



TODAY

The Parish Magazine for the Exe Valley Mission Community

JULY - AUGUST 2021

Price 50p

CAN I BE CERTAIN ?

I used to be certain about lots of things. The summer, for example.

When I was little, I am certain we always had long summer days that lasted through July and August.

I was certain that English strawberries would be plentiful and sweet, that Wimbledon would be bathed in sunshine, that County Shows would happen year in year out,

that fetes would take place each Saturday throughout the Summer, that churches would be full of wedding guests singing hymns of celebration,

that I would get to Stratford sometime over my birthday and watch a play (or two!),

that we would have friends coming to stay on their way down to Cornwall, that family would come over for endless BBQ's and Knickerbocker Glories and jugs of Pimms, that...that..

Well, who knows? I don't anymore, because nothing is certain!

I waited to write this letter until after 21 June when I would be sure to know what was happening. But I am really none-the-wiser.

All I do know is that 'Track and Trace' and the wearing of masks looks like they are here to stay, that we still can't sing, that we are still restricted by the size and capacity of our buildings,



that it is more sensible to book a slot at a restaurant, leisure facility, museum, and church than to assume that you can just turn up, that numbers are still on the rise, despite the

vaccine programme and that children and young people are increasingly vulnerable and susceptible to variants of Covid-19. There is still so much uncertainty.

Yet, in the midst of it all, there is one thing that remains a dead cert – and I don't just mean the thing that Benjamin Franklin is supposed to have said, 'There are only two things in life that are certain, death and taxes.'

I believe with absolute certainty in a God who made us, loves us and is the same yesterday, today and forever.

May you have a wonderful summer filled with family and friends and a few English strawberries – as well as the certainty of knowing that God is with us.

With love and prayers,

Steph

Please look at the website for any updates.

Copy Deadline for September / October 2021 issue

Monday 9 August 2021

THE EXE VALLEY MISSION COMMUNITY
Calverleigh, Cruwys
Morchard, Loxbeare,
Oakford, Rackenford,
Stoodleigh, Templeton,
Washfield and Witleigh
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EXE VALLEY WEBSITE

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.

EDITORIAL

As I write this, today is the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the calendar year. You could be forgiven for not realising because it is raining and compared to recent temperatures, very cold! Lockdown restrictions continue to impact on our lives and infection rates are rising. It would seem all doom and gloom. The Lectionary Reading this week is Mark 4: 35-41 'Jesus calms the storm' We should not despair, Jesus is the one who can calm all life's storms and he hears us when we cry out to him.

Dawn

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FROM STEPH

Please join us for Morning Prayer on Sunday morning at 10.00am to worship via Conference Call or Zoom.

See the Exe Valley Mission Community Website for details.

If you wish to receive Holy Communion, there are services available throughout the Exe Valley Mission Community at 11.15am.

Please see middle pages Booking is essential by Friday 12 noon.

Please contact the church office by email or phone.

If you need help, or prayer please contact me.

Rev'd Steph Gordon-Jeffs, The Rectory, Withleigh, Tiverton. EX16 8JQ
01884 259417_office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org
www.exevalleychurches.org

LIVE MUSIC IN THE EXE VALLEY !

One of the greatest sadnesses over the past 18 months has been not being allowed to sing! Oh how we have missed it! When the weather has been kind we gathered outside to sing - often joined by birds and sheep. Latterly we have been joined by some real live muscians. Dave Edwards has joined me for Holy Communion, bringing his guitar with him, as well as being joined by Sue Rivett on the violin and Levon Stephan on the harmonica. It is wonderful that they are willing to share their musical gifts and talents with us and help lead our worship.

Thank you for joining us in the Exe Valley.



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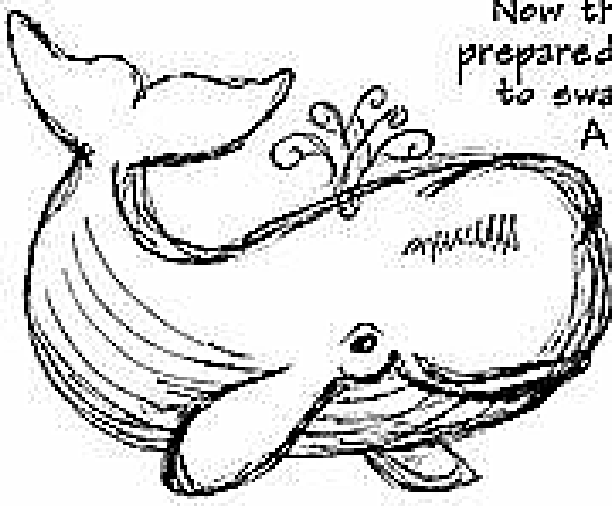
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CHILDREN'S PAGE

Jonah and the whale word search

- Jonah - Ship
- Whale - Believe
- Storm - Swallow
- Sea - Fish



Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah 1:17

For more activity pages make sure to visit busybooksandmore.net



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and Friday 6th November 2020

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FROM STEPH

Weekly Services Online

Our Zoom/Conference call services are proving very popular. Many people join us from across Tiverton and our Mission Community - and beyond. Details how to access them are on our website. In addition, we will record each Sunday service, which should be available to listen to on the website on the following Monday. Click 'Resources' and a drop down box should appear which says 'past services'. That's where it will be!

Geoffrey and Laura Parkman

Geoffrey and Laura have sent a lovely card thanking the Mission Community for the gifts we sent when their home was destroyed by fire. We continue to pray for them.

LUNCH ON THE GO

Since February this year, an initiative was formed by Tiverton Town Council; CHAT and the Tiverton Churches, to operate a 'Lunch on the Go' provision, at different parts of the town, each weekday, from 11am-1pm. Free homemade soup & cakes, etc. were provided by volunteers and supermarkets.

Also, people were available to confidentially chat to those needing all different kinds of help.

St. Peter's helped at the Baptist Church with their members and also members of the Exe Valley. Many friendships were formed by the working group; as well as those who regularly came to receive a lunch.

As the Baptist Church is now hoping to return to it's monthly lunch club - 'Lunch on the Go' has ceased, after proving to serve a worthwhile need.

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NATURE NOTES

The warmth of early summer has reminded us of how lucky we were last year with the months of dry brightness through spring and summer. This year Nature seemed to hold back during the months of April and May knowing full well the time wasn't right, irrespective of David's nightly weather forecasts and cheery wave.

I am sure most of those trying to germinate seeds knew to be patient and wait but ever hopeful, I found that this trend couldn't be defeated even if seeds were cosseted in a propagator.

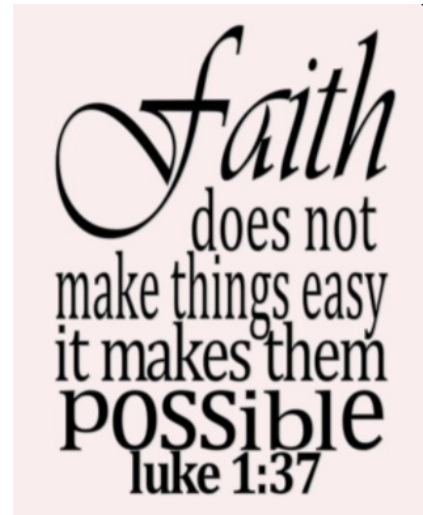
Perhaps the trees provide the best barometer as they looked on in their sullen greyness and so I determined to be better guided by them and the grass growth next year. At least this period provided for an extraordinary long show of primroses, early hedgerow wild flowers and blossom in the orchards. Certainly the insects and weeds did not seem to be inhibited either and the bumble bees and hornets seem to be bigger than ever.

Every year I seem to spend much time rescuing the former when they get into corners that I would rather they didn't. It is not uncommon for them to collapse on the floor instead of flying off, after such rescues. I have often wondered if the ordeal, that often seems stressful for both of us, had been too much. Thanks to the radio I learned this week that a good course of action would be to provide some sugared water as they are likely to have just run out of energy as their access

to pollen needs to be fairly continuous – I suppose we all know the feeling.

With this in mind I am totally in favour of re-wilding the garden and would like to mention herb robert. It will be on a many a persons list of unfavoured weeds due to its musty and mousy smell when bruised. It can grow in dry shade and almost anywhere be it woods, pavements or walls. It is simply another wild geranium species and like many of its cousins which spread 'like weeds' in our garden its benefit for insect life is clear to see and feel, as lockdown life seems to have made flesh juicier.

Thomas More



Donald Shere & Paul Pincombe are getting up a

Vintage Tractor Run on Sunday 8th August



The plan is for pre 1990 Tractors to meet at Oakridge, Oakford. All will be welcome to call in for a breakfast bap, view the tractors and see them set off. To register an interest/enter your tractor, please contact Karen Pincombe on 07749 439422 or karenpincombe@btinternet.com

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John 8:12 (NIV)



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PARISH ROUND-UP

CALVERLEIGH

With the warmer weather finally arriving we are pleased that the door at St. Mary's has been able to open once again for regular Sunday services and parishioners worshipping together. We are now looking forward to the time when we are able to sing together inside the building.

Zoom and Conference calls for the Sunday service with Steph and Robert are continuing and are still well received. It is available for those who are unable to attend church in person and it a great opportunity for us to worship together with people from other churches within the town, it's surrounding villages and also people from further afield. Our thanks go to Robert and Steph for all their hard work to make this happen. We wish Robert all the best with his new ministry which begins in July. God bless you Robert.

The APCM was held on 26 April via Zoom. Aubrey Goldsworthy and Jackie Herniman were returned as Churchwardens once again for the coming year and the current PCC members also remain in place. At the meeting thanks were given for all that they do throughout the year and also go to everyone who have been supporting the church financially during this past year or with keeping the church grounds tidy for visitors. If you would be interested in becoming a PCC member for a year or two, please get in contact - believe it or not it doesn't have to be a life-long commitment!

continued overleaf ➔

TODAY Magazine

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Our Annual Day of Prayer took place on Saturday 1 May. Twelve hours of prayer was covered in half hour segments by over 30 people and we are extremely grateful to all those who join in each year for this faith filled special time.

Congratulations go to Margaret and Colin Radford on celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. Our love and best wishes go to you both and to anyone else who has been celebrating a special occasion.

A group service of Holy Communion was led by Rev'd Steph Gordon-Jeffs on Pentecost Sunday, 23 May. The maximum amount of people who could be there under social distancing filled the church. Steph had arranged 'live' music for us in the form of Dave Edwards, playing his guitar and Sue Rivett playing her violin. It was great to hear actual voices singing in church after so long and the service was lovely. Thank you Steph. The rain prevented us from singing the first hymn outside but did hold off just long enough at the end of the service for the congregation to move outside to sing the last hymn. The intention was to have a picnic in the churchyard after the service where anyone who wanted to attend could do so, but unfortunately the weather was against us that weekend.

Sadly we heard the news of the passing of Mavis Pope. Mavis had lived in the village for a few years and regularly attended both parish and church functions. Our condolences go to her family, friends and also to those others who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

A warm welcome to new residents to Calverleigh who have moved to the

village in the past couple of months. We hope that you are settling in well to your new surroundings and we look forward to meeting you as soon as restrictions ease and normal activities can resume properly.

Events Coming up (in person and everything!)
Our next monthly time of prayer will be on Saturday 3 July from 9am - 11am in the comfort of your own home or car. In August it will be on Saturday 7.

The Produce Show is scheduled to take place on Saturday 28 August in the village hall. Parishioners and supporters of St. Mary's are invited to take part. Schedules are available from Rita Tapp or Sheila Greenslade.

Do you have any good photos of the village, past or present? From events, or from lockdown that you'd like to share on the website or in a forthcoming magazine? Please send your photos, news, birthday messages, anniversary congratulations, alien abduction stories (or anything else) to Dave Burton by calling 01884 561499 or by email: calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org.

have no idea about July and August, the service time table is in the centre pages of this magazine.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH in North Street, Pennymoor is open as usual.

Services on Sundays at 4.30pm, followed by refreshments.
On 1st, 2nd, and 4th Sunday in Pennymoor and 3rd Sunday at 2.30pm in Way Village Chapel.

Since our original lock down in March 2020, no less than 12 houses have changed hands in Pennymoor and Way Village, how difficult it must have been with everything and everybody not allowed to mix or welcome our new comers. Welcome to you all now. There have been a rash of camper vans in the village, the must thing to have!

Do come to the SUMMER FETE on SATURDAY 10 JULY, 2.00-4pm in the Parish Hall. Traditionally our parish fete is on the second Saturday in July. Hopefully we will not have to postpone it! By now you will have seen the board and posters and are, I imagine, excited for the return of our annual fete. Please join us for table games, cream teas and a chance to meet one another again. If you would like to help, either at the fete or set it up do ring Diana on 01363 860227

THE ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW
Will be on Saturday 14 August in the Parish Hall at 2.30pm. schedules will be the same as last year, they are available to parishioners on the Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall website and on the community site on Facebook.

continued overleaf →



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PARISH ROUND-UP

If you require a hard copy please contact Pauline at 5 Moorview.

Once again this year, we have a plant stall outside Chrissie's house, near Pennymoor Timber. It provides an excellent opportunity to "recycle" and exchange surplus plants. All donations towards the next Flower show. Any queries to pauline.8@hotmail.co.uk .

CRUWYS ARMS GARDENERS

"Hopefully" will meet at 8.00pm in/outside the Cruwys Arms 7 July, or we might have to wait until 4 August. Ring Claire Penny on 01884 860023 if you have any doubts.

YOGA

Is now in the Parish Hall on Thursday mornings, please book in with Hilary 01363 866245.

CRUWYS MORCHARD YOUNG FARMERS

The Cruwys Morchard YFC have had a fantastic achievement awarded to them as they have won the Rural Youth Europe Inspirational Club 2020 junior category.

Archie Warren, George Rice and Florence Bradley all entered the County Show and Sale, doing well with their livestock.

With the lockdown restriction being lifted, members have been able to enjoy a visit to the bear trail and a fun evening tenpin bowling.

They have also managed to gain their photographic and their basic sheep husbandry skills for life.

Cruwys Morchard YFC are in the process of starting a campaign on

livestock respect, due to the increase of dog attacks on livestock, they are making the point to walkers and dog owners to keep their dog on a lead.

They have made a video along the lines of the loo roll challenge, hoping other clubs will take up the challenge and stand by the cause. They have also designed and produced signs to put in public areas.

The YFC are planning a TRACTOR RUN on the 11 July, if anyone would like more information please contact cmyfc@hotmail.co.uk

Best wishes to Bob and Louise who have had a rainwater flood through their house, The Smithy. They now have to live in a hotel until the problem is fixed, unless anyone has accommodation in or around Pennymoor for a short time.

Our good wishes go with Di and John as they move at the end of this week.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have been unwell or have had a recent bereavement. Especially, we remember Andy Smith and Richard Webber who will be missed greatly. Our sincere condolences are with their families at this sad and difficult time.

Our love to Nelly, in Bute, and best wishes for her recovery after the major operation on the mainland.

LOXBEARE

At the time of writing, we are enjoying some lovely summer sunshine. It is so good to be able to enjoy being outside and enjoying all God's lovely creations with the trees, flowers and birds singing and looking after their little ones etc. We are so thankful and privileged to live where we do.


We are grateful too for the easing of some of the Covid restrictions and trust and pray for those making decisions how far to lift these in a couple of weeks' time and what measures to be in place to help stop the spread of any variants that develop. It is good the vaccination programme has been so successful.

It is good to be able to hold our Church Services again and are thankful to those who give their time in preparing. Our May service was held in church and as the weather was so good in June, we held an outdoor service with freedom to sing again!

There will be a PCC meeting in the church on 8 July at 7pm and a Village Hall meeting on 1 July.

We pray for our children and young people as their education has been so disrupted this past year or so.

For those who should be taking exams, may they be assessed correctly and given the right grades for their future jobs, colleges, or universities. We remember the teaching and administrative staff in the schools and colleges for the difficult task they have.

continued on page 12 

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Holiday Club 2021

At the time of writing we are still uncertain as to whether we are able to go ahead with the Holiday Club. We very much hope to be able to provide a Holiday club for children at Calverleigh Village Hall during the week beginning the 2nd August. If Covid restrictions allow and we are able to go ahead we may not be following the usual hours or format.

If you are a parent/grandparent/carer of children who have been to Holiday Club before or are interested in your children attending, we would very much like to hear your views on how you feel about sending your children this year. This will help our decision making.

Please email: cindy@trickfamily.eclipse.co.uk or 01363 866621

4 JULY

10am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

No service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

11.15am Holy Communion

Jane Wilson

LOXBEARE

11.00am Morning Worship

OAKFORD

No service

RACKENFORD

11.15am Morning Prayer

STOODLEIGH

11.00am Morning Praise

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Worship

WASHFIELD

No service

WITHLEIGH

No service

11 JULY

10am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

3.00pm Evening Worship

CRUWYS MORCHARD

No service

LOXBEARE

11.15am Holy Communion

Jane Wilson

OAKFORD

10.15am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

No service

STOODLEIGH

No service

TEMPLETON

No service

WASHFIELD

No service

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Family Service

18 JULY

10am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

No service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

11.00am Family Service

LOXBEARE

No Service

OAKFORD

11.15am Holy Communion

with Baptism

Steph Gordon-Jeffs

RACKENFORD

No service

STOODLEIGH

6.30pm Evening Praise

TEMPLETON

10.45 am Morning Worship

WASHFIELD

No service

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Morning Worship

25 JULY

10am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

3.00pm Evening Worship

CRUWYS MORCHARD

No service

LOXBEARE

No service

OAKFORD

10.15am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

11.15am Holy Communion

Steph Gordon-Jeffs

STOODLEIGH

No service

TEMPLETON

No service

WASHFIELD

6.00pm Evening Prayer

WITHLEIGH

No service

Baptism and Confirmation

We have a wonderful number of Baptisms booked in this year.

What a joy it is to welcome so many families into our churches.

Do please get in touch, if you or your child, would like to be baptised.

Maybe you have been baptised but never confirmed.

If you are interested in being confirmed and would like to find out more, do please contact the church office and speak to Steph.



1 AUGUST

10am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

No service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

No service

LOXBEARE

3.00pm Evening Worship

OAKFORD

No service

RACKENFORD

11.15am Morning Prayer

STOODLEIGH

11.15am Holy Communion
with Baptism
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

No service

WITHLEIGH

10.45 am Family Service

8 AUGUST

10am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

11.15am Holy Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

CRUWYS MORCHARD

No service

LOXBEARE

No service

OAKFORD

No service

RACKENFORD

No service

STOODLEIGH

No service

TEMPLETON

No service

WASHFIELD

No service

WITHLEIGH

No service

15 AUGUST

10am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

3.00pm Evening Worship

CRUWYS MORCHARD

11.00am Morning Prayer

LOXBEARE

No service

OAKFORD

10.15am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

11.15am Holy Communion
with Baptism
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

STOODLEIGH

6.30pm Evening Praise

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

No service

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Morning Worship

22 AUGUST

10am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

No service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

No service

LOXBEARE

No service

OAKFORD

6.00pm Summer
Songs of Praise

RACKENFORD

No service

STOODLEIGH

No service

TEMPLETON

No service

WASHFIELD

11.15am Holy Communion
Georgie Bell

WITHLEIGH

No service

29 AUGUST

10am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

3.00pm Evening Worship

CRUWYS MORCHARD

11.00am Family Service

LOXBEARE

No service

OAKFORD

No service

RACKENFORD

No service

STOODLEIGH

No service

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

6.00pm Evening Prayer

WITHLEIGH

11.15am Holy Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

PARISH ROUND-UP

OAKFORD

We pray for the Year 6 children leaving smaller primary schools and facing the challenge of bigger High Schools in September, that they will cope well with the transition.

We send our condolences to Colin and Margaret Radford and family on the loss of Margaret's sister Jean Woodley. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the family and for all who have lost loved ones recently.

We pray also for Steve Troake, Marlene Taylor and all who are unwell, waiting for consultations and/or treatments.

Happy Birthday to all who have birthdays in July/August and to those celebrating special occasions.

We send our congratulations and best wishes to Graham and Abi Radford who were married in May. The day improved weather wise by the afternoon in time for the wedding and photos. As in the last magazine we wish them well in their future lives together.

Our news is still a bit sparse as we still are unable to arrange many activities yet but hopefully soon we shall have a lifting of more restrictions allowing us to enjoy meeting up in greater numbers.

On Saturday 10 July provisionally arranged with weather and Covid restrictions permitting, there will be a Bonfire and BBQ in the field opposite the Church.

Let's be thankful for what we have and where we live and remember those less privileged.

At the time of writing we are waiting to hear if all Covid lockdown restrictions are to be removed on 21 June. It seems unlikely as the number of daily infections is on the rise due to the Delta variant. But we live in hope and so life must go on.

Services have resumed in the church with the congregation trooping outside to sing the hymns unaccompanied. It has to be said that it didn't sound at all bad so maybe seeds of a choir have been sown. See the centrefold for details of the services in July and August. A Summer Songs of Praise service is planned for 22 August at 6pm. If you would like to take part please contact Dawn 01398 324035.

The ashes of Major George Llewellyn were laid to rest in the graveyard at a private family ceremony on 10 May.

A seasonal thank you to Donald Shere for cutting the grass around the church. Your help is much appreciated. And a reminder to villagers who use the car park not to park alongside the church wall. Apart from possibly causing an obstruction to Churchside House, there is danger from an increasingly crumbly wall. Thank you.

Thanks to Mary Shere for reporting on St Peter's activities over the past year to the community Parish Council meeting held at the end of May. Mary emphasised the welcome that awaits anyone who wishes to link with the church either through attending services or just by offering their time or skills to help maintain this significant

building within the village. Members of the PCC are keen to break down any perceived division within the community of those who go to church and those who don't. The Church belongs to all of us. It's open to those declaring no faith, those who are curious, those who are doubtful as well as those with a strong faith. We all fall into one or other group so point proved – St Peter's is here for you.

A single bell will be rung by John Phillips 73 times at 8.00pm on 5 July for the N.H.S. This is a nationwide event.

Mary also reported on the bell tower fundraising activity. The current balance stands at around £16,000 comprising a lump sum deposited when the fund opened and the proceeds of fundraisers since but there is still a long way to go.

Thanks to everyone who turned out on 22 May to support the Plant Sale in the church car park. It was good to meet up with friends again and to have a coffee, homemade biscuit and a catch-up chat. Just under £180 was raised for the fund. It is planned to make this an annual event so please save all spare plants.

Brenda Burrows and Mary Shere have started a 'Crafty Fundraising Group' a sort of homemade bring & buy group which as well as raising money from donated crafts is also set up to encourage amateur crafters and to give each other a sense of purpose. Here's where to have a look: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/914399609356903/>

continued overleaf →

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PARISH ROUND-UP

£460 had been raised at the end of week 4. Well done Brenda and Mary and thank you to all buyers and sellers.

A Vintage Tractor Run is being organised by Donald Shere and Paul Pincombe on Sunday 8 August setting off from Oakridge. More details will be released in July. To register an interest contact Karen Pincombe on 07749 439422 or karenpincombe@btinternet.com

The Moorland Club is to hold its annual BBQ at Jasmine Cottage by kind permission of Paul & Jennie Chappell on 22 July at 6pm. This is a member only or by invitation event but if you are interested in joining the club or are a new resident in the area please get in touch with Jennie on 01398 351666 to receive an invite. We'd love to meet you. There will be a 'Hints & Tips for the Flower & Produce Show' talk on 26 August at 7.30pm with a short flower arranging demo by Jean Marcus. Anyone entering the Show will be welcome. This is also the last date for entries to be handed to Chris Holdom. Show schedules are available now from Chris (01398 332039) or from Brenda Burrows or The Red Lion.

The Flower & Produce Show takes place on Saturday 28 August in the Village Hall 2-4pm. Don't miss this Summer spectacle.

Summer is here. Let's soak up the natural beauty around us in our gardens and in the countryside and at the seaside and give thanks to God.



Today India achieved her 100 book Gold Award with the village library bus. Well done India!

RACKENFORD

By the time you receive this issue we will be nearing the end of another month and half way through the year again.

Many thanks to the kind souls who have been working hard around the village keeping the grass verges etc neat and tidy, it hasn't gone unnoticed.

Although we have been under covid restrictions the planning, PCC meetings and way forward for our church's have continued. Zoom services have remained a great success, with many thanks to Steph, Robert and the team.

But as our church has reopened for services, funerals etc we find coming together face to face a blessing too. So many ways in which to worship.

Our first service was a Group Holy Communion Service and it was good to

welcome others outside of our area. The service was taken by Rev Steph Gordon Jeffs with Graham at the organ. Singing was permitted outside, you may have heard us.

Look out for our posters, online at the Exe Valley Website etc for service details and lay-led services. It would be lovely to see you.

As many will know Vera Sutton passed away at The Firs, Witheridge on April 9. Vera's service and internment was held at our church on Friday April 30 where the restricted numbers were able to gather to pay their respects and remember Vera in their own way.

Had restrictions not been in place the church would have been full I am sure.

Some who hadn't known Vera long will have recent memories when visiting, others have known Vera for many many years and how she was involved with village life, the church, being a choir member and helping with fund raising however she could. So many stories to tell as David mentioned in his story of Vera's life. Lots of children, including my own, remember her as Father Christmas!!! Happy times for so many including Vera. A lovely service for Vera was taken by Rev Steph Gordon Jeffs. Out thoughts and prayers to all the family and her dear sister Olive.

Vera was not the only VIP to pass away on April 9.

Sadly our Queen lost her dear husband Prince Phillip on the same day. They had been married for over 70 years. The Queen will have recently celebrated

continued overleaf →

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PARISH ROUND-UP

her 95 birthday. Thank you to Glenn for flying our flag at half mast. Our flag was again flying on St Georges Day.

Our deepest sympathy to the husband and family of the late Pam Govier who passed away suddenly. A terrible shock to everyone. We remember Joy, Russell and family, David, Jenny and family in our prayers. Some of us will remember Pam, who was born and brought up at West Nutcott Farm and attended school here at Rackenford.

We continue to remember all those we know of who are still recovering from Covid. Also best wishes to Christine and Richard, Des, Joan and Jacques and all who are feeling lonely unwell or depressed.

On a happier note congratulations to Richard and Kate on the birth of Jack. A welcome brother for Brandon.

Good to see the new play area taking shape which I am sure will be enjoyed by all the young children, fingers crossed for the appropriate weather when it re-opens.

Our PCC meetings continue now at Ruth`s. Many thanks to Graham and Ruth for their hospitality as we gather and plan for a brighter future.

All being well we hope to have a sponsored walk in September, a kick start to fundraising again.

CHURCHYARD.

You may be wondering what is happening to our churchyard as most of the grass has not been cut this year, due to lack of funds, apart from paths to those graves which are regularly

visited and maintained. Our ancient churchyards are a wasted resource in terms of wild flowers, insects and other wild life and we need to now consider other alternatives to preserve them. In order to achieve this we plan to create a wild life meadow, creating paths and access where needed in the older part of the churchyard so it will not interfere with those who wish to continue maintaining their family grave . We will keep you updated and will be pleased to discuss it with you.

Lets hope we have nice weather to enjoy. Take care everyone and stay safe. God Bless.

STOODLEIGH

At last, the green shoots of village life are breaking through the compacted soil of lockdown.

Stoodleigh Cricket Club

After a year of just friendlies, league cricket finally got underway at Stoodleigh at the beginning of May, although of course the weather was not too friendly at the start of the season!

We play in the second division of the West Somerset League; other teams in our division include Winsford, Timberscombe and Over Stowey. We also play friendlies during the week. We are a team of mixed ages and abilities and we are always on the lookout for any keen new local players. If you think that could be you, please contact our secretary Matt Shaw for details: <http://www.stoodleigh.play-cricket.com> You will notice that the groundsmen have done a terrific job over the years and the ground is looking wonderful.

We love the village using the space but please remember to keep off the square. There is a home match every other Saturday, so why not wander up and say hello...

Parish Hall

Members of the Management Committee were pleased to get into the Hall to be able to give it a deep spring clean, ready to make it safe and welcoming for community use from 17 May. All government guidelines are being followed both by the organisers and by users of the Hall – social distancing, mask wearing and plenty of ventilation. It’s already being used for village meetings and our exercise class instructors hope to be back as soon as possible.

Keep an eye on the starting dates on the parish website and the community email.

See <https://www.middevonparish.co.uk/stoodleigh/>

The Parish Hall AGM takes place on Tuesday 6 July at 7.30pm. at the Hall. All users and residents are invited so please come along and join us to find out more about your community building and bring your ideas and suggestions for what you would like to see happening at the Hall. For more details, please contact the secretary, Geraldine Talbot on 01398 351391.

Other news:

Welcome to Jane and Jonny who have moved into Court Place – we hope to meet you soon as village events take place. We trust that you will enjoy living in Stoodleigh.

continued overleaf ➔

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Get well messages go to Kate Mortimer who has recently been unwell and to Christine Palfrey for a full recovery after her recent op!

St Margaret's Parish Church

On 17 April, Nick Sharrock tolled a muffled bell in memory of HRH Prince Philip in the hour before the 3.00p.m. minutes silence. What a sad end of an era.

On 29 April, the Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held via Zoom. With the resignation of Enid Hamadullah and Eileen Fewings, the PCC is a fairly small group. Christine Broadbent handed over the role of Treasurer after sixteen years to Yvonne Lang.

We are grateful to Yvonne for taking on this task. As with so many churches, our finances are not particularly healthy and we are grateful to the Friends of St Margaret's for their contributions. If you would like to become a Friend, please contact Christine Broadbent 351374.

The Rector officiated at her first wedding since lockdown when Nicola Palfrey and Christopher Quick were married on 1 May. A quiet affair of fifteen guests but three bells were rung, particularly requested because of Nicola's late grandfather's time as Tower Captain. It was lovely that Christine Palfrey was able to be present after her recent fall. Phyllis and Angela Hill spent a day decorating the church which looked magnificent. We wish the couple every happiness.

At last some services can be held in St Margaret's and we are delighted to welcome back our loyal congregation. Do come and join them for the services.

We hope that we can open up the church after 21 June and sing as well!

The bells have been serviced and five are ready to go. There is a problem with the treble bell which is worrying after all the work completed in 2011. It has a crack in its crown and needs repairing or replacing. This is going to cost in the region of £7000 as the bell will have to be taken out of the tower. Meanwhile, it cannot be rung so we are reduced to a peal of five bells. With the church closed during lockdown, the building is suffering from the damp. A lot of the books and hassocks are in a bad way and need drying out. Any help with this would be gratefully received.

Dates for your diary:

5 July. A single bell will be rung for 73 times at 8.00p.m. for the NHS. This is a nationwide event.

Future lay-led services are:

4 July 11.00am.	Morning Prayer
18 July 6.30pm.	Evensong
1 August 11.15am.	Holy Communion with Baptism
15 August 6.30pm.	Evensong

A reminder from the Stoodleigh Gardening Club.

The Gardening Club are planning to hold their annual produce show on 21 August in the parish hall.

We will have in place measures for everyone's safety and will welcome all entries with delight!

Watch out for details on the Stoodleigh Website.

TEMPLETON

How wonderful the current, warm weather has been after all the rain and strong winds in April and May. This year at least, June is the gateway to Summer.

Services at Templeton

Services are now being held twice a month at St Margaret's Church, Templeton, alternating Morning Prayer service with Family Services. There are also Group Services with Holy Communion each month in different parishes within the Exe Valley. Do please come and join us.

By the time this magazine is printed, we hope that we shall be able to sing our hymns again, remove our masks, and relax the restrictions on distancing and the numbers of people attending church.

Here's a message to all Templeton's wonderful families with children – we would love to welcome you all to our family services, which we hold at St Margaret's Church around once a month. The services last no longer than forty-five minutes and are planned with children in mind, with their own choice of hymns and prayers. We also encourage children to bring their favourite toy with them. Perhaps they might like to help with the service. We would love to welcome you to St Margaret's. We appreciate how busy the weekends can be but do come if you can.

continued overleaf ➔




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PARISH ROUND-UP

Churchyard Extension

As you may be aware, the existing churchyard at St Margaret's Church had, for some time, only one remaining plot available. Thank you everyone for making the churchyard extension possible by your generous contributions toward the purchase of a strip of land to extend the churchyard and increase the area available for burials. The work on the churchyard has recently been a priority over other structural repairs needed on the church.

Many thanks to Ron and Gloria for the extra land, and to Reg, Justin, Roland and William for all their work in managing the purchase, removing the hedge, erecting a new fence, and sowing grass seed. The extended area should allow for many more graves. We also plan to have a Garden of Remembrance with a seat. The next stage will be to have the area consecrated by the Bishop of Crediton, once the grass has grown. There is now a Templeton Churchyard Policy which is displayed in the church porch.

God's Acre and Wildlife

Churchyards are often ideal places to spot wildlife. On June 5 to 13 this year it was Caring for God's Acre, "Love Your Burial Ground Week". Churches were invited to register and record the extent of wildlife within their churchyards. Templeton has registered and the aim is to gather information over the year about the wildlife in our churchyard. If you are interested in taking part in this, please contact Bindy (860655).

Events in Templeton

With our gradual and very welcome increased freedom to meet and

socialise over the next few weeks, we are cautiously planning for some entertainment over the next few months.

Templeton Village Hall and Social Club should now be open for bookings and events but we shall need to remain cautious about our future planning to avoid a recurrence of the challenges and uncertainty of last year. The Social Club is open on Monday and Saturday evenings so do come along for a drink and chat.

Knit and Natter

With the Covid restrictions being gradually eased, it is likely that Knit and Natter (10.30am on the last Wednesday of each month) will resume on Wednesday 28 July at 10.30am at St Margaret's Church, Templeton. Bring any knitting, crocheting, sewing or repair work along with you, or maybe you would just prefer to come along for a cup of coffee and a chat? Either way, it is a great opportunity to get together.

Barbecue

Many thanks to Mike Pancherz and Martin Hill for their expert construction of the permanent barbecue and base at Templeton Village Hall. The work is now complete. The barbecue is there for all the Templeton community to use and enjoy over the Summer. Templeton Village Hall and Social Club are planning to hold a barbecue to celebrate ultrafast broadband reaching Templeton at last! We are indebted to David and Allyson for their continued hard work in dealing with the challenges of securing ultrafast broadband for our community. There is still some more work to be done but we are getting there. Once a date for the barbecue has been finalised, we will

contact everyone in the village to let them know. However, in the meantime if you would like to meet up with friends at the village hall and try out the barbecue, the equipment is all there for you to enjoy. Just contact Bindy (860655) to make sure that the hall hasn't already been booked for that day.

Templeton Summer Fete: Saturday 14 August

On the 14 August at 1.30pm, we are hoping to hold the Templeton Village Fete at Templeton Village Hall. This is a great opportunity for us all to get together again and enjoy the Grand Outdoor Auction, a cream tea or hot dogs, and visit a number of entertaining stalls. Fingers crossed the weather will be kind to us. We hope to see you there.

Duck Race: Saturday or Sunday 4 or 5 September

We hope to have a Duck Race at Templeton Bridge again this year, starting at Great Esworthy Farm and finishing at Dartcoombe Mill with cream teas. Watch this space!

Harvest Supper: Saturday 2 October

We look forward to celebrating the Harvest Festival Weekend with a Harvest Supper on the Saturday 2 October at the Village Hall along with either a quiz, a produce competition or some musical entertainment. The Harvest Festival Church Service will be on Sunday October 3.

Our thoughts, prayers and welcome.

Our thoughts and best wishes are with those who are unwell, or receiving treatment, waiting for, or recovering from surgery.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

We would also like to welcome Andrew, Laura, Ciara and Naomi to the village. We do hope you will be very happy here.

July to August - Church Flowers and Cleaning Rota

4 - 11 July Bindy Linden

18 - 25 July Bindy Linden

1 - 8 August Clare Trevelyan-Thomas

15 - 22 August Gloria Woollacott

29 - 5 September Lynda Newnes

WASHFIELD

And so, with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees, I think we can assume that life is beginning over again with the summer.

Summer again and the grass is growing! What is even more cheering is that the church came into its own again on May 22 for the marriage of Graham Radford and Abigail Hannam and the sun shone for them! A fine day in the middle of a very rainy spell. The Church was beautifully decorated and the churchyard newly mown in honour of the happy couple, who came out from the ceremony, inspiringly led by Steph, under an arch of pitchforks and past milk churns overflowing with flowers - a true country Wedding!

We wish Graham and Abi a long and happy life together.

A Service of Evening Prayer is being held on the fourth Sunday of each month at 6.00pm in Washfield and we are visiting all our valley churches in turn each Sunday at 11.15 am for Holy

Communion, with singing at present outside the church at the beginning and end of each Service - if fine! Services on Zoom or on the 'phone at 10.00am continue for those who find it difficult to attend church. The many folk who attend these Services led by Steph and Robert together have valued having Robert's wisdom and welcome each week, and so we send our sincere good wishes to him as he leaves St. Peter's and begins a new post in the Rural Ministry in the Crediton area. We shall miss him very much.

The PCC is hoping for a combined celebration of Harvest and Church Fete in September but it is uncertain at present whether Covid Restrictions will allow us to have a really good 'get-together' quite yet. However, we can be thinking about it and planning for a fun day - with fund raising as an important by-product! New ideas for children's activities will be welcomed. In the meantime let us enjoy the Summer and hope for the best!

Important!

A morning to tidy up the churchyard.

Can you join a working party from 10.00am on Saturday 17 July? Please bring tools and spend any time you can spare removing ivy and weeds from the gutters etc. Refreshments will be provided. Thank you.

The bluebells are going over and the curled ferns are rising in the hedgerows with the foxgloves, the weather is warm (as we write) so lets enjoy the freedoms we now have.

The Social Club is open each Tuesday now and you'd be most welcome to come and partake with other villagers/members: in fact your visit and membership could not just benefit you

and your wellbeing but also be a lifeline for the club. A village that gets together stays together.

Unfortunately, one of the stalwarts of the club is leaving us. Maggie Parker, who has lived in the village for 42 years is moving away and making a new home in Lymstone. A house on the estuary, overlooking the water sounds exciting and we wish her so many good wishes in this move: the village will be poorer without your caring involvement, Maggie.

In her place come Tony and Andi and their children and, although we haven't met you yet, we hope to soon. We wish you much happiness as you begin your life in Washfield.

Also moving to pastures new are Sam, Anouska, Walter and Winnie who are moving from Lower Washfield to Uffculme. They too, leave a lasting legacy from their involvement in the Tiverton Sustainable Tree Team. On a day in 2019 a 50+ strong group came and planted fruit and broadleaf trees on their land and now we watch them grow up to the light and help lessen global climate and ecological issues affecting us all. We will miss you guys in the village and hope to see you from time to time.

Taking their place, overlooking the valley and the old railway line to Bampton, are Jamie and Sylvia who join us from Buckinghamshire. We hope you will be very happy here and we look forward to meeting you.

Another couple moving into (or rather back) to Lower Washfield are Jan and Bryan Lewis who return after taking

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PARISH ROUND-UP

sanctuary in Minehead (AI can't think of a better place) whilst their house was stunningly re-built. We are sure you are delighted with the finished property, it looks amazing. We hope you are settling back in and not missing the town and coffee shops of the north coast. Welcome back both.

And still news of new villagers comes, this time it's the baby son of Peter and Lucy of Courtenay Cottages. Congratulations to you both and welcome little man.

We wish Joy Smith good, recovery wishes as she has finally had her hip replacement and continues to improve with each week post op.

Also, to everyone not in the best of health at this time, we wish you get well wishes and steady improvements as you recover.

We are currently awaiting the news of the next step in the roadmap out of Covid restrictions and hope, with each step, we are able to slowly, carefully get ourselves and our village back to normal.

As things open up in the village keep a keen eye on the Parish website <https://www.middevonparish.co.uk/was> hfield and the Facebook site for the village 'Humans of Washfield and Lower Washfield'

warmth of summer. Nevertheless, there are many who are wary of our being given too much freedom too soon.

As was anticipated when writing in the last magazine, we are once again holding lea-led services at St Catherine's initially and normally on the first and third Sundays of the month at 10.45am, though the actual Sundays may vary - see below and the centre pages for details. Although still not allowed to sing in church, at the time of writing, we have been able to sing one or two hymns outside at the start of the services with guitar accompaniment and at our most recent service, also with the birds singing.

Those who have requested it are kept up to date with upcoming services by weekly email. If anybody would like to be added to the circulation, please let Paul and Elizabeth know (email on page 2)

We have all been missing so much personal contact to which we were accustomed and it is good to have this back - even at a social distance!

Upcoming lay-led services in July and August are:

11 July	Family Service
18 July	Morning Worship
1 August	Family Service
15 August	Morning Worship
All at 10.45am.	

At the time of writing these notes, we are all awaiting the government's decision on further easing or removal of restrictions, so it is yet uncertain as to whether we will be able to hold a Summer Fete in any form. If it does prove possible, we will try to let everyone know either by email or word of mouth. We will also let you know

when all the regular events in the village hall will restart.

Congratulations to two couples who recently celebrated special wedding anniversaries. It was Harry and Sylvia's Diamond Wedding Anniversary and Rodney and Margaret's Ruby Wedding Anniversary. We send our love and best wishes to you all.

We also send congratulations to Henry and Shirley on the birth of another grandchild.

Our thoughts are with all those waiting for school, college and university results. Best wishes to you all and hope your results allow you to follow your chosen career.

Once again, congratulations to anyone else who has a special anniversary and to any who have special birthdays.

Get well wishes go to all those known to us who are receiving treatment, recovering from operations or who are unwell at the moment.

And to everyone, once again, stay safe and take care.

WITHLEIGH

We are all thankful that the latest lockdown has come to an end and the restrictions eased. We are also able to enjoy the longer evenings and the



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Baby & Toddler GROUP

Bickleigh-on-Exe Church of England Primary is a school for children aged 2-11. We are offering all members of our local and wider community the opportunity to attend our free Baby and Toddler Group. Our group will meet every Wednesday morning 9:30am – 11:00am from 21st April 2021.

Call 01884 855357 to book your place.

We look forward to meeting you soon!

Join us for our weekly
Coffee Morning via Zoom
 This takes place every Wednesday morning at 10.30am
 Join us when you can and leave when you have to!
 The ID and password can be found on the website.



The FORCE Cancer Charity Support & Information Centre is temporarily closed but we are still here to help
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For cancer support and information plus advice on claiming benefits
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