



# TODAY

The Parish Magazine for the Exe Valley Mission Community

April - May 2020

Price 50p

## WHO KNOWS? GOD DOES!

Well I've had to ditch what I was going to write and come up with something new. I had half written a little quiz. In light of recent events, I have had a change of heart. I can save the quiz for later. After all we might need something to cheer ourselves up with, in a few months' time. But in the meantime, there is only one thing that I know is on everyone's mind – Coronavirus.

My hairdresser came yesterday. She told me tales of panic buying. I have a few tales of my own. And although I don't want to stockpile pasta, loo rolls or anything else, even as I am writing this, I am tempted to do a massive online shop – just to make me feel better, more in control. That's the problem. I feel out of control. We feel out of control. I cannot help but think, after all those months of pontificating about our need to 'take back control' the reality is, in situations like this, we can't. We cannot remove ourselves from the rest of the world. We are part of it. Of course, some

of us may have to self-isolate. Some of us may feel isolated anyway. In our small village communities, we need to watch out for each other, share what we have and try and help those in need. I know this already happens in so many cases. Thank you to all of you who are such good neighbours.

There is nothing very much any of us can do other than be sensible and follow good advice, which we are doing in all our churches.



Actually, there is something we can and should do. It is probably the most important of all. Pray! We can do that wherever we are, whether we are alone, or with others. I believe that even though

things may seem out of control, God is in control, and although things seem uncertain, we can trust in God's love and care for each one of us.

*Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy,  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate  
us from your love,  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

*May you know God's love and protection,*

*Steph*

Please look at the website for any updates regarding health guidelines for churches, or changes to events and services.

Please read additional information from Steph on Page 3, 4, 5 and 10

Copy Deadline for June / July 2020 issue

Monday 11 May 2020

**THE EXE VALLEY MISSION COMMUNITY**  
Calverleigh, Cruwys  
Morchar, Loxbeare,  
Oakford, Rackenford,  
Stoodleigh, Templeton,  
Washfield and Witleigh  
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**EDITORIAL**

I am sure you will all want to join with me to say a big thank you to Jenny & Geoff for their stalwart efforts over the last six years producing the Today magazine.

Taking this on has been a steep learning curve for me and I ask you to please be patient while I do my best to follow in Jenny's footsteps

"Here is the amazing thing about Easter; the resurrection for Christians is this, that Christ in the dying moments on the cross gives us the greatest illustration of forgiveness possible"  
T D Jakes

Hoping you all keep safe during this time of uncertainty.

Dawn

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**FROM STEPH ... ..**

**PRAYER BREAKFASTS**

**Come and meet to pray over a Croissant and Coffee on 25 April and 30 May 9am in The Rectory, Withleigh**  
**During this time of Coronavirus uncertainty consider these events cancelled but please refer to the website for updates.**



**Sing Praise!**

**Come and join us for 'Sing Praise!'**

**Usually on the 3rd Thursday each month. During this time of Coronavirus uncertainty consider these events as cancelled but please refer to the website for updates.**



**PRAISE PARTY!**

**Come on and Celebrate All Age worship for All Ages!**  
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**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN FOOTPATHS & PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY IN WASHFIELD PARISH?**  
 Devon County Council is carrying out a review of public rights of way in the Parish of Washfield.

You are invited to  
**Washfield Parish Public Meeting to open the Definitive Map Review on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2020 at 7.30 pm, at Washfield Memorial Hall**  
 A short talk will be given about the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way and how changes can be made. For further information contact Mrs T Weeks, Devon County Council. Telephone 01392 382833. Email: [pro@devon.gov.uk](mailto:pro@devon.gov.uk)

**EXE VALLEY WEBSITE**

[www.exevalleychurches.org](http://www.exevalleychurches.org)

It's the best place to go for updates about what's on and what we do.

A recent addition to the website is a monthly **Prayer Diary** with a topic to pray for, each day of the month.



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**FROM STEPH ... ..**



**On Your Marks,  
Get Set,  
Go !**

**Wednesday 5 to Friday 7 August  
At Calverleigh Parish Hall  
10.30am - 3.30pm  
All primary school age children welcome**

This year our Bible teaching will be learning about Jonah through activities which will include talks, drama, singing, prayer, crafts, games and more.

**'Prayer with a Bear' from 10.30 -11.30 for those with under 5's.**  
You are also welcome to stay and join in as we start our activities with songs and fun.

If you have any time to spare and would like to help please contact Cindy on 01363 866621. All volunteers over 16 need a DBS check. Please do not be put off by this, it is a simple process which I can do with you and lasts 5 years.

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**FROM STEPH ... ..**

*Christ with me,*

☘ Christ before me,

Christ behind me, ☘

**CHRIST IN ME, CHRIST OVER ME,**

*Christ to right of me,* .....

..... **CHRIST TO LEFT OF ME,**

**CHRIST IN LYING DOWN. CHRIST IN SITTING.**

.....  
*Christ in rising up, Christ in the heart  
of every person who may think of me,*

Christ in the mouth of every  
person who may speak of me,

**CHRIST IN EVERY EYE,**

**WHICH MAY LOOK ON ME!**

**CHRIST IN EVERY EAR, WHICH MAY HEAR ME!**

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- st. patrick's breastplate -

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## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### 'TODAY' 50 years ago

April / May, 1970

Easter had been early, and particularly cold, and the editorial also bemoaned the fact that supermarkets had opened on Good Friday. The Rector's article questioned changing tastes in fashion (amongst other things), and whether mini-skirts were appropriate in church. Moral standards appeared to be in decline. Deep gratitude was recorded to the farmers who looked after 'parish sheep', and the contribution this made to maintaining our church buildings. A degree of neglect over the years was now resulting in substantial repair bills. The value of public demonstrations was questioned, particularly in respect to farmers causing traffic chaos with parades of slow-moving tractors. The grievances being born in frustration by the farmers were wholly understandable, but was there not a better and more effective way of highlighting any organisation's problems?

At Oakford, repairs and repainting of the east end of the church were completed in time for Easter. The Oakford Girl Guides were out to do their bit in the Guides Jubilee year, including a spurt in interest badges. The local football team was congratulated on having had a wonderful season.

Rackenford was witnessing an increase in interest from young people wanting to join the choir. Both Rackenford 'A' and Withleigh 'A' reached the semi-finals of the Junior Quiz matches, but were unfortunately drawn against each other. Bragging rights for the semi eventually went to Rackenford, but sadly they were narrowly beaten by Crediton in the final.

With new houses being built in the village, the Stoodleigh Beacon focussed largely on the relative costs of septic tanks and mains drainage which was far more expensive per household.

Templeton's population continues to grow, with more children attending family services in recent months. A publication, "Jottings of Templeton and District" recorded similarities in surnames and house names in the local Templeton and Templeton in Pembrokeshire.

The Washfield village outing was planned for Paignton, in July at an adult fare of 6/6d (32½p).

Withleigh's last three services had featured, not only a choir, but an orchestra as well. A Country Market in Tiverton in June was being planned.

*Paul Iliff*

## NATURE NOTES

The Chinese New Year, fittingly the year of the rat, has not started well. We are asked to believe the star sign is auspicious and relates to quick thinking and success, added to a contentment and satisfaction with life.

However, experience dictates that we do well to mistrust and dislike these animals given their propensity to threaten man with an ability to spread vile diseases. However you would have thought that there was time enough since 1348 for us to learn to wash our hands and that coughs and diseases spread diseases.

Clearly we have not sufficiently ascended the evolutionary scale to be able to trust others when it comes to the health of ourselves or computers.

Ratty from the Wind in the Willows is 112 years old and was inspired by part of the Fowey estuary rather than [unfortunately] a Devon river. However we are comforted by the current belief that he was probably a water vole.

We have been charmed by many generations of short tailed voles where we live, and we hope we have added value to their short lives. They are voracious vegetarians and follow the same track from field to back door and shed. Their ancestors saw fit to gnaw a hole in our food caddy and the descendants continue to steal peelings before delivery to the compost heap. Naturally they prefer the freshest and juiciest portions of green veg. with herbs being their most prized choice especially if aromatic. We have seen them positively quiver with excitement if they come across a discarded basil leaf.

Mistakenly I chose to winter the spring bulbs in pots in the shed that they frequent [the first time in this location] and they have chosen to add to their diet. When I brought the pots out the surfaces were much disturbed and bulb husks littered the soil. Local gossip suggests many have suffered the same decimation in this year of the rat and voles have been blamed.

If readers believe the evidence to be somewhat circumstantial I am happy for Nature to judge. The owls are very wise and very near . . . . .

*Thomas More*

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# LIGHTHOUSE NEWS

## Proclaiming the Gospel since 1988 By serving Him, we are serving you

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life".  
John 8:12 (NIV)

It is now official. Not only is the shop called Lighthouse Christian Books and Cafe, so is the charity that runs it. We have managed to change the registered name from New Creation Christian Book and Coffee Shop, but have kept the same registered number.

The constitution of the trust stays the same, with only the addition of the name change, as do our aims. We want to be a Christian presence on the high street, ready to serve all who come into the shop and helping to spread the Good News of Jesus to all who are willing to listen.

We look back with fondness to the "old" shop at No 58 and recognize the wonderful work that was done there serving the Lord for just over 31 years. But the move to No 13 was a new start, hence a new name. We just hope and pray that, with God's help, we can build on the legacy of New Creation as we move forward to face the future.

Having been a member of the original small prayer group given a vision for a Christian Book and Coffee Shop back in 1987, part of the leadership team of New Creation right from its beginning in October 1988, and a trustee when it became a Charity in 1997, Maureen Rendell has decided to take a step back. At our meeting in early December she told us that, after much prayer, she was resigning from her role as a trustee and from the leadership team.

However, the desire to see everyone given an opportunity to meet the love of the Lord in an everyday environment is still very much on her heart and she will continue to support the work of the Charity as much as she can. For more than 31 years she has served the Lord by working in most areas and will be missed. We pray that she will enjoy her "retirement", although God may lead her in another direction in the future!

It has been decided to amend our opening hours and close at 4:30 pm on Mondays to Fridays. We have very few customers after 4:00 pm so this seems a sensible move. However, it will be kept under review and as the evening get lighter nearer Easter, we will reconsider staying open till 5:00 pm again

And with Easter coming, do not forget that we stock a range of Easter cards and the Real Easter Egg. We will also have material for your church's, or home group's, Lent Course, etc.

*With every blessing,*

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# CALVERLEIGH

With signs of new life all around us we look forward to Easter and celebrating the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour.

It was with sadness that we learnt of the passing of Julie Hugo, who had lived in the village for many decades. She had been quite poorly for some time but was always so positive about her illness and enjoyed her little strolls over to the Village Hall when she was able to. Our condolences, thoughts and prayers go to her family and friends at this very difficult time and to anyone else who is grieving the loss of a loved one.

If you have been feeling unwell, waiting for or receiving treatment we hope that you are now feeling much better and that life is improving for you. We ask that God will bless you and that you make a full recovery.

On Sunday 1 March we welcomed Loxbeare and Washfield for our Cluster Service led by Steph and in the afternoon the latest Praise Party was held in the Village Hall. The Praise Party was the busiest yet, with a story read by a local children's author (Steph!), a play, craft activities and lively music with actions! It was quite a busy day for many people - thanks to all who came along and all those involved in organising it.

We have started a monthly two hour time of prayer that takes place on the first Saturday of each month. If you feel that this is something that you would like to join in with please see the poster at the back of the Church which also outlines future dates. People taking part are encouraged to pray wherever they feel comfortable. Prayer suggestion sheets will be on or near the font in the week leading up to the day.

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

Over 20 people came along to our Informal get-together on March 8 where we enjoyed sweet and savoury snacks (thanks to those who contributed) along with tea, coffee and conversation. This gathering is open to everyone, and is an opportunity to meet up for fellowship and a chance to catch up with those neighbours and friends that you may not see very often. Details of our next one can be found in the Coming Up section.

Our congratulations go to anyone who has celebrated a special birthday/new arrival or anniversary in the past couple of months. If you would like a personal mention for a special occasion please contact Dave Burton so that we know your permission has been given. Coming Up...

The APCM will this year be on 30 March in Church starting at 7pm. All are welcome to attend.

The next of our Monthly Time of Prayers will take place on Saturday 4 April between 9am and 11am. If you wish to take part, you can pick up prayer suggestions from the Church or download them from our website. If you wish to make specific prayer requests, please put them in the suggestion box on the font in the church.

On Easter Sunday, April 12, we have no service at Calverleigh but we have a Cluster Service at Washfield Church at 10.45am. Please join us to celebrate our risen Lord and Saviour.

We are holding a Fun Family Bingo on Sat 18 April, at Calverleigh Village Hall in aid of Church funds. Doors will open at 6.30pm, for eyes down at 7pm. The event will include Children's prizes, half time refreshments & draw, all in aid of Calverleigh Church's Window Restoration Fund. Donations of draw prizes would be

very welcome. For more information contact Maureen on 258770. (You can download a poster from the website)

Our Spring clean morning will be taking place on Saturday 25 April from 9am. If you are able to join us even for a few minutes, please bring along a bucket, cloth and brush. Hot water, detergent and polish is provided and as many hands make light work all offers of help will be greatly appreciated. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available.

On Saturday 2 May our Annual Day of Prayer will take place between 9am - 9pm. A sheet with available times will be on the font soon for you to choose your 30 minute slot. You can pray wherever you feel comfortable at your chosen time; this does not have to be in the Church. Prayers suggestion sheets will be handed out closer to the day (and will be available on the website). For more details contact Aubrey or Jackie.

Our next Informal get-together takes place on Sunday 24 May and you are all very welcome to join us.

Our Annual Calverleigh Duck Race will take place on Monday 25 May from 3pm at Lurley Bridge. This will be followed by refreshments and award presentation at Calverleigh Village Hall. Ducks will be available to purchase from the PCC closer to the date.

On Saturday June 27 we are holding a Fun Day at the Village Hall starting in the morning with a Car Boot Sale (no commercial or food/drink sellers). There will be a display in the hall of parishioners memories and photo's of past village life, a cake stall, produce and competitions. Breakfast will be served throughout the morning. In the evening a social with family friendly games/quizzes/dancing and bring and share supper is being

organised. You can join with all of it or just sit, relax and watch the fun. More details will be available soon.

Our Annual Open-air Service will take place in the Churchyard on 12 July, weather permitting.

The Calverleigh Produce Show returns on 29 August, bigger and better than ever. Details of categories and deadlines will be available from April, but pop this date in your diary now so you don't miss out on a chance to win a nice rosette.

### Cleaning Rota

23 Mar / 4 Apr Mrs M Herniman  
6 / 18 Apr Mrs M Furneaux  
20 Apr / 2 May Mrs J Goldsworthy  
4 / 16 May Miss S Goldsworthy  
18 / 30 May - Mrs A Webber  
1 / 13 Jun - Mrs R Tapp

### Altar Flower Rota

LENT - No altar flowers  
12 / 19 Apr Mrs M L Ravnkilde  
26 Apr / 3 May Mrs L Thomas  
10 / 17 May Mrs N Burton  
24 / 31 May Mrs R Tapp  
7 / 14 Jun Ms L Carrey

### Mowing Rota

6 / 18 Apr A Goldsworthy  
20 Apr / 2 May D White  
4 / 16 May The Webber Family  
18 / 30 May C Durnan  
1 / 13 Jun K Hayes

**Have we missed anything?** If there is something that you think we should have mentioned, or you have something for inclusion in the next Magazine, please contact Dave Burton 01884 561499 or calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org and get the latest on the website at: [www.exevalleychurches.org/calverleigh](http://www.exevalleychurches.org/calverleigh)

*continued overleaf* ➔



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# PARISH ROUND-UP

## CRUWYS MORCHARD

The new service times are now in force, please read the centre pages.

A massive thank you to everyone who helped Jess raise £500+ for her African Adventure at a Coffee Morning in the Cruwys Arms on Friday 21 February.

It is now LENT, the run up to EASTER, which is the principle festival of the Christian Church commemorating the Resurrection of Jesus after his death upon the cross three days earlier. The earliest recorded observation of an Easter celebration comes from the 2nd Century. Easter Sunday this year is 12 April. AGM in the Church 7.30pm Thursday 2 May 2020.

### FLOWER and CLEANING ROTA

In LENT we have no flowers in the Church

30 March	Cindy Trick
6 April	Decorators for Easter
13 / 20 April	Denyse Standen and Jo Hilton
27 April / 4 May	Carole Chisholm and Jackie Mitchell
11 / 18 May	Diana Vincent and Val Randerson
25 May / 1 June	Marian Kingdom

The Mowing Rota – please ring Guy Cruwys.

**CRUWYS MORCHARD YOUNG FARMERS**  
Members took part in the Exe Valley Group Drama Competition and came a very respectable second place with Jess Kingdom winning Best Actress. Gracie Rice won Junior Member of the Year and Jess Parkhouse came second. Layla Hill came second in Senior Member of the Year.

Members also competed in the County Round of Commercial Dance and came second. On Friday 6 March members had Drama and Commercial Dance re-run in the Parish Hall, for members aged 10-14, they were brilliant.

The Club have held Bingos in January and February which were well supported. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month at the Parish Hall, please come along if you are interested in becoming a member.

### YOGA

Yoga continues every Thursday morning in the Parish Hall. It is split into two groups, the first at 9.30am-10.55am, which is a general Hatha class. The second 11.05am-12.30pm, a similar class set at an easier more gentle pace. For further information ring Hilary 01363 866245. hil.tosdevin@btinternet.com

### CRUWYS ARMS GARDENERS

4 March - Thirteen members and guests attended. The topic being Herbaceous Borders.

Clare Penny read quotes from Gertrude Jekyll's book on colour schemes for gardens. Gertrude Jekyll was a proponent of drifts of colour in borders starting with grey and glaucous melding into blues and pale yellow, then stronger yellow orange and red, then the reverse fading back to grey. This of course encouraged some enthusiastic debate! We also moved on to discuss one colour gardens which we felt were very limiting unless it related to divisions in a very large garden. The use of annuals in a perennial or shrub garden can add some exciting colour variations, the use of Cosmos being a particular favourite.

The tour of members gardens has been set for Puddington on 24 May and Pennymoor on 31 May

Pauline Guscott is going to give a talk on flower arranging on Wednesday 1 July.

We are also seeking a speaker on 'The Importance of Insects in the Wildlife Garden'.

A visit to Docton Mill and Hartland is planned for 10 or 17 June and also a trip to Rosemoor.

At our February meeting 7 members attended.

Vine and Jonathan kindly donated two gardening books which will remain in the Cruwys Arms for people to use as a reference. Clare Penny kindly distributed some of her home grown lemons.

We discussed pruning fruit bushes, hellebores and bread and butter pudding with lemon curd!

Plant sales at Sonia Notley's on 31 May and Puddington on 24 May.

### CRUWYS MORCHARD PARISH HALL.

Friday 3 April, the Parish Hall will host Cleverly Everly a Tribute Band recreating the music of the Everly Brothers. The Hall AGM was in mid March.

### THE ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW

The Annual Flower Show will take place in the Parish Hall on Saturday 8 August.

Please take a look at our schedule, as we have many new classes this year. We would like to welcome and encourage new exhibitors, to ensure we have another great show. The buckets are now available for children, under 16, who would like to grow their own potato. If you live in the Parish and would like a schedule, please contact Pauline. Any questions, or help with exhibiting your entries, please contact Pauline Guscott 07968 101121 or email. pauline.8@hotmail.co.uk

### COMMUNITY COFFEE/TEA CAKE and CHAT

Tuesday 14 April 2020 at 10am-12noon in the Parish Hall, free for ALL ages. Raffle. It will be lovely to see everyone there. To book ring Sonia: 01363 866864.

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## All Change

At the time of writing this, I realise that everything – absolutely EVERYTHING – is uncertain. However, we need to keep our worshipping community together. Firstly, I would encourage those who have access to the internet to refer to the website, to see if events are happening. Alternatively, please leave a message on Dawn Williams' email or phone. (Her details are at the front of the magazine)

To keep in touch with our worship pattern, we can send you a reflection on our Sunday Lectionary readings to use at home. This will enable us to learn together – even though we may be apart! If you would like to receive this by email please contact your warden or Dawn or the church office or let us have your address and we will post it to you.

All of our churches are open during the week. Please come to them. Sit, be still, and pray. Feel welcome to spend time in your church, a holy place. Every week, each church will have a prayer focus (a prayer station), which people can use as and when they like.

Please let me, or your Church Wardens know of anyone who is in distress or difficulty. I will have slots available in the week to visit (if allowed) or to chat by phone.

I would like to suggest that, at this time, if it is possible, we do these things, as a Mission Community:

Mid-day Light a candle and say a prayer for those on your heart, and then say the prayer on the front of the magazine.

Evening Light a candle and say the Prayer of St Patrick's Breastplate. (Page 5)

## HOLY WEEK

**Agape Meal** - The Agape Meal is cancelled for this year.

Please refer to the website for the latest updates for Holy Week and Easter

**TKC** - TKC is an ecumenical event to encourage us to pray between Ascension Day and Pentecost. Various events have been planned. Please refer to the website for updates of what is happening.



Ffald-y-Brenin, Wales

### 5 APRIL PALM SUNDAY

**CALVERLEIGH**  
See Loxbeare

**CRUWYS MORCHARD**  
10.45 am Family Service

**LOXBEARE**  
10.45 am Cluster Service  
with Holy Communion  
*Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

**OAKFORD**  
10.45 am Morning Praise

**RACKENFORD**  
10.45 am Morning Worship

**STOODLEIGH**  
9.00 am Morning Prayer  
*Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

**TEMPLETON**  
10.45 am Family Service

**WASHFIELD**  
See Loxbeare

**WITHLEIGH**  
10.45 am Family Service  
*Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

### 12 APRIL EASTER SUNDAY

**CALVERLEIGH**  
See Washfield

**CRUWYS MORCHARD**  
See Withleigh

**LOXBEARE**  
See Washfield

**OAKFORD**  
10.45 am Cluster Service  
with Holy Communion  
*The Ven. Andrew Beane*

**RACKENFORD**  
See Oakford

**STOODLEIGH**  
See Oakford

**TEMPLETON**  
See Withleigh

**WASHFIELD**  
10.45 am Cluster Service  
with Holy Communion  
*Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

**WITHLEIGH**  
9.00 am Cluster Service  
with Holy Communion  
*The Ven. Andrew Beane*

### 19 APRIL

**CALVERLEIGH**  
10.45 am Family Service

**CRUWYS MORCHARD**  
See Templeton

**LOXBEARE**  
10.45 am Family Service

**OAKFORD**  
6.30 pm Evening Praise  
*Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

**RACKENFORD**  
9.00 am Family Service  
*Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

**STOODLEIGH**  
6.30 pm Evensong

**TEMPLETON**  
10.45 am Cluster Service  
with Holy Communion  
*Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

**WASHFIELD**  
10.45 am Family Service

**WITHLEIGH**  
10.45 am Morning Worship  
with FORCE

**26 APRIL**

**OUR  
APRIL  
MISSION  
COMMUNITY  
GROUP SERVICE  
is at  
10.45 am in  
CRUWYS  
MORCHARD**

***Steph Gordon-Jeffs***

**Everyone  
welcome.  
Please come and  
join us !!**

**3 MAY**

**CALVERLEIGH**

10.45 am Cluster Service  
with Holy Communion  
***Steph Gordon-Jeffs***

**CRUWYS MORCHARD**

9 am Morning Prayer

**LOXBEARE**

See Calverleigh

**OAKFORD**

3.30 pm Family Service  
with baptism  
***Steph Gordon-Jeffs***

**RACKENFORD**

10.45 am Morning Worship

**STOODLEIGH**

10.45 am Family Service

**TEMPLETON**

10.45 am Morning Service

**WASHFIELD**

See Calverleigh

**WITHLEIGH**

10.45 am Patronal Service

**10 MAY**

**CALVERLEIGH**

10.45 am Morning Worship

**CRUWYS MORCHARD**

10.45 am Family Service

**LOXBEARE**

10.45 am Family Service

**OAKFORD**

See Rackenford

**RACKENFORD**

10.45 am Cluster Service  
with Holy Communion  
***Steph Gordon-Jeffs***

**STOODLEIGH**

See Rackenford

**TEMPLETON**

No Service

**WASHFIELD**

9.00 am Informal Service  
with breakfast  
***Steph Gordon-Jeffs***

**WITHLEIGH**

10.45 am Morning Worship

**17 MAY**

**CALVERLEIGH**

10.45 am Family Service

**CRUWYS MORCHARD**

10.45 am Cluster Service  
with Holy Communion  
***Steph Gordon-Jeffs***

**LOXBEARE**

6.30 pm Evening Praise  
***Steph Gordon-Jeffs***

**OAKFORD**

6.30 pm Evening Praise

**RACKENFORD**

9.00 am Family Service  
***Steph Gordon-Jeffs***

**STOODLEIGH**

6.30 pm Evensong

**TEMPLETON**

See Cruwys Morchard

**WASHFIELD**

10.45 am Family Service

**WITHLEIGH**

See Cruwys Morchard

**24 MAY**

**CALVERLEIGH**

10.45 am Informal get-together

**CRUWYS MORCHARD**

No Service

**LOXBEARE**

No Service

**OAKFORD**

9.00 am Morning Praise

**RACKENFORD**

10.45 am Song of Praise

**STOODLEIGH**

9.00 am Morning Prayer  
***Steph Gordon-Jeffs***

**TEMPLETON**

10.45 am Family Service  
***Steph Gordon-Jeffs***

**WASHFIELD**

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

**WITHLEIGH**

10.45 am Morning Worship

**31 MAY**

**PENTECOST SUNDAY**

**OUR  
MARCH  
MISSION  
COMMUNITY  
GROUP SERVICE  
is at  
10.45 am in  
LOXBEARE**

***Steph Gordon-Jeffs***

**Everyone welcome  
Please come and  
join us !!**

## PARISH ROUND-UP

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Friday 2 April Church AGM, in the Church 7.30pm

Tuesday 14 April Community Coffee and Chat in the Parish Hall. 10.00am-12noon.

Saturday 25 April, Isca Voices, Former Girl Choristers of Exeter Cathedral Choir, in St John the Baptist Church Witheridge 7.30pm. £12.

Sunday 24 May Puddington Plant Sale

Sunday 30 May Pennymoor Plant sale at Wringsland House, Pennymoor

Saturday 8 August The Annual Flower Show

Saturday 3 October Harvest Festival Service 2.15pm followed by tea

Sunday 4 October Harvest Festival 10.45am

Saturday 14 November Christmas Fayre

### NELLIE CROFT

Nellie Croft has left the Parish and has moved to the Isle of Mull. One of her nieces lives on the island and another visits it regularly. She has been resident in the parish for 29 years and has played a full part in our community. She was involved with farming her property at Lower Yeadbury until relatively recently keeping cattle and pigs and chickens. She had some rare breeds and used some heavy horses on the farm.

She has been a bellringer for much of her time here and was closely involved with, and an important part of, the work carried out when the bells were lowered and removed for rejuvenation with new head stocks and bearings and then rehung. She has been Tower Captain and when performing this role has been largely responsible for the establishment of a group of ringers that ring for every Sunday service and other functions and who are skilful enough now to perform more than the basic rounds. She has given a great deal of time and effort to

teaching bellringing to both adults and children. She taught a group of school children at Rackenford School and encouraged the formation of a bellringing group there.

She has also been involved with music in our Church being a very competent organist and forming a small choir which undertook the usual Hymns and Psalms and also Anthems. We will miss her and very much hope that she returns frequently not least to ensure that we continue ringing. "Thank you Nellie"

Sadly, at the end of March, Frank Chave passed away, our prayers and sympathy are with his family at this time. Frank had been an excellent farmer and highly valued tenant of the Cruwys Family for the past 65 years.

We would like to welcome three new house holds into the village, Elaine, Chloe and Fraser with Caden and Penny (Fraser's mother), Jill and Tony. We hope you will all be very happy here.

Our love and prayers go to all who are not well or are grieving.

### PENNYMOOR CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Services at 4.30pm (unless stated)

First Sunday All ages Service

Good Friday 10 April Open for prayer from 11.00am-12noon

Second Sunday Easter Sunday

Third Sunday Join Way Village at 2.30pm

Fourth Sunday Prayer and Praise

Coffee morning every Wednesday 11.00am-12.30pm

Watch the notice board for Special events, or contact Rev. Ruth Green, 01363 83451.

## LOXBEBARE

Happy Easter to everyone. Our services begin with the Cluster Service with Calverleigh and Washfield joining us on Palm Sunday 5 April. Weather permitting we will be re-enacting Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey with a procession near the Church.

On Tuesday 9 April Loxbeare will be hosting the Exe Valley Agape Meal. Please see middle pages for details of this and all Easter Services. Come & Join us as we reflect on Jesus' death, celebrate his resurrection and give thanks for his great love to us all. The Evening Praise service recommences on the 17 May at 6.30. A warm welcome extended to all.

The APCM will be held on Thursday 23 April.

We wish Geoff & Jenny Parnell well as they move on to their new home and hope they will be very happy. We thank them for all their work producing the Today Magazine.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have had to stay in hospital or are waiting for operations or treatments. For Katie Barlow, Stephen Radford, Leslie Tidball and all who are feeling unwell. We pray too for the comfort of all who have lost loved ones recently.

We remember those who have been badly affected by the wet weather we have had all winter and trust by the time we are reading the magazine we shall be experiencing some lovely sunny days!. It is good though to see the spring flowers coming into bloom, they help to brighten our days.

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

We send our congratulations to Graham Radford and Abigail Hannam and also to William Miles (Ron & Margaret's grandson in Australia) and Ella on their recent engagements. We wish them all the happiness in their future lives together.

We welcome Nigel and Lucinda who have recently moved into the village and hope you will soon settle and be very happy living in Loxbeare.

The Cream Teas have been well attended on the 2nd Saturday of the month, The next ones will be 11 April and 9 May in the Village Hall 3-5pm.

The Bingo Evening will be on the 6 April and the April social will be a Beetle Drive with a bring and share supper. Both in the Village Hall 7 for 7.30. Contact Carol 01884 881480

On 23 May there will be a three course meal, replacing the progressive meal, in the Village Hall 7 for 7.30. Again contact Carol 01884 881480

## OAKFORD

A wonderful afternoon tea was enjoyed by all in the village hall at the beginning of February in the company of authors, Liz Shakespeare and Chris Tull. Thank you to everyone who helped the organiser, Mary Shere, raise over £1000 for the Church Bell Tower Restoration Fund. Another successful step along the way towards our goal. Thanks for a great fundraiser idea Mary.

Volunteers are needed to help Spring clean the Church on Wednesday 8 April. Drop in any time after 9.30am. Contact Brenda Burrows, 01398 351331, for further information.

You are invited to St Peter's Palm Sunday Service on 5 April at 10.45am which marks the beginning of Holy Week. After the solemnity of Good Friday, the Church will burst into life with glorious floral decorations to celebrate the risen Christ at a Cluster Service on Sunday 12 April at 10.45am. The Venerable Andrew Beane, Archdeacon of Exeter will lead the Service. Everyone is welcome to share the joy of Eastertide and to meet The Archdeacon. Stay afterwards for refreshments.

The Annual Parishiners Meeting followed by The Annual Parochial Church Meeting chaired by The Rev'd Steph Gordon-Jeffs will be held in the Church on Monday 27 April at 7pm. All are welcome. Application forms for enrolment onto the Electoral Roll can be obtained from Mary Shere before 11 April

Diary Date: Sunday 28 June. There will be a Festal Evensong in Church with The Heritage Singers at 6.30pm.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost loved ones recently, especially Ken Burrows whose sister, Joan Wonnacot, passed away in February. We also pray for anyone suffering chronic illness, especially Richard Stevens and Karl Bailey.

### The Moorland Club:

9 April at 7.30pm – AGM and Easter Bonnet Competition. Bring decorated hats and meet the 'special judge'.  
7 May – Open Meeting at 7.30pm. Tips and Hints for entering the Summer Flower and Produce Show. Helpful advice on presenting floral arrangements, vegetables, handicrafts

and photographs. Fun evening to awaken your competitive spirit.  
2020 Flower and Produce Show. This year it will take place on Bank Holiday Saturday 29 August 2-4pm in the Village Hall. Schedules will be available in April from Brenda Burrows 01398 351331 or Chris Holdom 01398 332039. You may like to get ahead by planting early a pot of lilies and/or a pot of begonias (pot size max. 30cms).

### The Red Lion:

Friday 8 May - Come and join us to celebrate V.E. Day  
2.00pm - The Red Lion celebrates with an Allcomers Bake-Off (inc. children's section) Contact Laura for further details.  
3.00pm – Churchill's Speech and Toast  
7.00pm – Church bells peal  
Village games, outside bar, bbq.  
Village Quiz Nights:  
22 April and 20 May in The Red Lion at 8 for 8.15. New teams welcome.

### The Oakford Players present:

'For One Night Only' – A Review of Songs & Sketches on 17 / 18 April. Please note that due to the Coronavirus restrictions the above show has been cancelled. However please keep the date 12/13/14 November for 'The Vicar of Dibley'

Forward Date: The Oakford Village Fête and Dog Show – Saturday 20 June on the Playing Field at 2-5pm. Lots of stalls, games and refreshments.

We hope you all keep safe, well and virus free as Spring slips into early Summer.

*continued overleaf* ➔

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

### RACKENFORD

Most of us are complaining about the continuous rain we have been experiencing, luckily we do not have to contend with flooding and are blessed with warm comfortable homes to come in to. What a blessing .

The following, Elliott Defew, Oliver Welsh, Graham and Ruth Fennel, Elaine Carter and Pearl Stone have all spent time in hospital over the past months and we pray you are recovering well and send our best wishes. Sadly Sylvia Muchmore passed away on 13 February, friends supported the family at her Cremation Service at Exeter. Our deepest sympathy to Brian, and all the family.

Thank you to Sarah for the following; . Nearly 12 years ago the Shop Committee realised the only way to keep a shop in Rackenford was to set up a community enterprise. We had some good offers of help, but none from anybody who had lived in Rackenford for long.

Thinking this might not be the way to start, I went to see Sylvie, who new everyone - not least because she had run after school clubs for many years.

Well remembered for her arts and crafts including spinning wheel. She had seen her grandchildren grow up here, and been a leading figure in every village event.

At first she said she had stopped work and anyway couldn't possibly manage a shop. I said anybody who'd been a Police Constable and managed children could surely deal with customers and in the end she agreed to try it for a few weeks and see what happened.

What did happen was she took over all the paperwork as well as counter, paying bills and most of the ordering, while always ready for conversation. Brian got

up early twice a week to fetch the veg and fruit from Tiverton market.

She finally retired after 8 years of this and is greatly missed by all volunteers and customers alike.

We also heard of the death of Alec Collard, who before retiring was our jolly and helpful postman for many years, always ready for a chat and a cuppa on his rounds. Alec and June always supported our Harvest Suppers and will be missed. Our deepest sympathy to June and family.

We have said goodbye to the family at The Forge and to Sharon and Dennis Soupe who have left the village. We wish you happiness in your new homes and a warm welcome to the new occupants and hope you enjoy village life here .

It was long, wet grass that faced Andrew Parker when he returned as our caretaker of the Churchyard. He has had to remove all the remaining wreaths and plastic flowers which thanks to the rough winds had been blown around. Just a reminder please, no glass containers as they damage apparatus and dangerous to Andrew. Thank you Andrew, the first cut was hard going.

The Spring Gardening Club Show will be held in Church on Saturday 4 April.

The Plant Sale on Saturday 9 May in the layby near our tennis court.

Hopefully the weather will improve ready for all the eager buyers.

Plans are in place for an "Open Garden" weekend, possibly June 20/21

Anyone interested in opening their gardens please contact (Fred) Edward Hyland on 01884 881386.

Saturday 18 April is National Organ Day and is also a Church Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale from 10 -12noon. Drop in for a cuppa and browse the stalls.

The Royal College of Organists urges every building with an organ to open its doors on that day "to allow as many people as possible to hear the beauty of organ music and experience the splendour of the instrument".

Marjorie Smith and Graham Fennel will be on hand to play our 150-year-old organ and to supervise anyone who would like to "have a go " .

It's particularly hoped to get the younger generation interested in playing the organ, so if you know of any young people who might like to try, do encourage them to come along .

#### BINGO DATES

Tuesday April 7 and Thursday 14 May. BOTH to be held at "Rest a While" Witheridge. Many thanks to Herbert and Marjorie for organising and running these fund raising events.

A Memorial Service was held on March 9 for Heather Calver (Sutton), daughter of Vera and the late Harry. Family and friends gathered to pay their respects and remember Heather who was born and brought up in Rackenford. Memories were shared after whilst enjoying refreshments. Our thoughts to Vera and family.

Many thanks to Jenny and Geoff Parnell for all the help and support I have received during their time as magazine editor and Geoff's thoughtfulness when delivering .

Very best wishes to you both in your new home, you will be missed.

Thank you to Dawn for taking on this mammoth task.

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter as we join together in our Services. No doubt chocolate will play a big part too.

Enjoy !!!!!

*continued overleaf* ➔





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## PARISH ROUND-UP

### STOODLEIGH

The winter of December, January and February has been the fifth wettest as well as the fifth mildest since records began in 1862 and we are hopeful that spring is now around the corner.

On Wednesday 13 May there will be a coffee morning from 10.30 to 12 noon at the Old Stable to raise funds towards the repair of the Church clock. Everyone is welcome. The clock hands were damaged in the storm before Christmas and the height of the clock makes the repair a particularly tricky operation. The clock itself is still running and chiming the hours as usual – but it is always lunchtime according to the hands!

The village has lost a very special person with the death of Dorothy Ayre who passed away on 1 March. Dorothy was a lively and energetic lady who joined in all aspects of village life, as well as being a full-time, hardworking farmer's wife and mother. She was for some time treasurer of the Parish Hall committee and the Womens Institute. She captained the WI skittles team and formed a ladies' netball team. Dorothy made time to embroider church kneelers, was a member of the Church choir and an excellent flower arranger. She supported the Church in all money-raising activities. She was a keen gardener and with her strong competitive spirit won the Trophy at the Annual Garden Club Show many times. Dorothy's friends all have happy memories of her and offer heartfelt sympathy to her caring family.

We were sorry to hear of the sudden death of Cath, widow of Nathan Talbot and mother to Billy. Cath and Nathan

lived in the village for a number of years. We would like to extend our deepest sympathies to the Talbot family for their sad loss.

The Village Breakfast/Walk/Lunch on 7 March, in aid of Parish Hall funds, was a great success, with eighteen walkers taking the route around the western end of the village. Walkers on the shorter route were introduced to Iris Wotton's speciality sheep and we thank Iris for giving her time. The walkers were joined by village friends for a delicious hot lunch followed by amazing cupcakes, all beautifully cooked by Vanessa Turner, whom we thank warmly for her kind support. We also acknowledge the contribution towards the cooking by Jean Winter, Viv Menear and Jan Russell. Thanks also go to Morrisons and Tesco for their contributions towards the food costs.

Saturday 11 April – Easter Market and Coffee Morning. The Parish Hall will be open from 10 am until 12 noon on Easter Saturday, when local businesses and craft-makers will be offering goods for sale. Also on sale will be books, cakes, community-grown plants and much more. Come along and take part in the Easter competitions and Easter Egg tombola and join us for coffee, tea and cakes. More details are available on the parish website. Entry is free and if you would like to book a table to sell any goods, please ring Geraldine Talbot on 351391. This is a fundraising event in aid of the Parish Hall.

Saturday 11 July – Stoodleigh Family Dog Show. The Show is for family dogs, with prizes and rosettes for winners. Full details of the classes will be published on the village website shortly and there is certain to be a class to suit your pet. This is a joint fund-raising event on behalf of St Margaret's Church and the Parish Hall. For further

information please ring Geraldine Talbot on 351391.

Stoodleigh Working Action Group (SWAG) held a successful skittles evening in the Parish Hall on 28 February to raise funds for the Village Fun Day to be held in June (see below). Thanks to everyone who came and joined in the fun. The organisers of the Fun Day are grateful for SWAG's support. Future SWAG events include:

2 April Taunton Races Ladies Day  
19 May Visit to Bicton Park Gardens, Budleigh Salterton  
25 June Visit to Exeter Waste Disposal site (limited numbers)  
29 July Mystery Tour of Exmoor by car with picnic  
For further details of these events and to book a place please phone Margaret Cuninghame on 351252 or Pat Robinson on 351460.

On Saturday 6 June the Village Fun Day will take place on the cricket field at 3 pm. There will be competitions and races for all the family as well as our famous egg-throwing competition. The events are completely free and will include lots of tea, cake and ice-cream. Look out for notices around the village nearer the time. For more details please contact Jan Russell on 351401 or Sheila Davis on 351756.

On Saturday 22 August The Garden Club will hold the Annual Produce Show at 2.30 pm in the Parish Hall. The list of classes for this year's Show is displayed in the Parish Hall and the schedule and entry form is included in this issue of Today Magazine. The Club hopes there will be a class to tempt you into entering this year.

The Stoodleigh Cricket Club will hold a Quiz evening at the Stoodleigh Inn on Friday 3 April to raise funds for the Club. There will be a raffle on the night. The

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

start time is 7.30 pm and a great evening is guaranteed.

The Club now have their own website [www.stoodleigh.play-cricket.com](http://www.stoodleigh.play-cricket.com). Keep an eye on the website for future fixtures and please come along and support the teams. The league team starts the season at home on Saturday 2 May.

On Saturday 4 April the Stoodleigh Inn will be open from 3 pm for those of you who would like to watch the Grand National in the company of village friends. Sweepstake tickets are now available at the Inn.

Congratulations to the following winners of the Stoodleigh 100 Club.

November: 1st Vanessa Turner; 2nd Roland Chant; 3rd Lesley Thwaites; 4th Linda Sharrock

December: 1st Sheila Davis; 2nd Trevor Cope; 3rd Sally Holland; 4th June Jones  
Extra Prizes went to Malcolm Jones and Mandy Widdowson.

January: 1st Shirley Cope; 2nd Sam Earl; 3rd Yvonne Lang; 4th Janet Russell.

Church Flower Rota:

12 April Easter Flowers - all help please  
26 April / 3 May Viv Menear  
10 / 17 May Geraldine Talbot  
24 / 31 May Yvonne Lang

## TEMPLETON

What a busy time it's been in Templeton; the weeks seem to have raced by since we celebrated the New Year. Let's try to spare ourselves a moment to appreciate the beauty of these months as we await the onset of Spring.

### Burns Night and Ceilidh in January

Many congratulations to all those who organised a very successful Burns Night event on 25 January. A big thank you to Hamish and Coreanne for organising the

Ceilidh, to Nat for addressing the Haggis and reciting the 'Ode to the Haggis' by heart, to Gloria and Ron for a successful raffle, to all the people who provided the delicious haggis, sausages, neaps, tatties and desserts, and to everyone who came and supported the evening. After expenses, there was a profit of £622.00 which will go towards the much-needed funds to maintain St Margaret's Church. More importantly, everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

### Templeton Village Hall – the Great Spring Clean

A big thank you to everyone who gave their time and took part in the Great Spring Clean at Templeton Village Hall over the past weeks. This included not only help with cleaning but also decorating and DIY. The carpets and upholstery have been thoroughly cleaned and new flooring has now been re-laid in the kitchen, cloakroom and toilets. Templeton Village Hall is now looking spick and span and ready to welcome members and guests this year.

### St Margaret's Church

Work on St Margaret's Church, Templeton continues to ensure that the building is well maintained but this is a costly process and raising funds to protect and repair our Church is still an important issue. Family and Morning Services are generally held twice a month with the Cluster and the Group Services rotating monthly between the other parishes in the Exe Valley Mission Community.

Monthly Knit and Natter mornings are held on the last Wednesday of every month between 10.30am and 12 midday. Bring any knitting, sewing, or any repair work with you or just come along for coffee and a chat.

Congratulations to Peter and Chi Rickard who were married at St Margaret's Church in January 2020. We wish them

every happiness in their future lives together.

Our thoughts and best wishes are with all those who are unwell, who have been in hospital, are recovering from illness, or who are having a difficult time.

Easter Sunday Service with Holy Communion on 12 April at Witleigh Church

This is a Cluster Service comprising Witleigh, Templeton and Cruwys Morchard parishes. The service will be led by the Venerable Andrew Beane, the Archdeacon of Exeter.

### Future dates for your 2020 diary:

Templeton's Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting is on 20 April at 7pm in St Margaret's Church, Templeton.

The Annual Church Meeting is open to everyone in the parish, and the Annual Meeting of Parishioners is open to all those on the Church Electoral Roll; that is, any regular attenders at St Margaret's Church. Please do come along to the meeting to talk, over a cup of coffee and biscuits, about ways that we can move forward as a parish, and also to elect our Churchwardens.

### The Templeton Trail on Sunday 5 April.

This annual fun run is organised by the Exe Valley Rotary Club. It involves a marshalled off-road route (5K or 10K) through the attractive private and otherwise inaccessible woodland roads and tracks of the Cruwys Morchard Estate. It is an experience unique to this event. There are likely to be a few wet and muddy areas but this all adds to the fun! The run finishes back at Templeton Village Hall to enjoy a range of refreshments. If you are interested in taking part, details and entry forms are available on Exe Valley Rotary Club's website at [www.exevalleyrotary.org.uk](http://www.exevalleyrotary.org.uk).

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# PARISH ROUND-UP

## Charity Tractor Run

The Charity Tractor Run will take place in either June or July at Templeton Village Hall. The date is yet to be finalised so watch this space. This is always a popular event and a must for all tractor enthusiasts. Bring along your tractor, have some lunch and drive with the convoy along a planned route around the local roads and lanes, with spectators on the roadside. More information to follow.

## Summer Fete, Saturday 10 August at 1.30pm at Templeton Village Hall.

This popular annual event will be full of fun activities for children and adults alike whatever the weather. More information to follow.

## Duck Race, Sunday 6 September at 2pm at Dartcombe Mill, Templeton Bridge.

Another popular annual event in Templeton, this is fun for the entire family. Ducks £1 each, with prizes, cream teas, pasties, bric-a-brac, books, plants, raffle and, hopefully, time to catch up for a chat. More information to follow.

## Annual Harvest Supper, Saturday 3 October at Templeton Village Hall.

A Templeton Safari Supper is planned for November. This is where each course is served by a different host in a different home. It's great fun and easy because many people share the cooking. More information to follow.

## Bingo Night

This will take place in January or February next year.

## Flowers and cleaning rota

Sue Coffin Cleaning only 29 March / 5 April

Lynda Newnes Easter Sunday 12/19 April  
Ginah Palmer Flowers and Cleaning  
26 April /3 May

Phillida Strong Flowers and Cleaning  
10 May / 17 May

Julie Dent Flowers and Cleaning  
24 May /31 May

## WASHFIELD

*The sun was warm but the wind was chill, you know how it is with an April day.*

*When the sun is out and the wind is still, you're one month on in the middle of May.*

**W**e hope you are all surviving the weather and the anxieties of health problems world wide. The great benefit of being in a village and church community and having good neighbours is much in evidence. We need not be alone when times are difficult.

Last night saw the Annual Parochial Church Meeting when Steph, our Rector, gave us her Annual Report of all the positive and cheering happenings in the Exe Valley. Thirteen Marriages are taking place this year and our good wishes and prayers are with all the happy couples. Stephs' report can be seen in the church if you don't have a copy already. Please read it and see what is happening all around us.

Also available in the Church are copies of the PCC Annual Report and Accounts for you to see. We hope you will read there of all the sincere thanks given to our wonderful voluntary helpers who keep the church running smoothly. The PCC is very grateful to everyone for all their hard work.

Lent is being marked by a focus on 'Blessings'. This is an inspiring course and is taking place at The Rectory Witleigh every Wednesday evening at 7pm. Everyone welcome!

On Easter Day we look forward to welcoming Calverleigh and Loxbeare to

celebrate Holy Communion with us, at 10.45 am.

Easter Saturday will be as traditional as always with Egg Decorating and Rolling followed by coffee and Hot Cross buns in the Hall, with plant and produce stalls and an Easter Raffle. Please see notices for Good Friday.

The Group Agape Meal is at Loxbeare on Maunday Thursday. Offers of desserts will be welcome as we are sharing the catering.

We said our final farewells to Jenny and Geoff after Evening Prayer on March 8th with tea and cake and the gifts of a garden token and a picture of the church, in grateful thanks of all they have done for the parish. We wish them well in their new home.

Our new bell ropes were dedicated by Steph in February and the Ringers rang a special peal for the congregation, with the tower door open, which was much appreciated by a large congregation. The Ringers were warmly thanked by our Rector for their faithfulness in carrying on a long tradition. Tower Captain Maurice Balment related some of the interesting history of the bells of St.Mary's Mothering Sunday is on 22 March. A Family Celebration with posies of flowers!

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter!

We send Julian and Marianne Ayre our very best wishes as they bid farewell to Washfield. Whilst they haven't gone far, just to Stoodleigh, it ends a lifetime of living in Washfield for Julian and almost as long for Marianne. They have been amazing supporters of village life; working and volunteering to keep the parish thriving, farming relevant and social interaction at the top of their agenda. We will surely miss your steady, practical involvement in all things village. We wish you much happiness in your new

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

home but we are sure you will not be strangers.

We wish Jenny and Geoff heartfelt good wishes too, as they move from Washfield and, in the same manner as above, we thank them for all they have achieved in the village. Enjoy the Forest of Dean when you get there. We welcome Darren Webb as he moves into the village and hope you will be very happy living in Washfield.

We wish all those amongst us who are not feeling well, are receiving or awaiting treatments and recovering from operations, our heartfelt good wishes. May you soon turn the corner into better health.

To those celebrating special birthdays or anniversaries we wish you many good wishes.

The Hall Committee, having followed the lead of another village in our group, is planning a 'Scrapheap Challenge' for all in the village. It's simple...we provide a sizeable recycling container and you fill it with scrap metal. What could be easier? We are sure you must have scrap lying around the place, behind the shed or under a hedge that you are ignoring. Farmers, clear those sheds of all the metals you have pushed back! Now it could go away and, as an added bonus, raise money for the hall!

The container will be sited at The Marshes, Marsh Farm for a weekend. There are restrictions as to what can be collected (leaflets will follow) Please bring your metals to be recycled and feel good about it when its gone!

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 4 April Film night at Social Club (film tba)

Thursday 9 April W.I. in hall 7.30pm. Speaker: Rosy Teale on Character Fiction for the Mature Woman

Saturday 11 April Egg Decorating and Rolling competitions for all, young and old. Lots of classes and prizes! Meet in the Church porch at 10am with your creations. Followed by Coffee Morning in Hall with hot cross buns, plants, produce, cakes and Easter themed raffle. All welcome.

Tuesday 14 April teatime@thehall 3pm. Tea and a natter are at the heart of this informal group. All are welcome. Remember: a cuppa is better together.

Wednesday 15 April Annual Parish meeting 7.30pm in hall. Speaker: Tania Weeks on Washfield's footpaths and bridleways (See box at end of Today magazine)

Thursday 23 April Lunch Club in hall 12.00 for 12.30 meal

Friday 8 May VE 75 Day celebration. Not sure what form this will take yet so look out for details of this on posters, website and social media.

Tuesday 12 May teatime@thehall 3pm Come along to mix and mingle over tea and cake.

Thursday 21 May Lunch Club in hall 12.00 for 12.30 meal.

Please note that the Washfield Parish Website has new address: <https://www.middevonparish.co.uk/washfield>

### KEEP THE DATE

Saturday 22 August Social Club's Big 30th Anniversary Party

Church Altar Flowers Rota

April 12 / 19 Mrs Balment

April 26 / May 3 Mrs Lane

May 10 / 17 Angela Bolt

May 24 / 31 Mrs Ellis

Church Cleaning Rota

April 6 / 13 Mrs Harding/Mrs Jones

April 20 / 27 Mrs Albery

May 4 / May 11 Mr & Mrs Ellis

May 18 / 25

Mrs French

June 1 / 8

Mrs Harding/Mrs Jones

## WITHLEIGH

The weather may have been wet, to say the least, but the Churchyard has been a picture – first with a mass of snowdrops and crocus, and now, at the time of writing, swathes of daffodils. Thank you, David, for keeping the churchyard so tidy.

### Village Hall Trustee.

We are looking for a new Trustee to take the place of the late John Crook. If anyone is interested or would like more details please contact Duncan 252949 or Brenda 252431.

Sunday 26 January saw a full Church for the Plough Service which, this year, was also a Mission Community Service. Our thanks to all who took part including the Young Farmers. During the service we also welcomed Annabel, daughter of Richard and Becky, as she was baptised into the Church family.

### Withleigh Quiz Night

What a great evening we all had at the Withleigh Quiz Night. Our question master Giles had put together a really interesting and diverse quiz, something for everyone. Even for those of us who really are not in to quizzes!! With 15 teams taking part the winning team was Kingsburians with 119 points, Rookies were placed second with 110 points and joint third with 105 points were Brexit Babes and Never Mind the Buzzards. Our grateful thanks to Giles for putting the questions together, and to Rosie for assisting. Thank you also for those who provided the pasties and refreshments during the interval. A total of £407 was raised for Village Hall funds.

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

We extend our sympathy to Cathy and family on the passing of Mark after a ten month battle against cancer. Not only was the Church full for Mark's funeral service but the Village Hall, to which the service was relayed, was also filled to capacity with everybody standing.

St Catherine's also hosted the Ash Wednesday service, with Holy Communion and "Ashing" where ash from burning last year's Palm Crosses was used to mark the foreheads of those present with the sign of the cross as a symbol of penitence.

Susie led our informal service on 1 March around the life of St David, and with all of the hymns set to Welsh tunes. Comment has been made on how refreshing these informal services are. Well done, Susie.

Our worship team held the latest of our regular meetings on 3 March, with services now planned through until the end of July!

If you want to start collecting some early Easter Eggs, then come along to our Annual Easter Beetle Drive, where there will be plenty of eggs to win. We are in the Hall on Saturday 4 April at 7.30pm. There's no need to book, just come along on the evening.

Easter weekend begins on 10 April with our informal Good Friday service from 10am - 11.30am in the Village Hall. The tradition, beginning with the serving of tea, coffee and hot-cross buns will be maintained!

Our Easter Sunday service of Holy Communion will be at 9am, in Church, and will be celebrated by the new Archdeacon of Exeter, Ven. Andrew Beane. Following the service, at about 10am, there will be a parish breakfast in the Village Hall. We would love to see you at both events, but if you can only

make one of them you are still very welcome.

Our next Community Lunch will be held on Thursday 23 April, in the Village Hall, 12.30 for 1pm. We are keeping the cost at £5 for a two course meal with tea or coffee, but we will be running a charity draw to support a local charity. Booking is essential so please book your tickets through Christine 257571 or Sara 252949.

Our Summer Fete will take place in the Village Hall and car park on 18 July and there will be a planning meeting at Plainsfield on Tuesday 28 April at 7.30pm. Please do come along, and help us plan for another potentially successful event.

Witleigh WI meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month, at 7.15pm. New members are always welcome to come along. For more information please ring Rosie 01884 257123.

Thursday 9 April, speaker Free Wheelers on 'Voluntary Blood Service'

Thursday 14 May, AGM and Resolutions.

Thursday 11 June, speaker Giles Edmondston-Low on 'Bletchley Park Day' at Highfield.

We send congratulations to Kate and Andy on the birth of Oliver making Duncan and Sara, grandparents and another great grandchild for Christine.

We also send congratulations to Kevin and Trudy on becoming grandparents again, this time twins, Oscar and Layla, making Daniel and Megan proud parents and a brother and sister for Freya. Also, to the great grandparents, Gerald and Frances, on the birth of the twins, and the birth of Amelia, Kayleigh and Jack's second child and a sister for Oliver.

Love and best wishes to all the families.

Congratulations to any who are celebrating special birthdays or anniversaries.

Get well wishes go to all those known to us who are receiving treatment, recovering from operations, or who are not well at the moment.

Forthcoming Events;  
Thursday 2 April, Bingo, in the Hall, eyes down at 7.30pm.

Saturday 4 April - Easter Beetle Drive at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Monday 6 April, Whist Drive, in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Thursday 9 April, WI in the Village Hall at 7.15pm.

Friday 10 April - Informal service for Good Friday, 10-11.30am in the Village Hall.

Sunday 12 April - Easter service at 9am in church, followed by Parish Breakfast in the Village Hall at 10am.

Thursday 23 April - Community Lunch in the Village Hall, 12.30 for 1pm.

Thursday 14 May, WI in the Village Hall at 7.15pm.

Flower Rota:

April 5	LENT (No flowers)
April 12	EASTER
April 19 / 26	Brenda Tucker
May 3 / 10	Michaela Luxton.
May 17/ 24 / 31	Linda Taylor.

Weekly Events;

Tuesdays - Yoga in the Village Hall at 7pm.

Wednesdays - Short Mat Bowls in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.



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