Quantock Group Ministry

Quantock Good News!

Autumn 2026

Group Ministry Events from around Quantock Deanery

Welcome to the final edition of Quantock Good News on paper. From the next edition, QGN will be circulated by email, with a few printed copies made for those who need them.

It was great to meet as a Group Mission Team (GMT) earlier this month. The GMT is a group of people from across our Deanery who meet to think strategically about mission. Please do find out who your two Benefice reps. are and ask them about their experience as part of the GMT.

Revd Mark Phillips, Area Dean

Pilgrimage



On a very hot day in mid-July, a group of intrepid walkers set out to walk between Holy Wells in the Quantock Deanery. Members of the churches from across the deanery met at St Decuman's Holy Well in Watchet, joined by Bishop Fiona.



Their aim was to walk across the Quantock Deanery taking in coast and country to finish at the Holy Well of St Andrew's, Stogursey. It was a chance to step outside daily life and enter a space of spiritual reflection while journeying together in pilgrimage.



The group set off with prayers and good wishes from those gathered and began their walk. Along the way they sang, prayed, chatted and admired the beauty of



Bishop Fiona holding a cow to represent St Decuman



their surroundings. There were a few adventures and some challenges - a pilgrimage can be a bit like life, full of unexpected turns, a few setbacks and great opportunities. But by working together as a team, staying positive, and walking with God, they arrived at their destination six hours later, tired, hot but with a huge sense of accomplishment. Speaking afterwards, Bishop Fiona said, "I really enjoyed experiencing the varied coast and countryside of the Quantocks as well as meeting and talking to those who walked with me on the journey and to those who met us - and fed us - at each stop."

Music weekend

During the first weekend in June, we welcomed RSCM Director, Hugh Morris, to lead a series of events as part of a weekend which celebrated music in rural churches.



On Friday evening, Hugh led a workshop for local organists exploring aspects of service accompaniment before giving an entertaining and engaging recital on the organ of St Andrew's Church, Stogursey. On Saturday, Hugh led a thought provoking and wide-ranging discussion on the challenges and opportunities of music in smaller and rural churches, sharing plenty of wisdom and positive suggestions. His time in the deanery concluded with an uplifting 'Come and Sing' demonstrating that music in rural churches can be diverse and creative, with plenty of possibilities for introducing something new to enhance our worship – and that anyone can be a leader!



Evensong at Stogumber The final event of the celebratory weekend was a Festal Choral Evensong led by Stogumber Church Choir, joined by members of the Quantock Deanery Singers. Those who attended any part of the weekend went away inspired, with fresh ideas to share with others and explore further in the weeks and months ahead.

Quiet Day - Flourishing as a multi-Parish Benefice



This year's Deanery day at Hill House was led by Sharon Roberts. She brought together her experience as Head Teacher leading a group of schools into a new academy, as a member of clergy in a multi-parish Benefice, as a researcher at St John's University, York and as a priest with a deep pastoral concern for the flourishing of every Christian in every Benefice.
As Sharon led us through the day, we moved from describing our Benefice through reimagining and expanding the view of parish, place and building to looking at sharing our calling as a community and in our community and in that shared identity to our commitment to mission. We began to understand the importance of words - is it 'the benefice' or 'our benefice' and the need for individual churches to be set free from doing everything. We began to think 'where is God already working and can we join in ?' And how doing one thing well would bring us life.
As this short note suggests, Sharon has started us thinking about the next steps in our journey as individual Christians, as churches, as benefices, and as a Group Ministry and Deanery. We shall need to find ways of expanding the day into all of our lives.

Praying in daily life

A small group from around the Deanery along with Julia Hill met fortnightly to look at different ways to pray using stones, Gospel stories and finger labyrinths. We thought too about introducing prayer into our daily lives.

Would you be interested in joining a monthly Bible Book Club, exploring some of the shorter books of the Bible?

Please register your interest with the QVB Benefice Office: qv.benefice@gmail.com

Prayer Moment

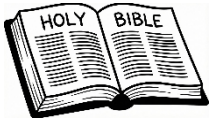
Introduced as part of the Deanery's response to the Diocese year of especial focus on prayer, the Prayer Moment encourages us to stop and pray at 8pm on a Thursday evening. Will this stay with us beyond the year?

Deanery Mission Project

Celebrate the conclusion of the 2026 project and hear about the project for 2027 – 31st January 2027 at Nether Stowey Church Centre.

Deanery Choral Evensong

Bible Sunday



Sunday 25th October at 3pm
At St Mary's Church in Cannington

Preacher: The Dean of Wells, the Very Revd Toby Wright.

We also welcome the Deanery Singers to the service with organist John Bodiley

Bishop Michael's Autumn Visit

Wednesday 25th November

7.00pm-9.00pm

Church House, Crowcombe

Thinking about where to go next, building on our prayers and enabling them to shape our ongoing mission and action.

News, discussion, and biscuits! All welcome.

RSVP via the online form or Deanery Sec - Helen Greenwood quantockdeanery@gmail.com

Are you looking to be confirmed?

Confirmation

Sunday 29th November
at
St Audries Church,
West Quantoxhead

10.30am
with Bishop Nigel Stock

including readings, hymns and prayers for Advent Sunday.

If you are interested in being Confirmed, please speak with *Revds Nicky, Alison, Mark or Eleanor*

Advent Carol Service

From Darkness to Light



Monday 30th November

at 6:30pm

at St Andrew's Church, Stogursey