

Enmore & Goathurst Magazine May 2026



Today was a good one for watching buzzards

From the Editor

Welcome to the May edition. With warmer weather & brighter skies please look at what is on within the pages to help you plan local days out throughout May and beyond.

There will be Mayday celebrations across the country & locally in Blake Gardens on May 4th.



Jan Johnston

JUNE magazine deadline: **Thursday 21st May – Noon**

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Opinions in the magazine may not be those of the Editor or of the Editorial Board.

Forthcoming events

Date	Day	Time	Event and Venue	page
2 May	Sat	11-12pm	Book Borrow- Enmore Church	5
3 May	Sun	9.45am	Rogation Service – Halswell	17
5 May	Tues	7.30pm	Enmore PC meeting- EMH	22
5 May	Tues	2pm	Gardening Club outing	4
8 May	Fri	6.30pm	Drinks by the Fire – GH Hall	7
9 May	Sat	10-12pm	Pop up Café- EMH	6
11 May	Mon	12.30pm	Ladies Lunch Keenthorne	22
14 May	Thurs	2-5pm	Barford Gardens NGS	12
14 May	Thurs	6.45pm	Bridge Club-GH Hall	7
16 May	Sat	9am	Mens Breakfast Club - Tynte Arms	5&22
17 May	Sun	10-4pm	Durleigh Flower Farm	27
26 May	Tues	7.30pm	Enmore Gardening Club	4
28 May	Thurs	6.45pm	Bridge Club – GH all	7
30 May	Sat	10-12 pm	Plant Sale Goathurst	25
3 June	Weds	7.30pm	Magazine AGM – GH Hall	3
5-7June			Music in Churches – Nether Stowey	26
21 June	Sun	12.30pm	Picnic in the Park - Halswell	18

MAGAZINE NEWS

This year it is the turn of Goathurst Village Hall to host our AGM which will take place on Wednesday 3rd June 2026 commencing 7.30pm.



Apologies for not finding a convenient date in May.

As always, we hope for a good turnout! To see as many of the volunteers as possible and anyone else who is interested in learning how the magazine comes together. You will be welcome & fed.

We are a group of 40 volunteers who edit, print, collate and distribute 250 copies of the magazine each month. It is funded by the generous people who advertise in our magazine, filling the yellow pages. This means we can produce free of charge. And thanks to the Parish Councils, it is also online.

If you are working for a company who supports volunteering you may get paid leave to support a project, a few days once a year to edit or an hour once a month to distribute. Printing & collating is done on a rota basis of 2-3 times a year. We are particularly keen to find an editor from Goathurst as we like to be fair and balance the publications between the villages.



ENMORE & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB
Tuesday 26th May 2026
Enmore Memorial Hall
at 7.30pm

SECRET WORLD: ALL ABOUT SECRET WORLD
WITH GEORGE BETHELL

Many of you will remember George who came and showed us how to make a Hedgehog House, we had good fun constructing our little houses and learning how to care for our new arrivals - still waiting. Hopefully we will have more tips on caring for the wildlife which we are lucky to have in our gardens. This follows on nicely from our March "Wilder Enmore & Goathurst" which was very well received.

On Tuesday 5th May we will visit
REGENCY HOUSE GARDENS, NR HEMYOCK
2PM, TO INCLUDE AFTERNOON TEA.

Car share from Enmore Hall at 1pm- Arrive 2pm
This is a lovely garden nestled in the Blackdowns.
A 5-acre garden with many unusual trees & shrubs. Walled vegetables & fruit, sweeping lawns, lake & bog garden. Dexter cows, Jacob sheep & horses. Many birds, also 5 species of Bats recently identified!
We will explore the garden with a planting list and enjoy afternoon tea.



Booking essential - jan.johnston2@btinternet.com

A very simple pre-breakfast crossword



Across		Down
1: I, like half an icon, am the compiler (2)	9: see 9	1: A loss from a group of bright people makes a group a bit sexist. (4)
2: Alien in a meeting (2)	10: Note the street to move quickly.	3: Improved without drink for the race (2)
4 and 14: Exist to give thanks for being a Greek character. (2,2)	11: see 6 (2)	5: Take inspiration from a bread maker to make a rest. (5)
6 and 11: Shakespeare's quandary (2,2)	13: see 8 (2)	9: Answer to 8 across. (2,2)
7: Getting wet from behind may make one find a forward obsessive type (4)	14: see 8 (2)	12: Stranger in the train. (2)
8, 9, 13: Query to the E&G editor about this crossword (2,2,2)	15: An addition to the clues (1,1)	13: Probably see below (11)

Book Borrowing

Saturday 2nd May 11-12, at Enmore Church.

All welcome to come and browse whilst enjoying a coffee and chat.

Wide selection of books available.

Enmore Memorial Hall

Pop Up Café

Saturday 9th May 2026



10:00am – 12:00pm

Bacon, Sausage or Veggie Baps.

Tea, Coffee and Homemade
Cakes

DRINKS
BY THE
Fire

8 MAY
6:30 - 8:30 PM
GOATHURST
VILLAGE HALL

FORTNIGHTLY
BRIDGE CLUB

GOOD CARDS. GOOD COMPANY. GREAT NIGHT.

	LOCATION: Goathurst Village Hall		DATES: 14 May & 28 May
	TIME: 6:45pm		£5 ENTRY
	Wine, beer & soft drinks available		No experience required

ALL WELCOME! ♥

Brewing in Bridgwater



On the very spot of the recent opening of the new cinema complex in Northgate - very good inside, despite industrial architecture outside - stood the Starkey Knight and Ford edifice of their brewery made from Bridgwater brick and tiles and dispersing the smell of hops and beer around the surrounding streets. The only physical evidence is the sports pitch behind the site which is still known as “The Brewery Field”. Leading on from my previous article about Bridgwater North station, there was also railway sidings at the rear of the brewery, which led from the docks and the telescopic black bridge.

The brewery was started in 1840 by George Knight at North Petherton and, initially, they set up their business when George Knight was joined by Thomas Starkey, over at Taunton. It was 40 years later that they built the Bridgwater site.

By 1887, they had 30 locally owned pubs and later in the century, they bought a brewery in Tiverton, which also had 40 pubs. It was then regarded as a substantial and highly respected business. Starkey, Knight and Ford prospered during the first part of the 20th Century, including during the wars, and Bridgwater was a highly industrialised town, with a very busy port and 11 brick and tile companies in the region, sending products all around the world, British Cellophane, Royal Ordnance Factory, with so much demand by thirsty workforces.

During the 1950s, there was a spate of takeovers of quality breweries pushing top pressure beers (more profitable) and forcing the decline and demand of traditional draught ales. Almost inevitably, in 1960, Starkey’s were taken over by Whitbread and that, step by step, was the beginning of the end. The brewing industry was saved by CAMRA type people, who established small, local, traditional breweries, and we are lucky to have several in our area.

Does this take you back?



What year is this car?

.....
DID YOU KNOW?

**WEST SOMERSET RAILWAY IS THE LONGEST
PRESERVED STEAM RAILWAY IN THE COUNTRY**

WILDER ENMORE & GOATHURST NEWS

Enmore and Goathurst gave a presentation at the Friends of the Quantocks AGM at Stogursey Village Hall at the end of March. This was a significant event being the 75th anniversary of the founding of the FoQ. There were nine Presentations during the day with excellent talks covering a wide variety of subjects including: the future management plans from the National Landscape; creating Wildlife Corridors; two significant book reviews from their authors; Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers; Heathland Birds and their nests; re-introduction of Elm trees and the associated White Hairstreak butterfly; and our own Fiona Jackson and Beth Riches demonstrating how Community Projects like our own Wilder group can help and influence our environment. The FoQ Chairman was so impressed with the presentation that he suggested we apply for a CPRE Award!



Friends of the
QUANTOCKS
75 Years



Fiona and Beth with the new Wilder Goathurst poster in front of the Communities in Action Wilder Enmore and Goathurst display board

Fiona and Beth went on to repeat their presentation, suitably modified, at the **Gardening Club** a few days later.

The presentation started by reinforcing the word Wilder. Many have been under the misconception that it means letting things go wild and be messy, untidy and out of control, whereas it truly means Intentional, Planned and Managed. Rewilding leads to restoring the biodiversity balance that we have lost due to the dramatic wildlife decline over recent decades.

On a wider scale, for wildlife to recover, it doesn't recognise our constructed ownership boundaries, it needs to go wherever their species requires. This can be achieved through recreating Wildlife Corridors with hedgerows, woods, verges, thickets and residential and communal green spaces akin to stepping stones or connecting corridors.

A few examples on a largish scale were illustrated. **The Knepp Estate**, a 3,500 acre estate in Sussex which has transformed difficult to farm land that used modern intensive farming methods, into a



thriving diverse habitat where agriculture and wildlife coexist happily and profitably as a sustainable business. Very local to us, **Stream Farm** was shown as a superb example of Organic Regenerative farming on a small scale.



The talk went on to explain how we started to look more closely at our problems during lockdown and the Covid pandemic. This led to networking, considering obtaining funding, setting up a WhatsApp group, joining the Somerset Wildlife Trust’s Wilder group, and involving the Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme, all of which contributed to positive action as follows.

A small group of about ten residents in **Enmore** pooled their thoughts and developed 5 areas to concentrate on which have produced great results:

1. The **Churchyard**. Wildlife boxes, bulbs, benches, bug hotels, iNaturalist training
2. The **School**. Rejuvenated wildlife area, classes with Church grounds, nursed tank of elvers. Wilder is now key initiative in School strategy.
3. The **Jubilee Meadow**. Created orchard, wildflower meadow, benches, water trough, car park, bike rack, small pond.
4. **Hedges and Verges**. Grants gained for local farm to restore hedges and install new.
5. **Residents’ Gardens**. Through WhatsApp group residents have obtained Wilder awards from SWT and, as a result, the village gained its own award.

Following Enmore’s success, **Goathurst** have achieved:

1. The **Churchyard**. Restore Willis Monument, creation of tree stump chair, bug hotel, wilder strip, trees and Easter garden, benches, activity sheets.
2. Village **litter picks**.
3. **Wilder awards** from SWT for individual gardens and the village as a whole.



The talk concluded with tips for individuals to help create wildlife corridors: Let the grass grow; embrace decay; give up the chemicals; see weeds in a new light; choose plants with wildlife in mind; encourage native trees; look after the soil; create a pond or wetland area; provide access between gardens; spread the word!

There was positive feedback from the Club audience to the Wilder initiative.

Tony Eggar

BARFORD PARK GARDENS, ENMORE

By kind permission of Donald & Bee Rice
**ARE OPEN ON THURSDAY 14TH MAY
FROM 2PM ~ 5PM**



Admission £7.00 Children free
Homemade Teas in aid of local charities

Secluded walled garden contains wide borders, kitchen garden beds, shrubs & fruit trees. Lawns lead to a 6 acre woodland garden of camellias, rhododendrons, azaleas and magnolias. Stream-side gardens feature candelabra primulas, ferns, foxgloves and lily-of-the-valley among veteran pines and oaks, and some rarer trees. Partial wheelchair access though some areas of the woodland garden inaccessible.

In aid of National Garden Scheme

Last year £3,875,596 was donated to NGS
supporting healthcare & nursing charities

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Did you know?

Taunton was the first town in England to be lit with electric street lighting.

CLERGY LETTER

Dear All,

With the sunny and warmer weather returning, I am aware of many folk spending time in their gardens sowing seeds and preparing the ground for summer planting in the hope of long warm summer days and evenings relaxing in beauty of their gardens.

We can be amazed by the variety of colours, texture and the uniqueness of the flowers we see thrive. Sometimes it is the magnificence of a tree in full blossom or a small plant that has burst into a single flower for the first time that catches our attention. Or perhaps the sounds of the air that we hear. It is the lighter mornings that maybe make us aware of the bird song that we miss in the winter months. Whether we see the colours of the flowers or hear the birdsong, all are part of God's creation as we are reminded in the first verse of the hymn - All things bright and beautiful:

*Each little flow'r that opens,
each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings.*



As we prepare our gardens for the summer months, let us also prepare our hearts and minds to take a moment to look out for and listen to the joys of God's creation and marvel at beauty of each individual flower and the wonder of each bird song. As the chorus ends - *The Lord God made them all.*

Enjoy the sowing and planting!

Eleanor

.....

Did you know?

Somerset was thought to have inspired Mary Shelley to write Frankenstein

Local Church Services		
May 2026	St Michael and All Angels, Enmore	St Edward, King and Martyr, Goathurst
1 st Sunday 3rd May EASTER 5	11.00am Holy Communion	9:45am Family Worship Rogation Walk meeting at Halswell House
2 nd Sunday 10th May Easter 6 - Rogation	-	9.30am Holy Communion
Thurs 14th May ASCENSION DAY	Ascension Day Service of Holy Communion at 11:00am in Holford Church	
3 rd Sunday 17th May Sunday after Ascension	4:00pm Taizé Service	-
4 th Sunday 24th May PENTECOST	11:00am Morning Worship	6:30pm Holy Communion (BCP)
5 th Sunday 31st May TRINITY SUNDAY	9:30am Holy Communion at Over Stowey <i>and see the adjacent page</i>	

*For other Benefice services and mid-week Celtic Morning Prayer

Other Local Services in the wider Benefice			
Aisholt	Nether Stowey	Over Stowey	Spaxton with Charlynch
11:00am Matins (BCP)	11:00am Morning Worship (Church Centre)	6:30pm Evensong (BCP)	5:00pm Evensong (BCP)
6.30pm Evensong (BCP)	11.00am Holy Communion (Church)	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Ascension Day Service of Holy Communion 7:00pm in Cannington Church			
11:00am Holy Communion (BCP)	11.00am Morning Worship (Church Centre)	9.30am Morning Worship	-
-	11.00am Holy Communion (Church)	-	11:00am Morning Worship
11:00am Benefice Service in Nether Stowey Church Deanery Mission Project 2026 linked with the Salvation Army Speaker: Sam Searle			

the Benefice News, Church Noticeboards and Website below
<https://quantockvillagesbenefice.org.uk>

Bishop Michael arrives in Nether Stowey

A whirlwind 24-hour visit to the Quantock Villages Benefice!

During Holy Week, the week before Easter, Bishop Michael, the Bishop of Bath and Wells set out on a pilgrimage, walking from Porlock to Nether Stowey along the Coleridge Way. His plan was to visit churches *en route* and to meet people. In this year of a Diocesan especial focus on prayer, Bishop Michael was keen to say prayers in the places where he stopped. Spaxton School children sent him a video of wishing him well for his pilgrimage and saying a prayer as he started his journey. Leaving Wells after a service in the Cathedral, his walk started in

Selworthy, then to Porlock and across Exmoor. He arrived in this Benefice at sunny Holford Church at 4pm on the dot!



He was accompanied by Archdeacon Simon and was greeted by people from Holford and Kilve and as well as saying a shortened form of Evening prayer, he shared in a delicious cake and juices. Then he went onwards to Nether Stowey and Coleridge Cottage.

For this part of the walk Bishop Michael and Archdeacon Simon were joined by churchwardens Nick Harrison and Peter Baker arriving at Coleridge Cottage at around 6:15pm. It was then to Over Stowey Village Hall, by car, for supper of a delicious lamb tagine and a vegetarian option which was wonderfully cooked by Sally Bult – Churchwarden at Stringston - with the help of Over Stowey PCC members.

Apart from walking, talking and eating, Bishop Michael joined the churches for worship on these significant days leading to Easter and the celebration of the Risen Christ. The Maundy Thursday service with its traditional foot washing was held in Over Stowey Church. The foot washing serves to remind us that Christ came to show that we are to serve one another. Twenty-six feet were washed!

Bishop Michael received overnight hospitality in Aisholt and visited a farm and the church in the surrounding Quantocks and then he joined the Good Friday Walk of Witness starting from the top of Nether Stowey Mount and finishing in the church. We were privileged to hear

three reflections based around Christ's words on the cross from Bishop Michael on the journey.

After hot cross buns in the Church Centre, Easter gardens and receiving a scrapbook prepared by children from Nether Stowey School, Bishop Michael headed for Spaxton Church for lunch and to meet Spaxton folk. He then travelled by car to Enmore and was greeted by a chalk written 'welcome' just in front of the main door. His mode of transport changed to a green coloured tractor, and he headed off to Goathurst Church driven by Geoffrey Burge for the Last



Hour Service during which he reflected onwards from Christ on the cross. This was followed by tea and cake and the presentation of a book brought together by Enmore School's Pupil Chaplains. He headed back to Wells at 4pm!

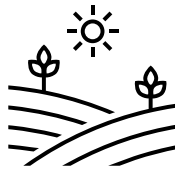
It was an amazing 24 hours, and we thank Bishop Michael for coming to Quantock Villages to meet the people and share time in worship. With thanks to all who took part.

Eleanor

Rogation Service at Halswell House

Sunday 3rd May at 9.45am in the grounds of Halswell House

"Beating the Bounds"



A short walk through the wooded area beside the lake stopping for hymns & readings along the way whilst enjoying wonderful views of Goathurst.

Afterwards refreshments on the lawn.

If you are coming, please contact Gill Modley gmodley@yahoo.co.uk

I would like to thank all my friends in the village (Goathurst), for all their cards and good wishes when I was in hospital.

Special thanks to Fred Jones, Janet and Steve Gormley and their daughter for staying with me until the ambulance came.

Sally Sealey

PICNIC IN THE PARK
in
the grounds of Haswell House
on

Sunday 21st June

12.30 – 5.30pm

Jazz Quartet will provide music from 1pm
Bring picnic, chairs & blankets to sit in the garden area, near pond

Ice-Cream Van: Cakes & Bar (run by Village Hall)
Toilets available

Entry £5.00 per adult, children free. Cash on arrival.

Please be aware of possible danger to adults & children with uneven ground & large pond

EVENT IN AID OF GOATHURST CHURCH FUNDS



Local and Regional Weather Report

Somerset weather lore says mists in May mean a hot June and a wet May means a dry July. Gardening lore for May says that if you ate the last of your leeks in Lide (March), you will now be able to eat ramsins (garlic) in May, so that "all the year after, physicians may play". Finally, "If the oak come out before the ash, we'll have a summer of wet and splash, If the ash come out before the oak, The summer will be all dust and smoke." With climate change the oak will now always tend to come out before the ash and sadly with Ash Dieback we soon may not have any ash trees left to help us with this prediction. Finally, "A swarm of bees in May, is worth a load of hay; A swarm of bees in June, is worth a silver spoon; A swarm of bees in July, Is not worth a fly."



March weather was mild and changeable, with above average sunshine, below average rainfall and some strong winds. Around 8 days out of 10 days saw sunny or partly sunny weather and 6 days out of 10 saw cloudy weather.

Rainfall: Local 44 mm, Regional 67.5 mm = 68% of normal

Minimum Temperatures: Local 5 deg, Regional 4.5 deg = +2.2 deg

Maximum Temperatures: Local 15 deg, Regional 11.8 deg = +2.8 deg

What do they say about May? Met Office says starting clear and dry with sunny periods. Most likely continuing warm and dry with above average temperatures, but with some showery weather.

Can we add any more from the weather lore forecast? The number of frosts in May is equal to the number of foggy days in March. I recorded no foggy days in March, so good for warm weather. However, the Met Office forecasts some cold nights in May. The Jetstream forecast at the start of May is complex. It shows it to the north of the UK with high pressure in the north and low pressure to the south and south easterly winds, then changing to low pressure across the UK, with south westerly winds This suggests starting warm and dry and continuing warm, with the chance of showers or periods of rain. **Mike Head**

SECRET WORLD NEWS

May Day

May Day is a bank holiday giving workers a day off, but in folklore it was a time of celebration as spring moves into summer. Even as far back as the Roman times it was a time when an event was held dedicated to the goddess Flora known for flowers, vegetation and fertility. In medieval times it emerged as a day of feasting and celebration. Some communities would have a procession with the May Queen chosen from the village to head the procession with attendants. This does still happen in some villages and can be followed by dancing around the May Pole – all to welcome the arrival of summer. I was proud to be one of the May Queen's attendants way back in 1958 but this was in Kent, known as the garden of England. There were indeed many orchards, hop farms and arable farming.



The hedgerow has been full of blossom. Last month the Black thorn was the first to erupt in flowers even before the leaves have started to grow, but now the Hawthorn frothy flowers, often called May, are a promise of summer to come. Known as a species as being hard and strong, the oldest living hawthorn in Britain is known as the Hethel Old Thorn in Norfolk and is believed to be over 700 years old!

With lots of birds singing to protect their territories, our swifts arrive from their long journey from Africa to display in our skies. After leaving

their nest, these birds stay on the wing for over two years making their journey across the world. Their lives are spent on the thermals, eating & sleeping and foraging until they are old enough to mate and build a nest in their second year. Most garden birds, when they leave the nest have a period of a few days unable to fly. As they build up their muscles, the parent birds will still feed them until they are able to take to the wing. With swifts, they build up their muscles by doing exercises in the nest so that they are strong enough to fly straight away as they leave the nest.

In rehab we place the swifts in containers with material on the side so that they can grip with their tiny feet and flutter their wings to build up condition. Once they are the right weight and condition, then we just take them out in the open and they take flight from our hands – an amazing sight.

May is also a busy time for hedgehogs, the main time for mating. These mammals share territory but usually lead solitary lives travelling anything up to 2 miles in a night. The male will chase the female in a circle sometimes making quite a lot of noise. Mating is not as difficult as you may think as the female accepts him by laying her spines flat.



The old saying is 'Ne'er cast a clout until May is out' which means - keep your warm clothes on until the May is in flower so it's t-shirts out and enjoy the sun!

Pauline Kidner March 15th 2026

ENMORE PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

www.enmoreparishcouncil.org

The Council did not meet in April the next meeting will be

TUESDAY MAY 5TH at the later time again of **7.30PM**.

All are welcome to our meetings, and an agenda and finance papers will be posted on our website a few days prior to the meeting

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NEXT LADIES LUNCH

MONDAY, 11th MAY 2026,

12.30pm



At the Cottage Inn, Keenthorne

Nr. Nether Stowey

£17.00 for two courses

Please phone or email Jan Hodson

07985194265 or hodsons73@btinternet.com

to book for 'The Monday Club' asap

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Crossword Solution?

	m	e		e	t	
b	e		b		t	o
	n	e	r	d		
i	s		e		i	t
		f	a	s	t	
b	e		k		i	n
	t	a		p	s	

Mens Breakfast May 16th.

Contact Colin as usual by

May 14th

email: colinchalmers399@gmail.com

text: 07436 285347

“Saving Enmore Church”

Last month we updated you on the vital repairs needed to the roof of our Enmore Church. Following a period of bat surveys and ecological reports, in early April the scaffolding was installed and roof slates removed from the north facing larger Nave roof.

Let’s start with some good news, what lay beneath was in good condition, and nothing unexpected was found. However, towards the end of this first phase, we discovered the south side of the small Nave roof also needed repairs, at an additional cost of £7,200. Furthermore, this week the slates have been removed from the south facing larger Nave roof and we received the following report *“We have stripped the south slope today, unfortunately the slates are in a much worse condition than on the north slope, and the majority are not worth re-using. The underlay was very deteriorated and the roof space extremely dirty, including a large jackdaw nest and a lot of old bat droppings.”*

We need to source replacement Welsh slates (cheaper Spanish slates are not acceptable), and at an additional cost of £1,500 beyond the contingency in our budget. Unfortunately, this comes on top of the extra £3,057 of bat surveys and ecological reports (not funded by the QLPS), and £3,000 needed to rewire the Church following a failed electrical report which puts our insurance at risk. We are facing a big challenge but want to be honest with you all.

There is no doubt this work is essential to protect the future of our Church, and although we have a reserve in our Fabric Fund, we cannot afford all these extra costs. **We are therefore launching an URGENT APPEAL to raise £15,000 to SAVE OUR ENMORE CHURCH.**

Whether you are a regular part of our Church congregation, you’ve participated in special services at Christmas, Easter, Remembrance and with our local village school, you’ve been part of the many weddings, baptisms and funerals that have taken place over the years, or you enjoy having a 12th Century Church in your village which has served our community for hundreds of years – please consider making a donation towards our **URGENT APPEAL**.

We know it is a difficult ask but as the current custodians of our Enmore Church, we have a responsibility to protect it for the future. If 30 people donated £500 each, or 15 people donated £1,000 each, we would reach our target, and sooner if gift aid is included. We are seeking donations large or small, whatever you can afford. To show our appreciation we will include you in our **Book of Thanks** to be produced later in the year when the work is complete, and our Church is protected for many years to come.

Sincere thanks from us all, Enmore Church PCC members

Donations can be made by cheque made out to St Michael’s Church Enmore, delivered to the Treasurer Petra Ingram, at Parklands, Church Lane, or via BACS payment to Account: 00269228, Sort Code: 30-91-20, Ref: Urgent appeal. If you have any questions, please call Petra on 07745 454047 or speak to any member of the PCC.

Celebrating the Restoration of Goathurst's Church Clock in 2026

During April's 'Opportunity Sunday', over 30 people climbed the 32 spiral steps to view and learn about our historic clock mechanism from guides Andy Hicklin and Julian Parr. The day culminating in a celebratory service of thanksgiving featuring Goathurst's own 'Clockworks song. (This event was delayed until the worn tower steps were repaired and the rope handrail installed.)



If the bells are the voice of the village, then the tower clock is the heartbeat of our community.

It was greatly missed during the silent years from 2019 when it was out of action due to the cracked bell and there was much rejoicing last year when it was fully restored. So many villagers commented on how its striking on the hour somehow made us feel held and connected again, binding us-a sense of togetherness.

When we are in our gardens it tells us when it's time to put the kettle on for a cuppa, time for lunch, or even time to pack up because it's later than you thought! Some folk even find its striking comforting in the middle of the night!

Our clock was **the gift of Sir Charles Kemeys Tynte 292 years ago**, back in 1734 when it was installed and, at that time it didn't have a dial. **The clockface was added over 104 years later using one of the tower windows for the unusual, single hand mechanism. It was made by John Hunt of Bridgwater and is one of the oldest surviving clocks of this provenance;** we are assured that it rates very highly on any horologists' significance scale! 'It is of outstanding local importance and of national significance.' (Julian Parr, horologist, 2020)

For 273 years it required daily winding- it's no wonder the steps to the clock chamber were so dangerously worn, having to be repaired in the 1980s and again last year. Some of us oldies well remember Arthur

Wise and then Harry Meade faithfully climbing the tower every day for years of their lives to keep it wound. However, in 2007 it underwent its first renovation when David Stanley led the PCC in raising funds which also enabled an automated winding system to be installed. Peter Evered repaired the chamber floor and built the cupboard around it whilst Roy Baker saw to the electrical work. The Dougherty family of Sherwood gave specific donations towards the project-a real community effort. No more daily tower climbs and cause for celebration when **Alison Webster composed the music and her sister-in-law, Angela the words, to 'Clockworks'**.

Today, almost 20 years later, that community spirit lives on – now we are grateful to **Andy Hicklin, our resident 'horologist' who meets with the horologists from Cumbria Clocks and regularly keeps a watchful eye on the mechanism to ensure it keeps good time.**

We are hugely indebted to: **The Leche Trust, HDH Wills Trust, Churchcare/Pilgrim Trust, an anonymous donor and all who attended a fund raising cream tea in 2024,** who have enabled this restoration which we hope, with our annual maintenance contract, will keep the 'heartbeat' healthy for another 300 years!

Goathurst PCC



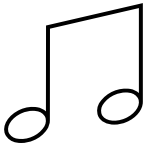
**PLANT
SALE**

30th MAY
10 - 12

**GOATHURST
VILLAGE HALL**

Tea & Cake Available

If you are donating to the sale please contact
Martin 07905 567830 / mecoles1994@gmail.com



Celebrating music in our churches

Weekend of concerts, worship and workshops across Quantock Deanery

Friday 5th – Sunday 7th June

Friday 5th June – St Andrew's Church, Stogursey

5.00pm-6.00pm

Workshop for organists*

An opportunity for organists (and would-be organists!) to receive hands-on practical support and advice and top tips for service accompaniment. Led by Hugh Morris. Followed by refreshments.

7.00pm

Organ recital given by Hugh Morris

Director of the Royal School of Church Music

Tickets: £10 on the door

Saturday 6th June – Nether Stowey Church Centre

10.00am-12.00pm Music in rural churches discussion forum*

Exploring practical resources and ideas for smaller and rural churches, for clergy, musicians, LWAs, churchwardens and those responsible for worship. Led by Hugh Morris.

2.00pm-4.30pm

Come and Sing*

An afternoon of music making, exploring a variety of repertoire designed to enhance the worship of smaller churches, concluding with an act of worship. All welcome! Led by Hugh Morris.

Sunday 7th June – St Mary's Church, Stogumber

6.30pm Festal Choral Evensong (Book of Common Prayer)

with the Quantock Deanery Singers and Stogumber Church Choir, led by Christopher Legrove. Parking in Stogumber Village Car Park, Station Road opposite Slade Close TA4 3TG; disabled parking in Stogumber Churchyard, High Street TA4 3TA.

To book a place at starred events, please email the Quantock Villages Benefice Office: qv.benefice@gmail.com.

Donations are invited to cover costs.

THE HALSWELL PARK GATES OAK TREE

Goathurst villagers may have noticed that the sign on the wall by the Halswell Park gates disappeared for a while to be refurbished. It is now back in place. It records the time on June 3rd 2012 to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth.



The tree, now growing extremely well, was originally a sapling from a royal estate. It was planted on June 3rd by the children of Goathurst. They were encouraged to jump over the sapling so that they could possibly bring their children, grandchildren or other relations to tell them while looking at the huge oak tree and saying 'I jumped over that tree'!! Some of those children still live in the village - Emily and Josh, who are now in their early twenties!

The bronze plaque was refurbished in Rooksbridge funded by the Parish Council and the oak backboard was moulded and stained thanks to Pete Evered. As an aside, the oak was cut from a piece of wood donated to Pete from Hugh Stringer, who left Goathurst two years ago having lived in the village for 54 years. Hopefully the new sign will mark that special occasion for many years to come.

John Capell

DURLEIGH FLOWER FARM



**Enmore Road, Durleigh
Charity Garden Open Day
Sunday 17th May**

**Plant & Cake Sale in aid of St. Margaret's Hospice
10-4pm. £4.00 Entry**

Village Information 15th February 2026

amendments to secretary@enmore-goathurst.org.uk

Rector	Rev'd Eleanor King Email: eleanor.king@hotmail.com		734 777
Associate Priest	Rev'd Kate Sax – retired in June 2025 Contact Eleanor if necessary		
Church Contact	Alison Hoare Email: qv.benefice@gmail.com		732 855
Church Wardens	Enmore	Rosalie Burge,	671 337
	Goathurst	Brenda Smith	662 491
Parish Councils	Enmore	Michael Hopkins	671 296
	Web site	enmoreparishcouncil.org.uk	
	Email	enmorepc@gmail.com	
	Jubilee	Padlock	1966
	Goathurst	Richard Kilbey	662 523
	Web site	www.goathurstparish.org.uk	
Village Hall	Enmore	Booking Number	07424197200
	Goathurst	goathurstvhbookings@gmail.com	07816251950
Pub		Tynte Arms	671 351
Magazine	Chair	Jan Johnston	671 560
	Secretary	Debbie Mclroy	456 964
	Advertising	Steve Gormley	662 846
Councillors Somerset Council	Mr Mike Caswell		07768744730
	Mr Brian Bolt		07970855990
Pathway Officer	Enmore	Amanda Hubbard	671 742
Neighbourhood Watch	Enmore	Graham Fergusson	671 680
	Goathurst	tba	
Enmore School	Head	Mr Duncan MacRae	671 370
Newspapers	News Team Ltd		01782959530
	Spaxton Community Shop & P.O.		671 487
	Bridgwater Store, Queenswood Rd., Durleigh		258 056
Milk delivery	Milk and More: www.milkandmore.co.uk		03456063606
Mobile library	Wednesday 11:55-12:30, every 4 weeks (Goathurst)		
Police	Call 101 to speak to Sedgemoor South Neighbourhood		
Refuse Collection and Recycling	Please refer to Somerset Waste Partnership for dates. Recycling weekly on Wednesday, black bin every three weeks. Garden waste every two weeks – different day in each village.		