

# St Mary 's Church, Yatton

## Summer 2025

**At last...**



Revd Denise Calverley, pictured above with her family, was licensed as Priest in Charge of the Yatton Moor Parish, of Kenn, Kingston Seymour and Yatton, on Wednesday 30 July.

Photo to the right shows Denise cutting her 'welcome' cake after her licensing.

*A very warm welcome to Denise, Richard and their family from us all.*



## **Introducing myself...**

You will hear in my voice that I am an American transplant. I've been here for many years after coming here to continue serving in ecumenical missions through *Youth With A Mission* in Scotland. This is where I met my future English husband Richard, an Occupational Therapist, who was also serving with YWAM.

We have three adult children between 19-23 years old in work and university study. They'll appear from time to time as work and study allows.

I'm very happy to be here with you where God so clearly called me. For that reason I'm even more excited to find out what God has for us together in ministry and life.

I won't say more than this for now, because it might rob me of sermon illustrations. I do hope to get to know you well, and each of your stories, as we joyfully live out and tell the story of Jesus in all aspects of our lives and faith together.

## **Celebration for a new Ministry**

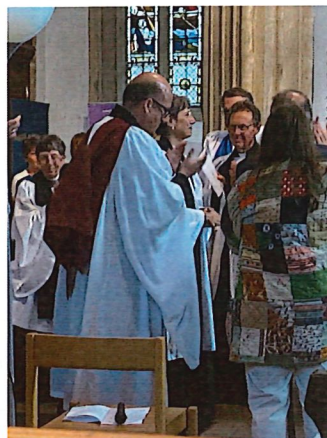
The day had dawned at last, the arrival of our new spiritual leader on 30<sup>th</sup> July. This had been a long time coming, and the congregation were eager, positive and perhaps a wee bit inquisitive. Every pew was occupied, some with our own congregation and some with members of Denise's last flock. Clergy were clustered all around the Church, some robed and some 'in mufti'. Churchwardens were fluttering with their staves, and an air of excited anticipation was tempered by the increasing volume of the organ as it reached its crescendo into which flowed the opening hymn 'Be Thou my vision...' led by the choir entering through the south porch... and we were off.

The choir were followed by Clergy, lots of them. Eyes were seeking out which was Denise, for many of those present had never set their eyes on her. The answer was that none of the Clergy met the expected description. Now, all were present except of course the very person, Denise, who remained outside. The Rural Dean and the Bishop proceeded to thank the many parties who had so stalwartly kept 'the show on the road' during the Vacancy. No, we still had to wait a little while longer to receive her, and then hooray Denise was separately escorted in to the Church by her parting Churchwarden who was to hand her over to the Bishop to present to us, her new flock. It was a poignant moment. Here was the almost vulnerable yet smiling Denise,

supported by her faith and awaiting the recognition and support of us, her new congregation, to reinvigorate and strengthen her.

So, the moment had come. Denise was presented to us by the Bishop. We and she all made the right noises that we would like her to take over the 'cure of our souls', and all was moving in the right direction with a great sense of togetherness. It was time for the Bishop to preach to us all, and to remind us all of God's mission for us as proposed through his Son.

This prepared Denise for the solemn oaths that she was to utter that would make her fit for 'the cure' of our souls. To bring this point home to the congregation, Clergy and Readers known to Denise surrounded her as the Bishop anointed her with the oil of Chrism. It was a reassuring moment for the congregation to witness these 20 or so people 'of the cloth' in their physical, tactile, support of her.



All present now being comfortable with the position and with the wider personal reminders from the Bishop's sermon, it was time for the formal installation of Denise as our leader. In response, she was welcomed by the Churchwardens from all five churches, the Yatton Methodists, and representatives of some secular local organisations within her new world; and in reply she read out the notices of forthcoming services, thereby stamping her new role on one and all. This was yet another poignant moment. The fast moving progression from being identified as she was brought in, received, welcomed, and then taking charge, was not lost to the assembled company—she was in place and welcomed with gusto. Perhaps it was meant that this poignancy should be recognised, when a phone somewhere in the congregation with a SatNav setting bringing the member here to Church, blared out “Your destination is on the right”. Her destination indeed was now right here!

And so proceedings were reaching their conclusion. It was glorious and comforting to see Avril's arrival at the preaching stand to deliver the prayers which led us into the last hymn and the conclusion. What a happy and upbeat 55 minutes had been experienced by all.

The bun fight was to begin. An enormous spread of food to be washed down by Pimms enabled Denise and her family— husband Richard, their daughters Scarlett and Arwen and her parents-in-law to circulate in a convivial atmosphere. The new world of Yatton Moor had just begun.

*Ryan Densham*

# Celebration of lay workers

On 14th June more than 150 people were in Wells cathedral, celebrating everything that lay people do in the whole diocese: chaplains and readers, tea makers and administrators, musicians and pastoral assistants... the list is long. Lay people led the service: reading, praying, and doing creative things with ribbons. The music was very uplifting, led by a group from Shepton Mallet. (The last time I saw



the lady playing the keyboard, she was wearing a legal wig and gown - she used to be the diocesan registrar). Bishop Michael blessed us all at the end.

It was planned to include contributions from people of all ages. At 96, Ruth Summerell stood up and promoted the work of the Mothers Union. Unquenchable. Tea and a stupendous amount of cake fuelled people to visit the exhibition of lay activity groups in the cloisters,

from Open the Book to Christian motor bikers.

During our long vacancy we have relied on each other—lay people—to sustain and even develop the life of our church. We have succeeded and that is something worth celebrating.

*Mike Cooke*

*We're certainly grateful to Mike for his leadership during that difficult time—Ed*



# Hope Christian Trust

The Trust has tried hard to keep in touch with you all during the last year and a half as the war has raged in Gaza. As you know John visited the Holy Land in late May and although travelling to the border, where he could clearly see the devastation about two miles away, was not allowed to visit Gaza. We had hoped that the ceasefire earlier in the year would have lasted more than the six weeks that it did. During that time school did reopen and over 100 children had a brief respite from the turmoil of war and a brief period of education.



The situation now in Gaza is probably the worse it has been since 7th October 2023. The Israeli Army is pressing strongly and we hear just this week that bombing is very close to the school and people are being asked to evacuate in close proximity to the school. So far the two churches where some 600 Christians (including staff members) are sheltering is safe but who knows what will happen in the future. The school is relatively unscathed although preparation for full opening is likely to cost over £150,000—a bid has been put to a United Nations fund for this.

Throughout the period of the war we have been in regular touch with staff of the school giving them encouragement through Facebook and email contact (when communication is open!). They appreciate the fact that people in England are praying for them and are concerned for them. We have with our partners in USA been making sure that staff have money to buy food and be able to pay for medical care. We have also been sending money to help children and families in the area of the school who are undernourished as an expression of God's love and care, "the local Muslim organisations don't help us but you Christians do", said one woman to our friend. Transfer of money is through online banking—there is very little cash in Gaza but transfer of funds by card internally to pay for things (obviously very expensive and on the black market) works.

In recent news from Gaza we have heard sad news that the son of our dear friend—a teacher at the Lighthouse School—was killed and her husband badly injured following an Israeli artillery strike on the Roman Catholic Church, three others were also killed by shrapnel and falling masonry. The war continues, killing continues, hunger increases, we see on TV children and babies dying. Pray that the leaders of the nations will work together urgently to bring an effective and just peace in this part of the world.

*Janet & John Angle* Email: [hopebethlehem@btinternet.com](mailto:hopebethlehem@btinternet.com). Mobile 07970 968652

# Yatton Local History Society

## Know Your Place (KYP)

If you like maps, and/or you like history you will love 'Know Your Place'. The KYP website describes the project as: *'...a digital heritage mapping resource to help you to explore your neighbourhood online through historic maps, collections and linked information.'* The West of England Project expanded the area covered from just Bristol to include Somerset, North Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire between 2015 and 2017. As the blurb suggests, the site has historical maps that you can explore, and view side by side with a modern map.

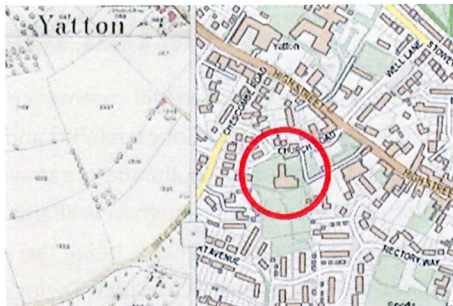
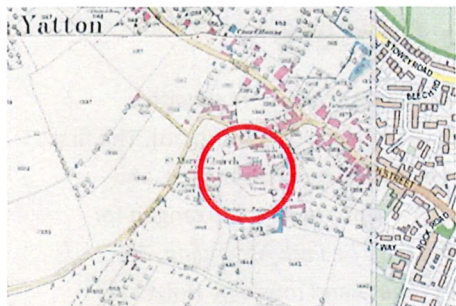


This example shows Yatton where the right side of the map is 2019 Q2 Basemap, on the left is 1844-1888 OS 25" 1 st Edition. The really clever thing is that the bar in the middle will slide sideways revealing more of one of the maps. So, if you want to (and who wouldn't?) you can find your house on the modern map and then slide the bar across to reveal what was there before your house was built. If we zoom in we can see St Mary's Church, see figures opposite.

Another feature of the maps is that there are layers of information that can be accessed on the map. Again, looking at Yatton, clicking on the icon in the top right hand corner: a toolbar is revealed:

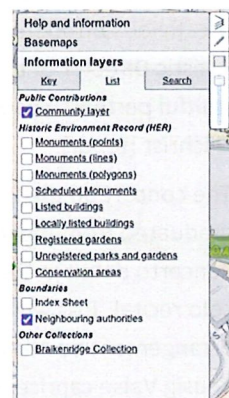


By putting a tick in any of these boxes, corresponding pointers will be revealed. For example, ticking 'listed buildings' on the toolbar will result in all the listed buildings in Yatton being pinpointed. All these headings have been populated by staff and volunteers working for the Council or Archives. At the top you will see a 'community layer' which is possibly the most exciting aspect of the website. Anyone can upload



information to the map. Everything is reviewed before it is published on the website, but once published, it is shared with everyone. Many Local History Societies have been involved in populating their local area. There is also an option to put forward a building or space to be added to the 'Local Heritage List'. This highlights assets of local importance that don't have listed building status but are noteworthy and worth preserving. One example of this is Yatton Library Building, which has fulfilled many functions over its lifetime including Quaker Meeting House and Infant school, which we nominated in 2023 and was subsequently adopted.

A close up of St Mary's Church shows that there are several contributions on the Community Layer, shown by the green squares. Clicking on a square reveals what has been posted.



The website should probably come with a health warning, as it is possible to inadvertently spend too much time investigating, but at least you will have learned something about your locality!

The map for North Somerset can be found here: <https://maps.bristol.gov.uk/kyp/?edition=nsom>. To find Yatton just type in Yatton in the search box. KYP also has a Facebook page which regularly shares a new location: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/638416113618702>

**Yatton Local History Society** meet regularly on the first Tuesday of the month between October and May at the Methodist Church at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend, members are free, visitors are asked to pay £3. The first talk of the season will be on 7<sup>th</sup> October when Steve Osman will speak on 'The Swiss Air Crash 1973'

Over the past 40 years the society has published books with articles on many subjects relating to the village. Most of these are now available to view on our website: <https://yattonlocalhistorysociety.co.uk/publications/>

# Yatton Music Society

The Society's new season will commence on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September with a concert given by Leora Cohen [violin] and Adrian Partington [piano/organ]. The first half of the concert for violin and organ will feature music by Rheinberger, and Halphen and Bach and Vaughan Williams with the accompaniment arranged for organ—the Vaughan Williams being the ever popular *The Lark Ascending*. The second half will feature Coleridge Taylor's violin sonata and music by Holst and Hurlstone. Leora is a young British-American violinist who is a double-first graduate of Cambridge University and a postgraduate of the Royal College of Music. She is a regular soloist with the Albion Chamber Orchestra and the Piccadilly Sinfonietta in London and is a member of the Tel Aviv Soloists Ensemble. David has held many prestigious positions and is currently Director of Music at Gloucester Cathedral and Artistic Director of the BBC National Chorus of Wales. He has also enjoyed many fruitful partnerships with artists such as Emma Johnson [clarinet] and James Gilchrist [tenor].

The concert on the 25<sup>th</sup> October will be given by Yatton's own Joss Wort recently graduated from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Having made his concerto debut in the Church last year we are pleased to welcome him to give a solo recital. Joss will be playing the 2<sup>nd</sup> movement of Haydn's symphony 94 in an arrangement by Alkan, Schubert Impromptus, Liszt 'Soirees de Vienne no. 5 and 6, Tausig Valse caprice no. 2, and a Strauss arrangement my Stephen Hough. It sounds as if Joss will be giving us an evening of show pieces.

The concert on the 29<sup>th</sup> November will be the annual visit of the West Mendip Orchestra who will be playing music by Schumann, Dvorak, Glazunov, and Finzi—his Eclogue for piano and orchestra in which the soloist will be the Orchestra's Director John Johnson.

Concerts will commence at 7.30 pm in St Mary's. Entrance payable at the door will cost £10.00 for members and £15.00 for non-members. Students over 16 £10.00, accompanied children free. If you intend to come to more than two of the season's eight concerts it pays to become a member. Membership costs £10 which also helps to ensure our future. You can join by completing the form on our website.

*Mike Blackwell*

*[www.yms.org.uk](http://www.yms.org.uk)*

# Yatton and District Horticultural Society

Our Summer Show took place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July in Yatton Village Hall. Those of you who are familiar with our shows will know that our Summer Show spills out of the hall onto Glebelands where there were many stalls both of local interest and selling local produce.



Anyone who came must surely have been impressed with the talent we have locally. Whether it be in Arts and Crafts, Floral or in the Homecraft Classes there was plenty to admire. This year was our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year which gave us the opportunity to display pictures and newspaper articles from past years.

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 18th October so there is the challenge for you. If you are interested we have a website [www.yattonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk](http://www.yattonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk), alternatively if you contact me I will make sure you get an Autumn Show Schedule.

We also hold Autumn/Winter talks at Hangstones Pavilion, the next one being on the subject of House Plants on 18th September at 8pm. We are a friendly lot and are happy to chat over a cup of tea.

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 Lewis.

If you would like further information on any of the above please speak to me, or see our website: [www.yattonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk](http://www.yattonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk)

*Stephen Thorne 01934 833813*



## Your hospice shop needs you

The St. Peter's Hospice shop in Yatton is badly in need of volunteers. Just a couple of hours a week would make a huge difference. You will find the atmosphere friendly and fun.



A volunteer drive is planned for 8<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> September. Why not book a taster session? Tel. 01934 877257 or pop in and have a word with Rachel or Nico.

## **Flying on a wing and a prayer.....**

I love flying, both as a passenger and at the stick in a 2-seater. Up front and in control you can soar and dive and side-slip and roll and loop. In a larger passenger plane seated in the fuselage tube I love being in a wing seat – or, specifically, alongside a wing, because I can't hear the engines but I can look along the leading edge to the wing-tip



watching it flex. I get lots of lovely photos and videos from there. Sunrises or sunsets seem more “alive” with a wing-tip included. Alternatively, the last row at the very back is good too. Not so noisy as immediately behind the jet's exhaust. Although, bear in mind, in a crash the rear end usually detaches on impact. Just saying.

Forget the poor quality food, or lack thereof, the entertainment system which doesn't always work and the constant stream of people wanting the loo, etc, try gazing out the window. The view never disappoints. I used to go gliding a long (long) time ago and the best part (apart from the fast uplift on the tow followed by silence after the snap of release) was the stall turn or spin. You bring the nose up a little and then a little more until the point where you're no longer flying—you're just about to start falling. The glider shudders as gravity takes over. You push the nose down, gain just a little speed but let the one wing stall whereupon she'll start a spin. It can be induced quite fast. If you let her go—without any positive input—she'll “lock in” and spin and corkscrew right into the ground below—perhaps from 3,000 feet. Not a happy outcome.

So—you count the turns (usually 3 circles, at most) and put an opposite in and she'll recover and glide out. Meanwhile you might have lost 1,000 to 1,500 feet. So, no more than 3 turns at 3,000. On one airfield we used to glide across country until we had gained enough height directly over a house with an enormous chimney on the roof. If you lined the glider up just right you could turn and turn using the chimney as the turning point. You could look right down it. The wing tip would lazily revolve around the fixed point below. Wonderful. I bet the home-owner didn't appreciate all these gliders apparently falling out of the sky over him!

But, back to passenger planes. Seeing a sunrise over Australia or a sunset over any other country is magical. Serene. It's at times like these I never cease to be amazed we invented flying machines of such complexity (and beauty) which take us into another place above the clouds and landscapes far below. If you consider this—it's not a natural place to be—but God gave us such intellect and curiosity to do things like this. Let's hope and pray we might use this same intellect and curiosity to fix this world.

*Graham Bachtold*

## **Revd Daile Wilshere comes to Cleeve with Claverham**

On 14th July Daile Wilshere was licensed at Holy Trinity as the new House for Duty Priest in Charge for Cleeve with Claverham. She writes: I'm married to Paul and have two wonderful daughters: Rachel who lives in Weston and Rebecca who will be moving with us. We also share our home with two dogs: Charlie, a lively cockapoo and Betty, a border terrier who definitely thinks she's in charge. You might like to know that I came to faith at a youth mission in Weymouth back in 1984 led by Peter Hancock when he was a curate. I was ordained in Salisbury cathedral in 2009. Before ordination I was a nurse, specialising in palliative care and community nursing.



## **Yeo Valley Lions Club's annual Beer & Cider Festival**



Arrangements for Yeo Valley Lions Club's annual Beer & Cider Festival are now well in hand, so please make a date to attend this popular local event to be held over the weekend of Friday 12th and Saturday 13th September at our usual venue of Claverham Village Hall.

We'll have a selection of 25 real ales and a good cross section of local ciders, together with a Gin Bar (this year concentrating on South West gins) along with the usual selection of wines—and not forgetting our BBQ!

Music lovers are in for treat with Video DJ Mike King on Friday night and—back by popular demand—Abba Stars are our headline act on Saturday night.

Since the first Festival in 2003, we've raised over £120,000, the vast bulk of which has been for the benefit of local community on our various youth and welfare projects, eg helping local sports clubs, keeping our yellow minibus on the road, running our coffee mornings and lunch club meetings to name but a few.

If you would like to learn more about our club and what membership entails, please contact me for a 'free, no obligation' chat at a time and place to suit you.

*Jonathan Kelly, Membership Director for Yeo Valley Lions*  
01934 876131 <http://www.yeovalleylions.org.uk>

## Allan Charles Attwood

Allan was born in Hertfordshire in 1937. During WW2 his father served in the Royal Artillery and he and his mother were initially evacuated to Cornwall but soon moved back home. His two sisters, Rita and Myra were both born during the war. He recalled being sent to pick up their coal ration using an old pram! Although he did very well at school and passed the 11+, he did not go to grammar school or university—when he left school he started work in a London medical supply company.



Allan was very active— he was a scout, trained with Watford Harriers, was a good sprinter and rode with a cycle club. He also sang in a skiffle band and sometimes modelled for hair salons, he liked to dress well with a splash of colour in his outfits (something that lasted all his life). He loved his motorcycles, owning several in his youth. However, when he was called up for National Service he was found to have TB and subsequently spent years in a sanatorium, losing function in one kidney. He was the only long-term survivor from his ward.

After he recovered Allan returned to his original employer and took up studies in surgical technology. This involved scrubbing up and working with surgeons—no simulations then. Allan became very knowledgeable and popular with doctors and people he had to sell the equipment to alike. Around this time he met Diane—the love of his life—and they married in 1961 when she was only 17. They moved to Birmingham where Stewart was born in 1963 and soon afterwards Allan was offered a job in the south west. They moved to Binhay Road in Yatton in 1964 and in the following year their second son Simon was born. The family put down strong roots in the village and St Mary's, with Diane's brother—another Alan, his family and eventually her mother coming to live here. Stewart says, "We were lucky to live here and always felt loved and supported. He was a great role model for work and fun."

Allan worked incredibly hard, he was ambitious, dedicated and meticulous. In 1968, just after the family had moved to Stowey Road taking on a huge mortgage, he lost his job. But he just worked harder until the opportunities opened up again. He worked over a large area of the south west and Wales and sometimes the family

wouldn't see him for two weeks at a time, although he rang home most evenings. His work would eventually take him all over the world at the cutting edge of surgical technology. He managed many companies and was the CEO of at least two. His hunger for knowledge and new experiences was his defining trait.

Allan and Diane loved a quiz and the family often played Definitions with the Collins Concise Encyclopaedia. After the boys left home Allan and Diane often lived away from Yatton, staying for periods in Sheffield, Milton Keynes and Bournemouth.

Despite his work commitments Allan found time to take full part in village life. He was Chair of the Parish Council 1974-76 and served on Woodspring Council overseeing many important development like the Hangstones sports field. He was a Scout leader and a Governor for North Somerset NHS Trust. He was very active in the life of St Mary's becoming a Lay Reader there. He collected and restored antique clocks and became a keen photographer and gardener—apparently 'he loved a fuchsia'! When both boys were involved in the Weston Youth Orchestra, Allan chaired the twinning committee. He actively encouraged Stewart's career as a musician. He was very well known in Yatton, forging many great friendships over the years. He liked to laugh and liked to talk and enjoyed a pint with his pals in the Butchers Arms until the end. He loved his game of Wordle every morning with Jonathan who said he rarely beat him.

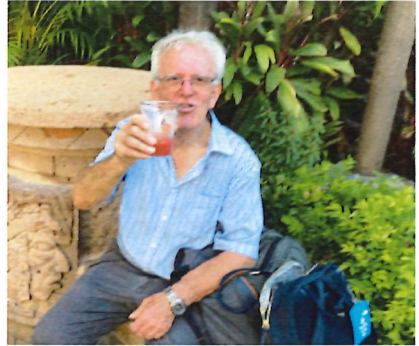
Allan was very much a family man and he and Diane loved being outdoors either in their garden or enjoying simple camping and caravan holidays with their sons when they were young. Even after the boys were grown up Allan and Diane continued caravanning and later also went on Mediterranean holidays with their wider family with whom they remained close. They were devoted grandparents to Cristy and Nell.

Very sadly in 2007, the family lost Simon to cancer. This was a massive blow to the family from which, as Stewart says, there is no recovery just acceptance and carrying on with gratitude for what went before. Then five years ago when Diane's health was rapidly deteriorating, Allan continued to care for her as long as he could before she went into Mendip Lodge. They had been together, and devoted to each other, for 64 years. In Stewart's words, 'Right until his last day Dad was thinking of others and planning each day carefully. A life of service and dedication to all he knew and did.'

*This article was taken from Stewart's eulogy at Allan's funeral. We are very grateful to him for letting us use it. Ed*

## Alan John Guard

Alan was born in Clevedon on 19 March 1946, the only child and devoted son to Gladys and Jack Guard. He enjoyed a happy childhood in Cleeve where he attended the little school in Goblin Combe and then Backwell school. After a short move to Claverham the family moved first to Winters Close, Worle then to 15 Wansbrough Road which later became Alan and Pat's marital home.



Alan's love of engineering led to employment at Avalon Factory as a mechanic, then when this closed in 1985, he worked for Unigate for several years before moving to Fairey Hydraulics in Claverham till his retirement.

Alan met Pat in the early 1980s whilst she was a hairdresser in Yatton, his mum was one of her clients. Love blossomed and he was welcomed into the big Ford family, which was probably a shock to him as an only child but like everything else in life he took it in his stride, not only coping with all the different personalities but becoming a son in law, a brother in law, uncle and great-uncle. The family have so many memories of Alan—his straight talking, his sense of humour, his support whenever needed and his best hair quiff ever! Alan and Pat were married at St Mary's on 8 August 1996 and they settled into their home in Worle.

As we all know, Alan was a very talented man. He loved his woodwork and some of his incredible pieces are here at St Mary's—his welcome sign and the wonderful clock in the Chapter House which was dedicated to his and Pat's parents. And of course he built the famous hand organ with the monkey on top which he played to great effect at different events like the Christmas Fayre and various festivals. When it was first played Alan surprised everyone by playing the *Pirates of the Caribbean* theme tune—everyone were expecting traditional barrel organ music! He also enjoyed making model planes and was a member of the Wick St Lawrence model aircraft flying club with his friend Tom. He loved his music and played the guitar. He went fishing, played Suduko and solitaire online, usually competing against his cousin Shirley. He and Pat enjoyed many wonderful holidays abroad especially in

America where they visited Disneyland. He liked gardening, DIY, plumbing, walking and cycling, eating out with Pat and the occasional Guinness!

The church became a big part of Alan's life, his faith was very important to him and he was confirmed at St Peter's Portishead in 2012. He was a much loved member of St Mary's congregation and attended regularly almost to the end. Before he became ill, he would help with many DIY jobs, sweep the car park, and fly the flag when necessary. On the last Saturday of the month when our coffee morning was held, he always put the tables out before cleaning the church then joining the visitors, enjoying the company and Beryl's home made cakes. He just quietly got on with any task which he saw needed doing, that was the sort of person he was.

Unfortunately, after their last holiday in America in September 2023, Alan started to feel unwell and eventually was admitted to hospital. From then on he was on oxygen 24 hours a day. Despite this he fought to carry on with Pat's devoted support, especially with attending church, which was an enormous challenge for them. Pat gave up work to look after him and her sister Sue and brother Nigel became regular visitors enabling Pat to have a break or do the shopping. They would sit with Alan, watch the television or a film, or discuss the news. Gradually as his mobility deteriorated he was confined to a wheelchair which made getting to church even more difficult but they made it through sheer determination. The last time he was here at St Mary's was on Palm Sunday when he joined the procession. On 27 April he suffered a stroke and was rushed to Southmead Hospital. On the following day Pat was called to the hospital urgently due to Alan's deteriorating condition and sadly he passed away later that day. Pat was supported by her sister Sue and Rev John Angle.

This article was based on the eulogy written by Pat and given by her nephew Robert at the funeral. In it, Pat and Sue thanked John for his support that day and also all the people who helped Alan during his illness and supported them during the most difficult of times.

We finish with Pat's words:

Alan you were very loved and respected by all who knew you. You are and will be greatly missed but we know you are at peace and take comfort that your suffering is at an end.

## Introducing Tessa Munt MP

Hello everyone, I am very grateful for the opportunity to write an article in your magazine. I plan to keep you up-to-date with my work in the local area, as well as in Parliament.

David and I joined you for a lovely warm afternoon at the School Carnival at Hangstones, and we enjoyed meeting lots of residents involved in local interest groups.



I've visited your Parish Councillors to listen to what issues matter to you, your families and neighbours. I've also enjoyed meeting lots of you over the last year at my 'surgeries', including those I run in Yatton every month. Thank you for coming to meet me, asking questions and sharing your concerns. If you'd like to speak with me, you can find details of the 'surgery' dates and times most local to Yatton and the surrounding area at the end of this article.

When I was elected last July, I wanted to focus on some specific health issues, especially the chronic health condition ME. In 2022 – three years ago – the then Secretary of State for Health initiated work on a cross-government Delivery Plan for ME. The current Government promised publication of a final Delivery Plan at the end of March, then the end of June and as I write this, I know the deadline for publication will slip again. People with ME are understandably worried that they are not being heard. I've written to the current Health Secretary, along with my 71 MP colleagues, pressing him to commit funds to research so this group can eventually find a cure. There's nothing they'd want more than to return to a 'normal' life and participate as active members of society. I find it extraordinary that up to 1.3 million people can be ignored, but sadly, we must wait to see what comes to address this great injustice. I'm certain I'll not be giving up!

I am also committed to improving the availability of up-to-date radiotherapy machines in the South West. NHS England has degraded the supply of radiotherapy over the last decade, and many cancer patients have to travel well over an hour for treatment. I'm carrying out research on the availability of radiotherapy across England and will push the Government hard to offer better access to modern services here in the West Country.

In Parliament, I've recently spoken in debates on:

- \* the use of different computer software systems—even in different departments in the same hospital—which can't 'talk' to each other, therefore compromising patient care
  - \* installing speeding devices in rural towns and villages
  - \* water safety and the need for everyone to learn to swim
  - \* the fifth anniversary of the Covid-19 outbreak
  - \* management of the contract for electronic tagging of prisoners once released
  - \* those excluded from the Government's infected blood compensation scheme;
- all matters which you have told me are important to you. I write to the Minister concerned to persuade them to take whatever action is required.

Every Tuesday is my Justice Committee Day. The Justice Committee examines the policies and spending of the Ministry of Justice. This includes courts, legal aid, prisons, probation and the rule of law. We are currently working on three Inquiries: tackling drugs in prisons, the capacity and resources of the Country Court, and rehabilitation and re-offending.

I will be running lots of 'surgeries' over the summer, so please feel free to come along to any one you wish. A full list is available if you call my office or email me. Often people ask "*what could my MP help with?*" I firmly believe the answer to that is "anything you want!" I am always happy to hear what matters most to you, whether it's local, national or global.

Some forthcoming surgery dates are as follows:

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August, 10:00-11:00, Congresbury Community Café**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August, 15:30-16:30, Coffee Bank, Winscombe**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August, 09:00-10:00, That Coffee Place, Yatton**

No appointment is necessary—it's first come, first served. If you can't come to meet me, I'll come to see you.

You can get hold of me in a number of ways:

Call: 01934 440639 (answerphone outside office hours)

Email: [tessa.munt.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:tessa.munt.mp@parliament.uk)

Post: Tessa Munt Freepost (you won't need a stamp!)

Thank you.

*Tessa*

## August Services at St Mary's

All services at St Mary's unless otherwise stated. As we now have Denise with us to arrange her own service patterns, we are unable to provide information beyond August but details of future services will of course be circulated when available. Group Services will usually be on 5th Sunday of the 4 months with five Sundays.

All services across our five churches will be available on our website:  
[yattonchurches.org](http://yattonchurches.org)

**1st Sunday: 3rd August**      **Trinity 7**

10am St John's, Kenn: **Joint Holy**  
Communion service for Yatton Moor

**2nd Sunday: 10th August**      **Trinity 8**

10am Holy Communion

**3rd Sunday: 17th August**      **Trinity 9**

10am Morning Prayer

**4th Sunday: 24th August**      **Trinity 10**

10am Holy Communion

**5th Sunday: 31st August**      **Trinity 11**

10am All Saints': **Group** Communion  
Service

### WEEKDAY SERVICES

Tues & Weds 8.15am Morning Prayer on  
Zoom (contact Mike Cooke) NB no  
Morning Prayer on 5th or 6th August.

9.30am Thursdays - Holy Trinity, Cleeve:  
Holy Communion 7th & 14th

Healing & Wholeness 21st & 28th

## Yatton Wellbeing Lifestyle Club

You will notice the change to our title—this is because Mendip Vale Medical Practice has withdrawn from our Partnership. However, as a group of volunteers, we are hoping to keep the sessions running and the next one will be on **25 September** at the Methodist Church Hall 10-12am, addressing the subject of *Falls Prevention*. So join us for an informative session run by the Age Concern team, who will give lots of useful advice and also information about their Stay Strong Stay Steady sessions.

On **23 October**, Val Dickens will give a talk on recognising cardiac arrest, applying CPR and describing how to use a defibrillator (this is with her other hat on—that of volunteer speaker for GWAAC, our local air ambulance!).

We look forward to your continued support and would also like to thank the Yatton Co-op for their generous help with refreshments.

Please come along, it's free and all are welcome.

For more information ring our co-ordinator, Liz Birch, 01934 834079

## QUIZ – SW

All the answers to this quiz have the initials SW.

Before you start, here is my tip of the 'day' - Set your wi-fi password to 2444666668888888. So when someone asks for it, tell them it's 12345678.

Former world no. 1 tennis player

Legless lizard often found in English gardens

BBC TV series featuring a team of forensic pathologists

The Dark Destroyer

One of the 'Gang of Four' who set up the SDP in 1981

Clevedon craft shop

1928 Disney animated short introducing Mickey Mouse

Monty Python 'ministry'

Phrase originating from cricket meaning a tricky situation.

His albums include 'Songs in the Key of Life' and 'Innervisions'.

Place where children's Christmas presents are made

The title character of the world's first feature-length animated film.

*The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* or *A Fistful of Dollars* perhaps.

Winner of X Factor 2005, he appeared in Coronation Street and *Strictly* 2024.

Wife of Prince Edward, now Duchess of Edinburgh but formerly known as.....

Championship football team

Drenched

English weight loss organisation

Phrase used when pouring someone a drink

American star of *Alien*, *Ghostbusters* and *Avatar*.

**Answers to Phrases:** Let sleeping dogs lie, honesty is the best policy, chop and change, keep to the left, in a nutshell, watch your step, get a move on, stand and deliver, call a spade a spade, get cracking, let the cat out of the bag, throw in the towel, barking up the wrong tree, cut to the chase, call it a day

## Mothers Union Programme Summer 2025

21 August — Summer Tea

18 September — Chat / Quiz

16 October — My Life in Grime—Tony Lewis

Any enquiries, please contact Ruth Summerell, tel 01934 832575



## THE YATTON MOOR TEAM MINISTRY

Website: [www.yattonchurches.org](http://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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