis*
- 1 December Bristol Archives. *Lucy Banner*

Yatton and District Horticultural Society

Our Summer Show took place on Saturday 18th July in Yatton Village Hall and outside on Glebelands where there were many stalls both of local interest and selling local produce, plants etc.

I am always amazed at the number of exhibits we get and the talent we have locally. Whether it be in Arts and Crafts, Floral or in the Homecraft classes there was plenty to admire. This has been a pretty tough year for the growers among us, particularly in the vegetable

classes. Even this did not diminish the number of exhibits we received.

We can always make room for more exhibits and would encourage everyone to enter. There are many classes and there is usually a "Hint and Tips" page included in our schedule of classes to aid and encourage. Our next show will be in the Autumn on October 17th so there is the challenge for you. If you are interested we have a website

www.yattonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk, alternatively if you contact me I will make sure you get an Autumn Show Schedule.

We also arrange a series of talks in the Autumn/ Winter months held at Hangstones Pavilion, the next one being on the titled "Tales of the Fallen Leaf" on September 17th. The talks commence at 7.30pm. We are a friendly lot and are happy to chat over a cup of tea afterward. A full list of future talks can be found on our website..

If you wish to join the Society and take advantage of reduced prices at talks, big savings on seeds from Dobies and 10% discount on plants from our local garden centres all for £5 per year per household, please contact the website, myself or Sian. If you would like further information on any of the above please speak to me, or see our website: www.yattonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk

Stephen Thorne - 01934 833813



August-September Services at St Mary's

All services at St Mary's unless otherwise stated. Details may change, please check with our website: yattonchurches.org

16 August

10am Morning Prayer

23 August

10am Holy Communion with Baptism

30 August

10am Benefice Holy Communion

6 September Patronal Festival

10am Holy Communion

6pm Songs of Praise

13 September

10am Morning Prayer

20 September

10am Holy Communion

27 September

Breakfast served from 9.45am before

10am Group Café Church, Cleeve

6pm Celtic Communion at Yatton

Weekday services

Tuesdays & Wednesdays:

8.15am Morning Prayer on Zoom—
please contact Mike Cooke for details

Thursdays:

9.30am Morning Prayer in church

Saturday 19 September

9.30am Prayer Breakfast in Chapter
House on third Saturday each month

Yatton Music Society

Our local music society have a full programme of concerts for the autumn and into next spring. The next three concerts will feature:

26 September—Vida Guitar Quartet with music inspired by Bach

24 October—Amberg Trio (clarinet, cello, piano)

28 November—The London Tango Quintet (piano, violin, bass, accordion, guitar)

All concerts are in St Mary's Church. Full details can be found on www.yms.org.uk

Mothers Union Programme Summer-Autumn 2026

20 August — Tea

17 Sept — Yeo Valley Lions' local projects—*Jonathan Kelly*

15 October — Sew powerful, period poverty in Africa—*Ginny Buckley*

19 Nov — Dinner lady to the vicar—*Rev Sharon Walker*

Any enquiries, please contact Ruth Summerell, tel 01934 832575

Yeo Valley Lions



Our 23rd Beer & Cider Festival took place over the warm and sunny week-end of the 3rd and 4th July. On Friday night we were entertained by The Mystery Machine, a Bath based band playing music from the 1960s onwards. On a glorious Saturday afternoon Jazzola Quartet entertained us with their cool vibes, and on Saturday night Elvis entered—and left—the building, but not before rendering a number of his classic hits and filling the dance floor. We are pleased to announce the event raised £4400 which as usual will be used in our local community.

We are always looking for new members and also drivers for our minibus. If you're interested in either or both of these, please do contact me on:

jonathank240452@aol.com

Jonathan Kelly

QUIZ – SILENT LETTERS

All the answers this time include a silent letter.

Talking of silence, I was in the library recently. I asked, 'Do you have any books on shelving?' The librarian replied, 'Yes, all of them.'

Explosive device

Fish finger coating

Money owed

Underground passages, notably in Paris

Speechless

Dingle in Bristol

Understated

A skilled water systems person

Cinder toffee

Drawing pin

To be uncertain of something

Unable to feel

A formal, legally binding court order

Used to groom a horse

Mountaineer

Give in to something

Answers to last puzzle - Cats and Dogs:

raining cats & dogs, cat burglar, cat o' nine tails, dogmatic, Hound dog, catastrophe, Dog Day afternoon, Cat Deeley, caterpillar, cat on a hot tin roof, hair of the dog, how much is that doggie in the window, catacombs, smelly cat, catalyst, reservoir dogs, Snoop Dogg catamaran, scaredy cat, hot dog

Nancy Thorne



THE YATTON MOOR PARISH

Website: www.yattonchurches.org

Facebook: [Yatton Moor Churches](https://www.facebook.com/YattonMoorChurches)



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We welcome articles, stories, poems, reflections, news and announcements. Contact details are above. Content can be sent to Val electronically or in hard copy to the Team Office.

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