

# St Mary 's Church, Yatton Winter 2023-24



Photo courtesy of Chris Holloway

*No snow as yet in Yatton—but who knows...*

## Foreword

Winter. The trees are asleep and the days cold. Yet there is a warmth that refuses to die away because we find meaning and hope in our lives as we meet for worship and linger over coffee. Faces light up when we see each other. We are sustained by prayer, song and glimpses of God. We are nourished listening to God's word and by meeting around a table to share bread and wine in memory of Jesus, who is with us.

Change is coming. We say goodbye to Fran Binding and Nigel Thomas, the priests currently responsible for our churches, and we wish them well in their next steps. A brochure ('the profile') has been written to describe our five churches to a prospective rector. They will look us up and see what else they can find out. The reality needs to match the brochure well enough that we begin the new relationship of priest and people with openness and honesty.

An advertisement will be placed in the lifetime of this magazine issue. Now is the time to pray for someone to read it and to be excited by the thought of coming here, for them to be right for us, and for us to be ready for them. We have been sustained and even grown in our period of waiting, so let's be patient. It's important to get the right person, not just the first person who applies, so pray for those who will be interviewing and making the decision. Remember this person will oversee five churches and won't just be 'our vicar'.

We look for new growth and fruitfulness across two parishes, which will mean that each of us keeps using our gifts and time well. We may continue with everything we're now doing, or some things could even be set aside to make room for fresh mission. Change can be disturbing, but spring is always welcome after winter.

*Mike Cooke*

### **Hilfield Retreat 23-25 February**

Due to cancellations, there are still three spaces left on the Hilfield Friary Lent retreat 23-25 February. The cost is £150 full board + lodge. Lifts are available. Please contact Nigel direct on 01934 283340.



# Christmas at St Mary's

The annual Fayre on 25 November was a great success realising a profit of £2500. We were blessed with a fine day bearing in mind the wet weather we experienced in the autumn. Footfall was well up on the previous year and it was lovely to see so many families there.



Our Christmas Coffee Morning on 16 December was held in the Village Hall after the crush in the Chapter



House in 2022. We certainly enjoyed the bigger space with plenty of room for the band and visitors. £290 was raised for Caring at Christmas.

The Christmas raffle was duly drawn at noon and the first two prizes went to John Dickinson and Rod & Carol Adams who all live in Whitehouse Road!



The raffle raised £958 for the General Fund.

The photos show the bottle stall at the Fayre, the Village Hall and Dave James' band and the table filled with raffle prizes at the coffee morning.

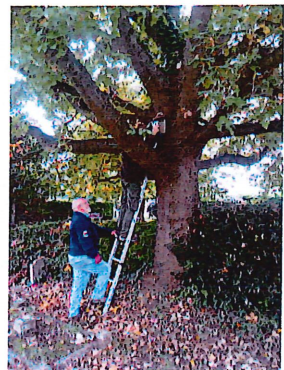
I would like to thank the very many people who helped and contributed to these events. It was much appreciated.

*Val Dickens*

## The things you have to do...

Most months a small group of people arrive in St Mary's churchyard and tidy it up. They usually time this to coincide with the monthly coffee morning (last Saturday of the month) to have a well earned coffee and cake.

The picture shows our unsung heroes (aka YACWAG volunteers) cleaning nest boxes in the churchyard early in October. A huge thank you to them for all the work they do during the year.



## **Lighthouse School update from Rev John Angle**

**M**any people in our local churches have been very generous in supporting the Hope Christian Trust's Emergency Appeal for Gaza.

The school the Trust supports has been damaged and a classroom on the ground floor has been hit and the room above it, see photo opposite. Otherwise, apart from blown out windows and shrapnel on walls, the building is standing. We have been able to pay staff (helped by your contributions) sending money to bank accounts which will enable them to buy food using their visa cards .

The school Principal had a very dangerous walk (avoiding snipers) to the school to process online the transactions. Some food is available but in very short supply meaning all only having one (not particularly nutritious) meal and a bottle of water a day. What is available is expensive (yes sadly there is a black market in a war zone!).

Humanitarian aid is only trickling in to the Gaza City and is grossly inadequate. It will only be possible to begin to think of helping staff to find a place to live and to repair the school and find again the students (we are sure many of them will have been killed amongst the 6,000 already killed) when the war finishes. Continue to pray for a cessation in violence and the war to cease and peace to prevail. Thank you for your support and prayers.

*John & Janet Angle*

### ***A prayer of hope and faith from a Muslim teacher in Gaza sent on Facebook to us (rough google translation)***

O God give us long life, and give us back many times what we lost.

And just as you came to Job (His family and those with him) give us the patience to wait in our troubles

O God we repeat—you are sufficient for us and you are the best disposer of our affairs, so please show us your promise.

“ So they turned back with a blessing from God and a bounty. No harm touched them and they followed the pleasures of God,

Dear God give us of your great bounty” (*quoting from Job*)

Oh God help our country and our people and change the situation for the better.

*If you were in a war, lost your home, daily listening to missile strikes and feeling hungry and cold would you pray to God with such confidence and hope?*



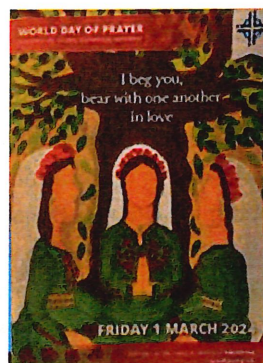


*An Israeli missile hit the wall of the Lighthouse School in Gaza City and burnt cars parked in the playground. The owners are sheltering in the compounds of the two churches.*

## **World Day of Prayer 1st March**

I imagine anyone would have said in past years—especially during the World Wars— that the World was in need of prayer. But this year, that sentiment will be very apposite in view of the terrifying conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine.

The 2024 World Day of Prayer (previously known as the Women’s World Day of Prayer) takes place on Friday 1st March at 2pm in Yatton Methodist Church and the service this year has been prepared by an ecumenical group of Christian women from Palestine, the land in which Jesus was born, ministered and died, where the Christian faith began and is rooted.



We alternate being the hosts with the Methodists and this year it is their turn. Pat Denny for St Mary’s has been involved with this service for many years. If you need any more information please contact her on 01934 838902.

## **Farewell to Fran and Nigel and Nickie**

Sadly on the 11 February, the Team will say goodbye to Rev Fran Binding who has been serving as a House for Duty priest in Kingston Seymour and Kenn since 2020. Fran is retiring to Bath where her daughter and her family live.

On Easter Sunday, 31 March, Rev Nigel Thomas leaves us. He and his wife Nickie will be much missed especially in Cleeve and Claverham.

We send them all our very best wishes for the future.

## Flying

I love flying. I've loved it since the day my dad paid 50 pence (10 shillings as was) for a pleasure flight from Croydon airport back in 1958. I was 9 at the time and it was in a very old bi-plane with open cockpits. The airport was literally just across the road from where we lived. I sat up front and it was quite windy and very noisy. I liked it when the plane hit an air-pocket.



When I was a young teenager I used to cycle up to Biggin Hill in the hope of cadging a free flight and I went up in an Air-Sea rescue helicopter from Manston. Since then I've been flown in and have flown a number of aircraft including a 2-seater Spitfire. This was a truly wonderful flight—we flew along the cliffs of Dover then down to sea level kicking up spray and then back up to 3,000 feet for an inside loop, a Victory roll and then a low-level pass over the aerodrome's grassy field. I took control and she was a dream to fly—so very responsive to little inputs. I have also flown a very shaky Gypsy Moth in New Zealand. I've been gliding and also I took a flight in a hot-air balloon. I have never flown a fast 2-seater jet but you never know.

Sitting in a huge airliner en-route to Singapore or Australia is a great experience but actually being at the controls is really something else because you can't relax while others do the work for you. You need to be vigilant at all times and especially tuned-in to what the radio is telling you. Around Bristol International airport there's sometimes military stuff passing through, helicopters popping up and the occasional EasyJet in-bound plus the no-go areas such as Hinckley Point. You just can't be detached from what's happening around you while flying a Cessna whereas on a wide-bodied passenger airliner you can eat, drink and sleep whenever you want.

I love flying through cloud because there's always going to be open sky and sunlight beyond when you emerge. It can be lovely. When flying locally – from the Suspension bridge and along the coast past Portishead and past the end of the pier at Weston (quite low) and then along the beach at Sand Bay (even lower still) thence towards Glastonbury Tor and then a little to port and following the new power lines towards Yatton (back up to 1,100 feet) – I occasionally take photos and video and one video shows our house but not in such detail as to see Barbara out on the patio waving.



Because a Cessna flies quite slowly it's easy to think the plane is stationary and the world is turning under us and I get a feeling of wonderment. The countryside—whatever the weather—is just full of green fields and winding tributaries and expanses of solar panels and numerous static caravans along the coast. So many. Flying is easy—it's the take-off and landing which can be a challenge—so, coming in with full flaps one hopes for a stall warning just before the bump of touch down and then we roll along the runway trying to get off before another EasyJet wants to use the space.

When in Church I see the sun fragmenting through the stained glass and it reminds me of seeing the shades of colour which are revealed when emerging from sporadic cloud. Very uplifting.

*Graham Bachtold*

## When we become a United Benefice...

At some point this year our Yatton Moor Team will be dissolved to be replaced by a United Benefice of Yatton, Kenn, Kingston Seymour and Cleeve with Claverham. Quite a lot of work has been done on designing a new logo and below are some suggestions. You will see that one version has the full Benefice name and the other a strapline which is derived from words in our Vision statement in the Profile. Feel free to comment on them and perhaps choose which you prefer. Please send your comments to me ([valddickens@gmail.com](mailto:valddickens@gmail.com)) or our churchwarden John ([bjdandjnd1@gmail.com](mailto:bjdandjnd1@gmail.com)). *Ed*



## **Tears of hope in Tegucigalpa**

*I was alerted to this very moving poem below by Clare, our Administrator. It's by Anita Simmons and was published in the Kingston Seymour village magazine last year. Anita has kindly given permission for us to reprint it here and has also written an accompanying short account of how it came about.*

Derelict buildings on desolate streets.  
Children are running with nowhere to hide.  
Nowhere to sleep, nothing to eat,  
No voice, No worth, No love, No hope.  
Condemned by society, wounded, abused.  
The tears of the night that no one can see,  
Begging for money, begging for food,  
Broken and lost, beaten and bruised.  
Ragged clothes and ill fitting shoes  
Of children rejected, abandoned and scarred.  
Inhaled yellow glue numbs the hunger and cold,  
Crime, gangs, addiction are yet to unfold.  
In a city of sprawling chaotic streets,  
And downtown markets where shoe cobblers sweat.  
Forsaken small children, with sores on their feet  
Scour the trash, seeking morsels to eat.  
Daily in teams, we take water and food,  
To the bridges and alleys, they know we will come.  
Under the grime, and the lice and the fleas,  
There are bright sparkling eyes and cheeky wide grins.  
They hide by the river, midst the rotting refuse,  
And animal viscera, from the street butcher's stalls.  
Sharing the bridge with stray dogs and a pig,  
Drinking the water of debris strewn sludge.  
There is gunfire, screaming, terror and dread,  
Danger and fear of police and from gangs.  
No child should witness the beatings and death,  
Or neglect, deprivation, shame or despair.  
We offer a home, a safe place to stay.  
We say "take our hand, we will lead you away".  
For the life that they live, it is so hard to part,  
But to leave them all here would just break my heart.



One child came, and put his hand into mine  
The smile on his face was purely divine,  
Today just one child to walk into the sun,  
Tomorrow, forever, our work must go on.

**Anita's story:** The subject of poetry competition in the Kingston Seymour village show last year was 'Write something that changed your life.'

A few years ago I spent a short time in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras. I was invited to work in an orphanage (although they did not exactly call it that— it was funded by a missionary church in America, and called The Micah House (from Micah 6:8, the verse commonly cited to compel people to act in times of injustice: "*Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God.*")

A young man called Darwin, who had been a street child, was working on a farm of friends in North Somerset, and he came to our church and we always stayed in touch. Darwin was one of a number of street children who found their way to the Micah House, and he excelled academically, went to University and had a year out from University to study Agriculture. We as a community in Kingston Seymour raised money on several occasions and sent this to the Micah house, and eventually I accepted the invitation to go and visit and work alongside the volunteers. Following my return, a young man called Daniel followed in Darwin's footsteps, and came to live with us at Yew Tree Farm.

It was truly a life changing experience, and my poem was the easiest poem I have written. It reflects very accurately the reality of life on the streets in Central America. This is just such a small part of the work that others do so selflessly, with generous hearts, and without fear, showing God's love for others.

*Our grateful thanks to Anita for letting us use the poem and her story.*

## **Tower Lighting**

The tower was lit to mark the following dates:

17 Nov – Remembering Peter James

18 Dec – Remembering Jack Guard (Dad) on his Birthday. Alan & Pat

25 Dec - Remembering Jack & Gladys Guard at Christmas from Alan & Pat

25 Dec - Remembering Nan & Ted Ford at Christmas from Sue, Alan & Pat & family

25 Dec - Remembering Paul at Christmas from Sue & family.

If you have a special event— anniversary, birthday, memorial etc which you'd like to mark in this way, please contact Clare at the Church office on 01934 832184

## **An August evening at Yew Tree Farm**

In the last magazine I promised to publish some photos of the lovely evening last August at Yew Tree Farm, Anita & Richard Simmons' home. Two of the games there



involved making a moving vehicle out of vegetables and building a church out of cardboard boxes. Here are the end results showing the winners! John Angle looks particularly pleased with his effort! *Ed*



## **Yatton Music Society**

On Saturday 3rd February Bristol's professional group, the Bristol Ensemble will be performing a programme entitled '*Viva Vivaldi by candlelight*'. Hopefully this not to be missed concert is already in your diaries having been advertised in the previous magazine. The programme will include a performance of the Four Seasons.

The concert on the 24th February will be given by the Rockhampton Wind Quintet – Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon and Horn. Their programme of short compositions will include works by Mozart, Elgar, and Sullivan.

On the 23rd March we will welcome the young Hungarian born violinist Boglarka Gyorgy who will be accompanied by Amy Butler. Boglarka is a graduate of the Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest and Amy a graduate of Oxford University. Their programme will include music to suit all tastes including popular classical, Gershwin and film music.

The concert on 20th April will be an Organ recital given by Richard Johnson who was an organ scholar at Oriel College, Oxford and is currently organist at Westbury-on-Trym Parish Church. The final concert of the season will be given on 18th May by Stephanie Gilbert [flute] and Helen Reid [piano].

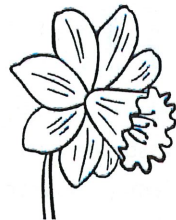
Concerts commence at 7.30pm at St Mary's and tickets cost £10.00 on the door [Students over 16 £5.00 and accompanied children free]

*Mike Blackwell*



# Yatton and District Horticultural Society

Our Spring Show will be held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March. The main event will be Spring Bulbs. The daffodils as always will take centre stage and are well worth seeing. Why not consider exhibiting something—there are nearly 90 different classes! As well as spring flowers there are classes for floral art, homecraft and handicraft including art classes and photography, to name but a few. If you have children or grandchildren there are also classes for them, arranged in age groups.



## Hints and Tips for Exhibitors

**Read the Schedule** carefully, especially the Show Timetable and Society Rules which can be found on pages 7 and 8 of the Schedule.

**New Exhibitors**, take the plunge, you may be surprised how well your entries measure up to the regular exhibitors.

**Start small** if you are new to showing don't be tempted to enter too many exhibits as preparing and displaying can be time consuming.

**Make certain** you have the correct class numbers of vegetables, fruit and flowers as well as the correct quantities and pot sizes according to the schedule for your exhibit.

**Vegetables and fruit** should be clear of insects, caterpillars etc, and root vegetables should be gently cleared of soil. Apples, pears and plums should retain their natural bloom with stalks intact. Also note that quality and uniformity is usually more important than size.

**Flowers**, make sure they are taking up water, wedge with newspaper to keep blooms in place leaving space between blooms.

**No Garden?** There are plenty of other classes including House Plants, Homecraft, Flower Arranging (Floral Art), Handicraft and Artistic classes.

**Most important:** Enjoy the day, chat to other exhibitors. It is a continual learning curve for everyone.

Tips for showing vegetables, fruit and flowers can be found in the RHS Show Handbook (a copy can be found in the gardening section of Yatton Library). Plenty of information can be found online. The Schedule of Classes will be available early February. If you would like more information please speak to me, or see our website:

[www.yattonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk](http://www.yattonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk)

*Stephen Thorne 01934 833813*

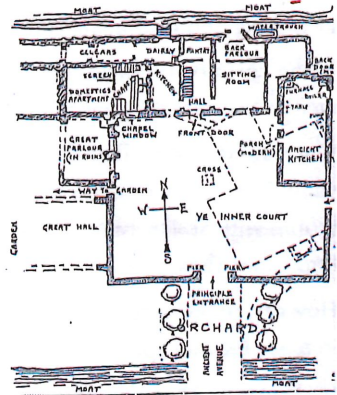
# Court de Wyck

Have you ever wondered why the name 'Court de Wyck' is used for Claverham school and the area around Claverham Village Hall?

Although probably the Wick family came from Nynhehead in Somerset, the name is associated with Wick St Lawrence (wick probably meaning 'bay of') which the Wick family also owned. The manor of Wick in Claverham included Claverham High Street, the area around the school and Bishops Road, as well as part of the Main A370 road up to Bickley.

The owner of the manor from 1086 was Giso, Bishop of Bath and Wells, then in 1338 it was John Wyck, followed by the Newtons in the 1400s and the Pouletts from south Somerset owned it through marriage for 200 years. Most of the time after the Newtons it was let to various families as a farm. In Yatton Church there is a tomb effigy to Eglina de Wyke and the Wick coat of arms is in the eastern chapel window high up on the left.

A house was built by the Wicks certainly in the 14th Century but possibly as early as 1280. It was described as a farmhouse in 1711 but was in ruins by 1799. Near the house was an avenue leading to a courtyard where later the arms of Poulett and Popham were displayed on an arch leading to the chapel with a bell. Fig 1 shows the site layout. There was also an orchard, probably to provide cider for drinking as the water was not suitable for this purpose.



Stephen Cox, a Bedminster tanner, bought the site for a tannery between 1815 -20. This would have been the time when Earl Poulett sold some of his estate to cover debts at the end of the Napoleonic Wars. The tithe barn became the tannery. There is a pond on site as a water supply is essential for a tannery. Interestingly Bedminster was still in Somerset at this time, being south of the river Avon.

The old house was mostly in ruins with only one room habitable. The Georgian house was built around 1820 by Mr Cox on the original site and incorporating some of the original features. The Doric columns of the present house came from the previous one (see fig 2). There were six bedrooms as well as other rooms and cellars.

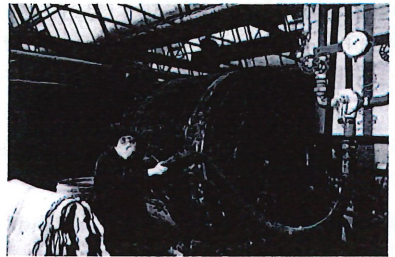




Some features including a door and its surrounds were removed and incorporated into the newly erected Cleeve Court. Also, after languishing in the orchard, the lions from the gate posts went to adorn the gateway at Brockley Hall.

Across the road is Bishops Farm and this was built by 1821 in the home ground by Elizabeth Ash whose family had farmed Court de Wyck later in the 1700s and early 1800s. By 1840 it was owned by the Smyth-Pigotts but notably the tenant was John Bishop (hence Bishops Road). The whole estate was auctioned and split up in 1909 by the Smyth-Pigotts.

In 1918 a Mr Milward and his two sons Leslie and Frank from Northampton took charge of the tannery. In 1928 the tithe barn used as the tannery burnt down with the loss of 100 jobs but it was rebuilt. It finally closed in 1970. Fig 3 shows a dye vat from the tannery. The sons eventually lived in two new houses in the 1930s, one on Bishops Road and the other on Brockley Way. Both houses were away from the prevailing wind and the smell from the tannery!



Imperial Tobacco subsequently had a research unit on the site investigating new materials for smoking and Fairey Hydraulics (aviation) followed. Among Fairey's designs were claws for helicopters to secure themselves to aircraft carrier decks. Seventy-seven eco-friendly houses incorporating solar panels have now been built on the site.

Much of the above information is available on Yatton Local History Society's website.

***Details of our next meetings are as follows:***

5th March: *Bristol in 1480* by Robert Jones

2nd April: *The citizens of Bristol at war* by Clive Burlton

7th May: *Arnos Vale Cemetery* by Alan and Jane Bambury

*Marianne Pitman*

## February-March Services at St Mary's

All services at St Mary's unless otherwise stated and some are subject to change

### 1st Sunday: 4th February – Second Sunday before Lent

10am Holy Communion

6pm *Holy Trinity*: Stories for Change

### 2nd Sunday: 11th February – Sunday next before Lent

10am Morning Prayer

### Wednesday 14th February – Ash Wednesday

7pm *Holy Trinity*: Team Communion with Imposition of Ashes

### 3rd Sunday: 18th February – The First Sunday of Lent

10am Holy Communion

### 4th Sunday: 25th February – The Second Sunday of Lent – NT at Hilfield

10am Morning Prayer

### Friday 1st March – World Day of Prayer

10am *St. Barnabas*: World Day of Prayer Service for Clevee & Claverham

2pm *Yatton Methodist Church*: World Day of Prayer Service for Palestine:  
For Yatton, Kenn & Kingston Seymour + Methodists

### 1st Sunday: 3rd March – Third Sunday of Lent

10am Holy Communion

### 2nd Sunday: 10th March – Mothering Sunday – Fourth Sunday of Lent

10am Morning Prayer

### 3rd Sunday: 17th March – Fifth Sunday of Lent

10am Holy Communion

### 4th Sunday: 24th March – Palm Sunday

10am Morning Prayer

4pm *Holy Trinity*: Holy Week Taizé Service

### Tuesday 26th March

6.30pm *Holy Trinity*: Stations of the Cross (tbc)

### Wednesday: 27th March

7pm St. Mary's: Music and Meditation

### Maundy Thursday: 28th March

9.30-11am Yatton Junior School Easter Celebration at St Mary's

7.30pm Holy Communion plus Vigil

### Good Friday: 29th March

2pm Last Hour at the Cross

### Holy Saturday: 30th March

8pm Team Service of Light and Ceremony of New Fire with Vigil

### 5th Sunday: 31st March – Easter Day – **CLOCKS GO FORWARD**

10am Easter Communion

## QUIZ - HAPPY NEW YEAR

*Abba had a hit with 'Happy New Year' but, you know, if Benny and Bjorn had been named Steve and Dave, they would have been called ASDA?*

*All the answers to this puzzle contain the word HAPPY, NEW or YEAR:*

### HAPPY

Card game

Sung by Bloody Mary in South Pacific

BBC crime drama starring Sarah

Lancashire

A reason to 'clap your hands'

1969 hit for the Edwin Hawkins Singers

The best ending to a fairy story

You can get cheaper drinks at this time

Phrase meaning free and easy

1967 hit for the Turtles

In as good spirits as Lawrence perhaps

A choice that avoids extremes

### NEW

Something you can't teach an old dog

Capital of India

Originator of daily Wordle

Duet sung by Aladdin and Princess

Jasmine

American boy band, 1980s to date

Hans Christian Andersen tale

This sweeps clean

Phrase meaning to make a fresh start

Former London prison

Force formed by Parliamentarians in

1645

### YEAR

1955 Marilyn Monroe film

Break taken by students after leaving school

Unit of length used to express astronomical distances

1969 hit for Zager and Evans

Fiscal period of time

Andy Williams' Christmas song

The Lantern Festival features in these celebrations

Frank Sinatra song which begins 'When I was 17...'

Dorothy Cotton - a very long time ago

1989 memoir by Peter Mayle of his time in France

Answers to last puzzle –Big Ben, Bill Bailey, brandy butter, Beach Boys, Blankety Blank, Basil Brush, boom boom, Betty Boothroyd, Brian Blessed, Big Break, baked beans, Boy Blue, Black Bess, Billy Bunter, Bristol Bears, bendy Bully, Bertie Bassett, Brooklyn Beckham, black box, Bobby Ball, Benjamin Britten, Brown Bomber, Brenda Blethyn, Big Bird, Beau Brummell, Big Brother, best before.

*Nancy Thorne*

11am *Holy Trinity: Shared Easter Day Service*  
followed by farewell to Nigel & Nickie

5pm St Mary's: Easter Songs + Readings + farewell message from Nigel  
followed by refreshments in Chapter House





## 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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