



"Down what lanes, across how many farmyards, nesting in how many valleys, topping what hills, and suddenly appearing round corners of what ancient streets - are the Churches of England? The many pinnacles in Somerset, brushed with lichen, spotted with saffron, their rings of five and six bells pouring music among the windy elm trees as they have poured their sound for centuries, still they stand, the towers and spires of the West." John Betjeman, 1948.

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Talking of towers, several members of Aisholt Community mounted our own tower to give a lusty rendition of the National Anthem in honour of Her Majesty the Queen's 90th Birthday. Evensong followed at 6.30 pm with yet another hearty singing of the Anthem to close the Service. We pray each Sunday at Matins for "Our most gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth."



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Members of our Parochial Church Council meet from time to time to discuss such weighty matters as Parish finances, maintenance of the Church building and, not least, promoting the mission of the Church. This sketch is by courtesy of one of its members, who wishes to remain anonymous! Along with the Rector who usually presides at the meetings, there are currently eight lay-members.

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If you have any memories of Aisholt Church which you think would be of interest to parishioners, please send to Peter Baker - 'Chedzoy', Aisholt, Bridgwater TA5 1AR.



ALL SAINTS, AISHOLT

AUGUST 2016

We hope you continue to enjoy receiving this newsletter from your Parish Church. One of our objectives is to build a bridge between the Church and those we don't see very often. So far, alas, not many have crossed the bridge, but "Let us hope for better things." [Mr. Bennet - Pride and Prejudice].

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One way in which you might help is by turning up in numbers at the Spaxton Summer Fête on Saturday, 6th August, and spending recklessly at the Aisholt Church Stall. There are some incredible bargains to be had.



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THOU SHALT NOT

Should you feel the urge to follow in the footsteps of Moses by climbing Mount Sinai (7,616 feet), you have our sympathy. You will need to use the 3,700 steps cut into the rock in order to reach the summit.

"And the Lord called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up. Exodus 19: v 20.





So, who was this Saint who is reputed to have pulled the devil by the nose? None other than our very own Somerset Saint, St. Dunstan. Born at Baltonsborough, (five miles south-east of Glastonbury) circa 910, he took Holy Orders in 943 and subsequently became Abbot of Glastonbury and later Bishop of London, and finally, Archbishop of Canterbury, no less. Can any of our readers translate the Latin for us ?

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Did you know that Thomas (Cardinal) Wolsey was once Parish priest of this Church at Limington ? The parish is now part of the Ilchester Benefice. He went on to become a powerful influence in all matters of Church and State.



Limington, St. Mary the Virgin

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Should one view the crucifix as a symbol of utter defeat or of the greatest victory ever known ? That there are some 2.2 billion Christians in the world today, suggests the latter. Crucifixes are not common in all Churches: Some prefer a plain Cross as a statement that Christ is Risen ?



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Said to be the smallest medieval church still in use, St. Bueno's at Culborne is not far from us - just five miles west of Porlock Weir. St. Bueno was born in Powys, educated and ordained at Bangor, and died in 640 or thereabouts. Not easy to get to but, never-the-less, attracts countless tourists every year.



SERVICES DURING AUGUST

SUNDAY, 7th	11 a.m.	Holy Communion
SUNDAY, 14th	6.30 p.m.	Evensong
SUNDAY, 21st	11 a.m.	Matins
SUNDAY, 28th	11 a.m.	Matins

We hope you will be able to join us at one or more of these Services. Looking ahead to September, there will be a Harvest festival Service on the 25th. A bientôt. Hasta pronto !

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Most medieval Churches had a door in the North Wall; some say it was an egress for evil spirits to escape following their exorcism during baptism. Such doors (known as 'Devil's Doors') were mostly blocked up as superstitious nonsense following the Reformation. We had one at Aisholt - now converted into a window. Which begs the question, "How did gremlins invade the Organ on the morning of 19th June during Matins, cutting off its electricity supply?" Fortunately our Churchwarden Peter Baker was more than a match for them, vigorously pumping the Organ by hand., as in the old days.

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Εγω ειμι το αλφα και το ω, λεγει κυριος
I am the alpha and the omega, says the Lord

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Our churchyard is a haven for flowers and wildlife as well as being the resting place for many of our ancestors. It is the policy of the Parochial Church Council for environmental reasons to leave most of the grass uncut until the spring flowers have set their seed - usually at the end of May.

The church yard is then strimmed at intervals sufficient to permit access to memorials and keep unwelcome weeds at bay, whilst also maintaining a friendly habitat for flora and fauna.

