

Enmore and Goathurst Magazine



February 2026

From the Editor

In the furtherance of peace and sustainability the Goathurst Peace Committee met last week to discuss the annexation of Enmore. A village whip-round will take place next week to raise the necessary monetary compensation, which will be offered as part of this ground-breaking, beautiful, Noble Peace prize winning, arrangement. Further discussions will take place at the regular inter-village discussion forums, The Ladies Lunch and Men's Breakfast.

I know, it's a ridiculous concept, but you know what?

However, in this instance we can fall back on the old adage of “..it is better to jaw jaw than war war.”

Further good news, it is less than 2 months before we can celebrate the Spring Equinox.

Andrew Eaton
(Kate is hiding in the corner.)

March magazine deadline: Thursday 19th February – 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
Feb 7	Sat	11:00-12:00	Book Borrowing-Enmore Church	5
Feb 7	Sat	14:00-15:00	Hand Bells – Goathurst Church	23
Feb 9	Mon	12:30	Ladies Lunch – Cottage Inn	8
Feb 13	Fri	18:30-20:30	Drinks By the Fire - GVH	21
Feb 14	Sat	10:00-12:00	Valentine pop-up café EMH	9
Feb 15	Sun	10:00-11:00	Pancake Party - GVH	24
Feb 21	Sat	9:00-10:30	Men's Breakfast – Tinte Arms	8
Feb 21	Sat	14:00-15:00	Hand Bells – Goathurst Church	23
Feb 24	Tues	11:00-12:00	Coffee Morning - GVH	24
Feb 24	Tues	19:30	Garden Question Time - EMH	6
Feb 25	Weds	12:30	Lent Lunch – Glebe House	24
Feb 25	Weds	19:30	Magazine Meeting – Tinte Arms	27
Mar 3	Tues	12:30	Lent Lunch - GVH	24
Mar 6	Fri	19:00	Doug's Fish'n'Chips quiz – EVH	9
Mar 7	Sat	14:00-15:00	Hand Bells – Goathurst Church	23
Mar 8	Sun	9:00	Enmore Litter Pick - EMH	19
Mar 21	Sat	14:00-15:00	Hand Bells – Goathurst Church	23
Mar 28	Sat	19:00	Quiz Night - GVH	21
May 30	Sat	TBA	Plant Sale - GVH	19

Event Notes

Harry Meade

We would like to thank everyone who attended Harry's funeral and service celebrating his life. Special thanks to Reverend Eleanor for her kindness and for conducting the service and to Brenda for arranging the parking and to those who provided spaces, also to Gill for decorating the Church windows and to Brenda, Debbie and Richard for doing the readings.

We have really appreciated the cards, messages of sympathy and lovely flowers that have helped us get through the last difficult four months. We feel very blessed and will never forget the love, care and support we have received from the whole community.

Esther, Richard and family.

Goodbye & Welcome

January saw us say goodbye to longstanding Goathurst residents Neil & Anne Evans. They have moved onto beautiful Exmoor, into the lovely old town of Dulverton. A very good reason to visit a lovely place, although we are sure they will be regular visitors to the village.

Willowburn now has new occupants. We welcome Roger Jackson & Lois Stock into the Goathurst community.

The Paintings in Goathurst Church

Many of our readers will have seen the eight paintings in Goathurst church and wondered where they came from, when they were painted and who the figures represent. The answer to the first question is that we cannot be sure although there are some clues. A survey, carried out in about 1785 by a certain Edmund Rack, comments, **“The singers gallery is fronted with wainscot; in the panels are eight emblematic paintings, poorly executed.”**

This singers' gallery stood at the west end of the nave next to the tower arch and was where the choir and the musicians were seated. The Churchwardens accounts for 1707 record a payment to a Mr. Wells for painting the gallery, the pillars, the screen and the pulpit. (The pillars supported the gallery, which was in an elevated position in front of the tower arch as was the normal practice.) This confirms that a gallery was there at this date but doesn't mention whether the painting were of the figures as well as the main fabric of the gallery. Was Mr Wells the artist?

Recent work by the conservators, Ruth McNeilage and Elizabeth Holford, stripping away at least three layers of clear and coloured varnish, has revealed former hidden features in each of the paintings, so enabling us to identify them. An eagle emblem appears in one painting, indicating that the figure is of John the Evangelist. The emblems of the other three Evangelists have also been revealed, Mark with a lion, Luke with a bull, and Matthew with an angel. Also figured are the paintings of Saints Peter and Paul, the former being shown with the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven and the latter with a sword. The final two paintings are, firstly, a man wearing a crown and dressed in ermine, strumming a harp - obviously King David - and a woman, also playing on a harp. She is almost certainly Saint Cecilia, the patron saint of music and musicians.

When the church underwent its major restoration in 1884 it seems that there was no longer a need for a gallery. This is probably because the music was now provided by the organ that was installed in 1859 and the singers

now accommodated in the new choir stalls in the chancel. The gallery was dismantled but some far-sighted person decided to retain the painted front panels, and they were moved into the Poor House. Why this happened and what they were used for we don't know but it was probably here that they suffered a lot of the damage that could be seen before restoration. Later, in 1902, they were moved back into the church and fixed on the north wall of the ringing chamber.

Following the restorations of Isabella Cooper, Elizabeth Tynte and the John Willis monument, it was decided by St Edward's PCC to use monies left over from these to restore the paintings and "McNeilage Conservation" was chosen, in collaboration with Elizabeth Holford of "Elizabeth Holford Associates". The whole project was completed in September 2025. In addition to the work on the paintings themselves the panels were taken down to see whether the wall behind them needed treatment to prevent damp. Fortunately, this was not the case but as a precaution the panels were remounted in such a way as to create a gap between them and the wall to allow air to circulate behind them.

Both Ruth McNeilage and Elizabeth Holford question Edmund Rack's words. These paintings are by no means "poorly executed" and are a rare and important survival of church gallery art.

Some parishes close to us, Durleigh, Thurlopton, West Huntspill, Shapwick, Stoke St Gregory and Ashcott all had similar paintings, which, regrettably, were swept away by Victorian restorations when singers' galleries went out of fashion.

D Bunney

Book Borrowing

February 7th Tuesday 11:00-12:00 book borrowing.
Enmore Church.

Enmore & District Gardening Club



Tuesday 24th February 2026 Enmore Memorial Hall at 7.30pm

Gardeners' Question Time

You will find a whole group of people with similar gardening interests ready to welcome you. Each month we hold a raffle, £1 per ticket (no obligation) and the chance to win a gardening themed prize.

Following a welcome, an announcement of upcoming events & outings, we are ready for our main event usually lasting an hour

this month... join in the conversation and bring a question for our own
“Gardeners' Question Time”

The panel consists of Nick Rrigden, involved in Horticulture since 1969, head of horticulture at Cannington College for many years. RHS examiner and Fellow of the Institute of Horticulture.

David Johnston professional horticulturist, involved with soft fruit production and a keen cider maker. These sessions become a discussion for everyone to join. Around 9pm we finish with tea/coffee & biscuits.

Join the club for £20 annual membership and enjoy 9 monthly meetings with a talk or activity of gardening interest. £5 for a visitor refunded if you join. We arrange visits to gardens throughout the year, often with a private tour. For more information, please contact: jeniferclarke60@gmail.com

A story, thanks and reflection

After a Christmas break with the family in Birmingham, on December 28th I misjudged the number of stairs in my son's house and took a tumble. Paramedics were summoned and I was transported to a hospital some distance away. My son and I spent from 11am until 8.30 pm in that ambulance sustained by cups of tea, a sandwich and jolly conversation from eventually three different teams of nice, cheery and chatty paramedics. What a waste of resources.

I was then wheeled – still fully dressed – into an assessment ward to spend the night listening to the demented ravings of two patients and being wheeled around the hospital for x-rays, etc... The next morning a consultant appeared with the cheerful news that I had broken my pelvis; that my hip showed bad signs of wear; that there was nothing they could do for me and to expect a long period of agony. They would simply send me home. Two more nights of horror followed when I was moved again twice and finally into a dementia ward! I must escape. By New Year's Eve mention of discharge had gone. Even though everyone was very nice and the food good I needed to go home. Time to make a nuisance of myself. So, I sat myself beside the ward administrator's desk and refused to move. Then a discharge note was eventually found; medication sourced from a local pharmacy and a taxi, paid for by the NHS, arranged to take me back to my family's house in Birmingham, plus the loan of a zimmer frame. Son then drives us in our car back to Goathurst to celebrate New Year's Eve.

So why am I telling you this apart from thanks to all who have helped? Since my wife had visited the hospital and has difficulties walking, I was quizzed about the problems we might have when we returned home. My reply that we live in a village and that help would be on hand seemed a new concept in that area of Birmingham. But this is exactly the case, and my grateful thanks go out to all who have contacted us, offered and given us help. It would be invidious to mention specific names, but I was really taken when, rather late for Epiphany, three wise men from afar, (Spaxton and beyond!) representing the Men's Breakfast group turned up on our doorstep bearing greetings and gifts (in the form of Eccles Cakes). My reflection was how fortunate we are to live not only in this village but in the surrounding area. Yes, there may be a sense of friendly inter-village rivalry, but we are still a wide community. Long may it remain so.

Best wishes and thanks again, Colin.

NEXT LADIES LUNCH

On

Monday, 9th February 2026, 12.30pm

At the Cottage Inn, Keenthorne
Nr. Nether Stowey

£17.00 for two courses

Please phone or email Jan Hodson
on 07985194265 or hodsons73@btinternet.com
to book and for menu choices a.s.a.p.

=====



February 21st – perhaps with snow
To make the face and fingers glow?
But in the Tynte, with chatter
sometimes nerdy
There's Men's Breakfast – 9 until
10.30.

Email Colin should you want to come

Colinchalmers399@gmail.com

Or text: 07436 285347
by the 19th before 11

ENMORE MEMORIAL HALL – NEWS AND EVENTS

Our programme of refurbishment continues apace. We have had two new doors installed which have improved our security. The door in the store room has been replaced by a window – a bigger improvement than we expected and should prevent the light being left on in there! We've also replaced the cracked window in the printer room. Phew.

We are hoping to replace some of the remaining old-style heaters on the window side of the hall and add to the security lighting for the car park behind the hall. Watch this space for more improvements...

The committee would like to thank our villagers for the tremendous support they show to our monthly café. It was a roaring success in January. We have previously thanked those kind locals who bake for us and/or help out – our gratitude is ongoing. This month we would particularly like to thank – and sing the praises of – **Deanna** (Rich and Vic's daughter). She offered to help out at the café a few months ago and she has been absolutely lovely to have around – hardworking, kind and fun. And she is only 16! She is a credit to teenagers in general and our village in particular.

We hope to provide a few extra treats at our next café as it falls on Valentine's Day!

If you have any queries or requests, or ideas for events and fundraisers, please do get in touch at enmorevillagehall@gmail.com or by phone on 07424 197200.

Future dates for your diary – all at EMH:

- **Valentine's Pop-Up Café - Saturday 14th February, 10-12**
- **Doug's Fish n Chips Quiz - Friday 6th March, 7pm**

To book a table, call Doug on 01278 671188

The Bridges of Bridgwater



The building of the stone bridge over the River Parrett at Bridgwater began in the time of King John, built by William Brewere, and was finished in the reign of Edward I, by Sir Thomas Trivett. This was the first Town Bridge, linking Fore Street and Eastover.

With the increase in travel, there was a need for the relatively narrow stone-built town bridge to be replaced with one more suited to stage coaches rather than pack horses. In addition, the three stone arches acted as a barrier, holding back the water and creating problems in time of flood. Barges going under the bridge often became stuck as the tide rose and cargoes were swamped.

It was decided in 1795 that the old bridge should be replaced by an iron bridge with a high arch in order to avoid the flooding and obstruction caused by the old bridge. The new bridge was a copy of the one developed at Coalbrookdale by Andrew Darby. The various parts were cast at Ironbridge in 1795 and from there floated down the River Severn on rafts, and up the River Parrett to Bridgwater. This was only the second iron bridge to be constructed in England and was considered to be a marvel of its time. The current Town Bridge was designed by R. C. Else and G. B. Laffan, and the 75-foot (23 m) cast iron structure was completed in 1883.

To the north of the Town Bridge, or downstream from the bridge towards the mouth of the Parrett, is the modern Chandos bridge, which carries the Clink roadway across the river. This is a concrete deck bridge, built in 1988

and is a structure of 3 spans in order to give enough height to allow for the tidal nature of the River Parrett.

Immediately downstream and next to the Chandos Bridge is the Black Bridge or the Telescopic Bridge. The bridge was opened in 1871 and was based on Isambard Kingdom Brunel's 1846 telescopic bridge across the River Arun near Littlehampton in Sussex. The bridge was built in 1871 to the design of Sir Francis Fox, the engineer for the Bristol & Exeter Railway. A section of railway track to the east of the bridge could be moved sideways, so that the main girders could be retracted, creating a navigable channel. Although still standing, the Telescopic or Black Bridge is no longer able to move and is used as a pedestrian bridge.

Downstream again from the Chandos Bridge is the Drove Bridge, which is the newest bridge to cross the river and marks the current extent of the Port of Bridgwater. This is also the nearest bridge to the mouth of the river. The bridge was constructed in 1992 as part of the Bridgwater Northern Distributor road scheme and carries the NDR across the river, linking with the Drove roadway.

To the south or upstream from the Town Bridge is the Blake Bridge, which is a reinforced concrete road bridge built in 1958 to take traffic away from the centre of Bridgwater and carries the Broadway over the river.

Upstream again and on the southern edge of Bridgwater, is the Somerset Bridge. This is a railway bridge, which was built to carry the Bristol & Exeter Railway across the River Parrett. Isambard Kingdom Brunel designed a brick bridge here 1838 that was completed in 1841 and this was in turn replaced in 1904 by a steel girder bridge.

The final bridge upstream from the Town Bridge is the modern concrete bridge which carries the M5 motorway over both the river and the railway line. It was started in 1971 and opened in 1973.

Acknowledgements to the websites of the Bridgwater Heritage Group and the Bridgwater Museum for the information on which this article is based.
Mike Head.

Local and Regional Weather Report

Candlemas Day (February 2nd) and Valentines Day (14th February) are the significant days for weather lore. “When the wind's in the East on Candlemas Day, There it will stick till the second of May”. “If the sun shines on Candlemas Day hard frost is sure to set in” also “As much ground as is covered with sun on Candlemas Day, will be covered with snow before Lady Day (25th March)” and “When the cat lies in the sun in February, She will creep behind the stove in March. On a slightly more positive note “If Candlemas Day be fair and bright, Winter will have another flight, But if Candlemas Day brings clouds and rain, Winter is gone and won't come again.” Finally, “If Valentine's Day (February 14th) be bright and fine, half the winter is left behind” and “If it freezes on St. Matthias'-day (February 24th) it will freeze for a month together. Also, strangely, if bees get out in February, the next day will be windy and rainy.

December was mostly very wet, with storm Bran bringing gale force winds, but the month ended sunny and cold, with mist and frosts. Nearly 9 days out of 10 days saw cloudy weather or rain and only 4 days out of 10 saw sunny or partly sunny weather.

Rainfall: Local 161 mm, Regional 191.7 mm = +31% of normal Minimum temperatures: Local -1 deg, Regional 4.3 deg = +1.5 deg Maximum Temperatures: Local 13 deg, Regional 9.3 deg = normal

What is the weather forecast for February? Met Office says unsettled with mild temperatures and rain, which will be heavy and persistent at times. Can we add any more from the weather lore forecast? Shepherd of Banbury says if the end of October and beginning of November are warm and rainy, (they were) then February is likely to be frosty and cold. Jet Stream forecast at the start of February shows the UK between high and low pressure systems, with winds from the south west. Probably mild, wet but not very windy in the South West.

Dear Everyone,

Where has the first month of 2026 gone, I ask myself!

Christmas is behind us – well almost, the Christmas season concludes on 2nd February with the Feast of Candlemas when we hear the story of Jesus being presented in the Temple. Our focus then turns from Christmas to Easter.

With Easter being early this year, on Sunday 5th April, we move swiftly into Lent on Ash Wednesday on 18th February having eaten our pancakes the day before – Shrove Tuesday. There are services for Ash Wednesday at 11:00am in Holford Church, which will be a service of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes and at 7:00pm in Nether Stowey Church Centre – A service for Ash Wednesday. All are welcome. Please look out for other events during Lent.

As I mentioned last month, 2026 sees the start of the Diocesan year of a special focus on prayer. There will be opportunities to explore what prayer is and also different ways of praying throughout the Benefice; please look out for the logo.



Bringing together Lent and the Diocesan year of prayer, on Sunday 15th February, we will be making available a booklet of prayers for Lent with each prayer chosen or written by someone from one of the churches in the benefice. Hopefully, there will be a prayer or maybe two for each day of the forty days of Lent.

If there are special things to pray for, please let me know. More information on what is happening around the Benefice and Deanery will follow throughout the year.

Eleanor

Local Church Services		
February 2026	St Michael and All Angels, Enmore	St Edward, King and Martyr, Goathurst
1st Sunday 4th February Candlemas	11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Family Worship
2nd Sunday 8th February 2nd Sunday before Lent	-	9.30am Holy Communion
3rd Sunday 15th February Sunday before Lent	4:00pm Taizé Service	-
4th Sunday 22nd February 1st Sunday of Lent	11:00am Morning Worship	6:30pm Holy Communion (BCP)
Ash Wednesday Services – Wednesday 18 th February. 11:00am Holford Church Service of Imposition of Ashes with Holy Communion 7:00pm Nether Stowey Church Centre Service for Ash Wednesday		

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

Other Local Services in the wider Benefice			
Aisholt	Nether Stowey	Over Stowey	Spaxton with Charllynch
11.00am Matins (BCP)	11.00am (CC) Morning Worship	4:00pm Evensong	5:00pm Evensong
3.30pm Evensong (BCP)	11.00am (CC) Holy Communion	9:30am Morning Worship	11:00am Holy Communion
11:00am Holy Communion (BCP)	11.00am (CC) Morning Worship	9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	-
-	11.00am (CC) Holy Communion	-	11:00am Morning Worship

the Benefice News, Church Noticeboards and Website below

<https://quantockvillagesbenefice.org.uk>

Enmore Parochial Church Council

We look forward to welcoming you to our upcoming events — your support makes these gatherings truly enjoyable and memorable.

Please do join us and make the most of our beautiful church and village hall. We are incredibly fortunate to have such special spaces at the heart of our community.

Wishing you all a warm and safe February.

A heartfelt thank you to Jan and John Hardwick of Cobbs Cross Farm for their generous donation of a beautiful Christmas tree for our church. It looked absolutely fabulous and added so much to the church's festive beauty. We received many wonderful compliments!

The services over the Christmas period were very well attended across the benefice, demonstrating just how important the church remains in our lives and our community. More than 90 people joined us for the Carol Service at Enmore, and it was truly wonderful to see the church so full. Thank you to all who came.

Charitable donations from the Christmas services will be supporting two important causes:

- Carol Service – Crisis: £308.20
- Christingle Service – The Children's Society: £35.00

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Throughout the year, you may have noticed small vases of flowers placed around the church. These simple floral displays bring much joy, and we warmly welcome anyone who would like to contribute. Please note, you do not have to be an expert at floral arranging (I certainly am not!). A fortnightly flower rota is displayed in the church porch for those who may wish to take part. Whether it's a bunch of flowers added to your shopping basket or a few beautiful seasonal blooms from your garden, it would be wonderful to have you share these within the church. Vases are available, and the water tap can be found in the bell tower. Thank you in advance.

With warmest wishes,

Enmore Church Committee

If you would like to make any donations to St Michael's Church, please see details:

Account: St Michael's Church Enmore

Sort code: 30-91-20

Account No: 00269228

Ref: Donation

Gift Aid does allow UK tax payers, an ability to claim a further 25% of the gift. Gift Aid envelopes are available in the church.

ENMORE PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

www.enmoreparishcouncil.org

At our January meeting the Parish Council budget for the 2026/2027 financial year was discussed and the decision was taken to ask for the same amount of precept (£5,253) to fund the work of the Parish Council for the next year. We have now had the same amount of precept for four consecutive years, which we won't be able to continue indefinitely.

At the moment there are no large projects the Parish Council is committed to undertaking but we have to be prepared for unexpected costs that might crop up especially in view of the financial situation of Somerset Council. We welcome input as to how Enmore Parish Council can best serve village residents and support initiatives that improve the quality of life for all of us. Should you have any suggestions please contact the Clerk or any of the Parish Councillors. The minutes for the January meeting and financial reports will be added to the Enmore Parish Council website by next month's magazine at the latest.

As there were no applications received for the parish councillor position following the resignation of David Comley, Enmore Parish Council will seek to co-opt for the vacancy.

With regard to road safety the remaining two horse rider and one wildlife signs which have been ordered will be installed after April due to a Highways administration error.

Luke Manning has very kindly offered to monitor the SIDs following David Comley's move. The Parish Council wished to express their thanks to Luke for this important task as it means the volume/ speed of vehicles passing through the village can still be recorded and the effectiveness of the SIDs analysed.

There is another Litter pick organised for March 8th (see details elsewhere in the magazine) along with other Wilder Enmore updates.

Wilder Enmore News



On 23rd December, the planting at Mill Farm of disease resistant elms to support the Friends of the Quantocks White hairstreak butterfly project, saw the completion of all six planting sites in Enmore. This represents the first phase. Special thanks to Andrew Hucker who oversaw the planting and to our volunteers!

Wilder Enmore is pleased to be supporting this worthwhile project.

Following enquiries and input from Fiona Jackson, Broomfield Parish Council has launched their own Wilder Initiative and their first project is looking to improve wildlife habitat in the community field behind their village hall. Great News!

The January Magazine included the link to a very simple questionnaire (honestly 3 min completion) for individuals to apply for their Wilder Garden Award. Beth (Wilder Goathurst) and Fiona do hope that those who haven't, from both villages, will take the few minutes needed to apply. Goathurst are very keen to get their Wilder Community Award now and they just need a few more garden applicants!

In this crazy world we live in, so important to feel we, as individuals, can make a positive, kind difference where we are able to do so. To do it where we live seems a good place to start.

**Please put in your diary - Enmore Litter Pick
KEEPING ENMORE GREEN**

Meet at Enmore Memorial Hall on **Sunday, 8th March, 2026**

At 9.00am. Finish at 10.30am

(or whatever time you can give to your village)

Refreshments back at the Hall afterwards!

Please spread the word so we have a good turnout

Many hands make light, quick work and it's quite fun too!

Tel: Andrew 07853 227329 for any queries

Do bring gloves and any other useful equipment, suggest bright clothing!

Thank you in anticipation of your support on behalf of Enmore Parish Council
The results benefit our Wider Enmore Community

Goathurst Village Plant Sale

Please pop 30th May in your diary and come along to our annual plant sale at the Village Hall. It's always a lovely event and a great chance to pick up some fantastic value plants while supporting the community.

If you're able to help, we'd be very grateful if you could sow and grow a few extra plants to donate to the sale. Every tray, pot or cutting makes a real difference and all contributions are very much appreciated.

Thank you for your support - we look forward to seeing you there!

🌟 Goathurst Parish Council Wants **YOU!**

Two exciting opportunities to get involved in village life

Goathurst Parish Council is on the lookout for **two brilliant people** to join our small but mighty team — one as a **Parish Councillor (volunteer)** and one as our **Parish Clerk (paid)**. If you love our village and want to help keep things running smoothly, read on!

1. Parish Councillor (Volunteer Role)

Do you enjoy chatting about village matters? Are you passionate about keeping Goathurst wonderful? Fancy having a say in planning applications, local improvements, and community issues?

As a Parish Councillor, you'll:

- Attend **six meetings a year** (all dates shared in advance)
- Discuss the things that matter to residents
- Help review **planning applications**
- Be a voice for our community

No experience needed — just enthusiasm, a willingness to get involved, and a connection to the parish.

2. Parish Clerk (Paid Role)

Approximately **8 hours per month** | Flexible | Essential village superhero 

Our Parish Clerk keeps everything behind the scenes running like clockwork. If you're organised, reliable and enjoy admin with purpose, this could be perfect.

You'll be responsible for:

- Checking and managing council emails
- Arranging meetings and preparing agendas
- **Taking minutes** and keeping accurate records
- Supporting the Council with admin and smooth operations

🌼 Why join us?

You'll become part of a warm, welcoming team who care deeply about Goathurst. Whether you're volunteering or in a paid role, you'll be making a real difference — and helping our village continue to thrive.

For more info contact [Niki goathurstparish@gmail.com](mailto:Niki.goathurstparish@gmail.com)

GOATHURST VILLAGE HALL



QUIZ ? ? ? NIGHT! ? ? ?

28th MARCH

DOORS OPEN 7PM

£12 PER TEAM • TEAMS OF 4



CASH/CARD BAR AVAILABLE



TO BOOK: —
CONTACT CATHERINE FERGUSON
goathurstvhbookings@gmail.com

Opening times – *as in previous editions (but not the last one where only Christmas opening times were posted). Could Opening Times be part of the template so it is always the first thing that readers see? However, could Thursday and Friday times be amended to closing at 5pm - the same as Mon, Tues and Weds.*

December was a very busy and successful time in the shop. The Spaxton Calendar was obviously a hit as were the special Christmas products. Frozen bread was also much appreciated in the gap between Christmas and New Year- by which time the freezer was empty of it. Any bread now in the freezer will be of the 2026 vintage!

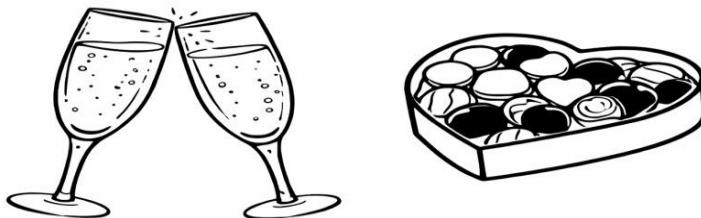
Late night opening: In response to requests, we have tried to keep the shop open late on Thursdays and Fridays until 7pm. While appreciated by those of you who arrive home from work having forgotten something, we have been unable to persuade our volunteers to cover those shifts over the winter months and sadly we had a zero response from the community after the appeal in the last Community News. A decision had to be made at the beginning of January to discontinue, with immediate effect, the late-night opening. Our aim will be to restart late-night opening with the start of British Summer Time.

With The New Year now under way, normal service has now resumed:

- The **Book Swap** is back in place. it is a book swap on a one to one basis - not a repository for unwanted books!
- The **Fish Van** is back on a Tuesday between 4-5pm
- **Dough bread** delivers on a Wednesday morning with a delicious selection of sourdough breads, focaccia, sweet and savoury croissants, pastries and buns which many of us clearly find irresistible!
- **Salt Marsh beef from Steart Marshes**, freshly frozen is on the top shelf of the freezer.
- **Local Free range eggs** are now our top seller -despite being hidden just below the counter.

Join us at the
DRINKS BY THE FIRE
— at the Village Hall —

13th February
6:30 - 8:30PM



Featuring a
♥ SPECIAL ♥
VALENTINE'S RAFFLE!

Goathurst Handbell Group

The dates for this month are the 7th and 21st of February. We meet in the church between 2.00 and 3.00. The March dates are the 7th and 21st. If you would like to come along and try that would be good and you do not need to be able to read music

Clare Kippen

News from St Edward's Church, Goathurst

Christmas Service Collections amounted to £178 with Gift Aid to be added before the donations are shared between the SW Children's Hospice and church funds. With many thanks to everyone for their generosity.

Opportunity Sunday 15th February, Pancake Party in the village hall from 10- 11am. All ages welcome. See the posters for more details!

The free **Coffee Morning** will be held in the village hall as usual between 11am-12noon on Tuesday 24th February.

The **Lent Lunches begin on Wednesday 25th at 12.30pm, at Glebe House.** All are welcome to join us for soup, cheese and biscuits, tea or coffee. Please book with Wendy and Richard Kilbey on 662523 or email: kilbeys@yahoo.com by Sunday 22nd if you would like to come. The lunches are free, but donations may be given if desired (split equally between the PCC's general and mission fund). It would be lovely to welcome those who work from home during their lunchbreak!

Followed by Tuesday 3rd March at 12.30pm in the village hall, book with Brenda on 07790 825207 or email: timpetillbrenda@hotmail.co.uk by Sunday 1st March.

If anyone (alone, or with a partner) would like to **host a Lent Lunch during March**, either at home or in the village hall, please contact Brenda as soon as possible so that the full schedule can be published in the March magazine.

Thank you to those who **shop online** and have signed up for **easy fundraising**, so far you have raised £3.95 for the SAPPP fund! Shop with over 8,000 retailers via #easyfundraising this year and earn a free donation for us at the same time.

All the big names like eBay, Argos, John Lewis & Partners, Etsy, Tesco and Just Eat are ready to donate. It won't cost you anything extra!

Please sign up today and we could win a £500 donation:

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/st-edward-king-and-martyr-goathurst/fbvyvz/c2s/mQ7oHj9a/CE947/facebook/3.95>

Small amounts of giving really DO add up! The scrap metal collections have raised over £910 to date and they continue...please let Brenda know if you have any, or old car batteries.

The Wilder Churchyard Award has been received in recognition of what we are doing and plan to do in the maintenance of the church grounds.

Goathurst PCC

Against all odds

In February a few years ago, we had an urgent call from a couple in Bristol. It was 1 a.m. on a very cold night. A distressed young man told me about a badger that was in the river next to the S.S. Great Britain in Bristol. "He's making a terrible noise crying for help," he said. I felt useless as we don't have any volunteers in Bristol at that time of night, nor could I ignore the situation. I explained that I would attend but that it would be nearly an hour before I could get there. "Please do try," the young man pleaded so I gave him my mobile number and asked him to let me know if the situation changed. I then rang my son, Simon, who lives next door to go with me and despite getting dressed very quickly it was at least 15 minutes before we could de-ice the car and collect the cage and catching equipment.

Halfway on our journey there, the young man rang to say that the badger had hauled itself on to a tyre between a barge and the harbour wall. They were both going to stay to meet us when we got there which was nearly 2.30am by the time we arrived. They were both sitting near to where the badger was with a blanket around themselves to keep warm. Simon tried to get the badger with a net but as it was an 8ft drop to the tyre, he sadly missed and the badger dropped into the water. He swam past the barge and looked as if he was going to swim out to the middle of the river, but he turned and came alongside the barge. The effort of swimming and being cold meant he was making a lot of noise, and we were hoping the noise wouldn't stop as it would mean he had drowned. By this time Simon was ready with the grasper, leaning over as much as he could with the young man and I holding on to his legs. Amazingly he caught the badger, and it took all of us to pull Simon and the badger up on to the wall, quickly putting the badger in the cage. The couple were overjoyed and we were so pleased to have the badger and ourselves soon in a nice warm car travelling home. Placed over night in our badger pen, she (as we found out) was soon asleep under a heat lamp. Checked out the next day by the vet, her lungs were clear and after a few days of hotel food, she was ready to go home – but where to as we really didn't know where she fell in.

Having looked at google, we found a few areas near the harbour that seemed to be a possibility so by going back into Bristol at 3am for it to be as quiet as possible, we went to have a look. Badgers are territorial and it really is important that they get back to their own group otherwise they will fight. Luckily the first place we looked at had several badger paths, so fingers crossed we carried the cage to the area. Immediately the sow roused and desperately clawed at the cage to get out. Opening the cage, she immediately followed one of the paths – she was home!

Sometimes our rescues seem impossible, but this one was a very happy ending.

Pauline Kidner December 17th 2025

Enmore Church of England Primary School



Founded in 1810 by Rev. John Poole

We have a fantastic opportunity to work at our school and are currently recruiting the following staff:

MAINTENANCE/ODD-JOB PERSON

Up to 10 hours per week – Flexible Hours

Salary: Grade 14 point range (4 - 6). Rate of Pay £25,185 - £25,989 pro rata per annum, plus Pension Scheme, free parking onsite

Closing Date: Thursday 26th February 2026 - Interview Date: Thursday 5th March 2026

We are looking for a reliable person to undertake a wide range of duties, including but not limited to undertaking general maintenance/decoration/minor repairs to buildings, furniture & grounds. Complete Health and Safety checks and keep accurate records. We need someone who is motivated, flexible and can work proactively to ensure a safe environment for the staff and pupils. This role includes some work during school holiday time, additional hours will be paid, where necessary, for larger jobs.

Previous experience of working in a school environment would be desirable but not essential and the ideal candidate should be able to demonstrate an understanding of health and safety legislation, good organisational skills in relation to managing own workload, the ability to regularly handle/carry heavy items, as well as the ability to use ICT effectively especially word, excel and email systems.

Examples of duties required for the role.

Enmore School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The post is subject to relevant safer recruitment employment and criminal background checks via the disclosure procedure, and a successful medical check. Further information is available by email and on our school website Enmore Church of England Primary School - TA5 2DX - Staff Vacancies or by contacting the school office. Completed forms should be sent to Mrs. P.

Eaglestone-Gunter, Business Manager at the school – details below.

Telephone: 01278 671370

Address: Enmore C of E Primary School, Enmore, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 2DX

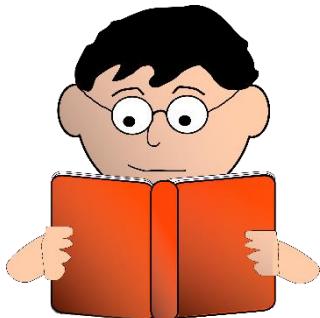
E-mail: peaglestone-gunter@enmoreprimaryschool.org

NB: Only completed application forms will be considered for the posts, CV's will not be accepted and will not be included in the selection process.

Magazine News!

We need more Editors

Please contact Debbie secretary@enmore-goathurst.org.uk or myself chair@enmore-goathurst.org.uk [Tel:07762179659](tel:07762179659) to discuss



Please consider if you could spare a few hours once a year. We have a template so no setting up required, just the ability to use word and put the articles into the template. It is your magazine to edit as you wish within our guidelines. Someone is always available to help with any queries. The magazine is now converted to a PDF so it can be published online, this you can do yourself following the guidelines or call on our technical team to guide or even do it for you! No Sweat...The cover can show off your artistic abilities, or we are able to provide artwork.

Our aim is to provide a free magazine to each household, keeping people in touch with their local community. Also, online via the PC websites. Please help us to keep this connection.

Next Magazine Meeting –

Wednesday 25th February 2026

in The Tynte Arms, Enmore at 7.30pm.

All welcome

Why not come along and sit with us to get more of an idea how the magazine is run, meeting usually last an hour in the back room but feel free to come & go.

Village Information 13th August 2025

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 McIlroy	456 964
	Advertising	Steve Gormley	662 846
Councillors	Mr Mike Caswell		07768744730
Somerset Council	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.		