



TODAY

The Parish
Magazine
for the
Exe Valley
Mission
Community

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2021

Price 50p

LOOK TO THE FUCHSIA !

It happens every year, and you would think I would have learnt by now – but no!

Every year, as the days begin to get warmer, I start to think about the garden, and have little fantasies about what I might grow. I admit – I am no gardener, and neither is my lovely husband, but we do try ... a bit!

Last year was the year of the geranium! Every tub was full of them, but by the beginning of spring they had completely given up the ghost and expired. Even I could tell that no amount of watering would help them recover.

So, I decided not to go down the geranium route this year, but to branch out, try my luck and do something new.

So, having cased a couple of garden centres, I decided that this year would be the year of (wait for it!)

‘The Year of the Fuchsia’.

I never knew there were so many varieties.

All the pots that had once contained geraniums (RIP) are now overflowing with fuchsias. And they have done and are doing very well and look rather splendid.

I know that the vast majority of you are excellent gardeners and have far more advanced skills and knowledge than I. I know this to be true because I have seen some of your gardens and eaten some of your delicious produce.



But it does amaze me that despite my haphazard and lackadaisical efforts, watering, no watering, overwatering and general neglect, my fuchsias have grown and flowered, and brought colour and life to my garden.

In the church's calendar September and October look to the time of Creation and Harvest. It's a time to say thank you to our farmers and growers as they bring in the harvest.

It's also a time to say thank you to God for all that he has given us in creation.

Of course, there are other things to nurture and grow apart from crops and food. Relationships, for one; faith for another.

May our communities and our churches be welcoming to all, so that everyone may grow and prosper.

With love and prayers,

Steph

P.S. We are delighted to welcome Rev'd Claire Curtis and her family to the Exe Valley Mission Community. We hope and pray that Claire will be blessed during her time with us, and that her ministry here will grow, flourish and bear fruit.

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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

At the time of writing August is cold and damp. Not what we were expecting! An indian summer in September do I hear? As we enter the season of Harvest Festivals a little sunshine for our tea parties and games would be a bonus.

Please see the middle pages where we list our services and hopefully you will be able to join us at one of the many services of celebration in the Exe Valley Mission Community.

Also we have a special tea party in Templeton on Sunday 12 September at 4.00pm to welcome Rev'd Claire Curtis, our new curate and her family.
Do come along and say hello.

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. Details how to access them are on the website. In addition we will record each Sunday service, which should be available to listen to on the website the following Monday morning.

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.

If you need help, or prayer please contact me.

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 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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CHILDREN'S PAGE

BibleWise

Harvest Time: Wheat or Tare?

In Matthew 13:24-30. Jesus teaches his followers the parable of the Wheat and Tares. In this parable, an enemy plants, tares or weeds, in a farmer's field of wheat. When the servants ask the farmer if they should uproot the tares, the farmer says to let them grow together. By doing this, the wheat won't be uprooted with the tares. The farmer explains that when it is time to harvest, they should gather the tares and burn them and put the wheat in his barn.

Think about this parable. What if we thought of the wheat as good, loving thoughts and the tares as unhelpful, negative thoughts?

Now let's harvest those thoughts! Read examples of thoughts on the stems below. Colour in the stems with good loving thoughts. Leave the unhelpful. Negative thoughts white.



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OPEN MORNINGS

Friday 25th September 2020
and Friday 6th November 2020

FROM STEPH



Hello, I'm Claire Curtis your new curate!

Having studied Theology Ministry and Mission at St Mellitus College for the past 3 years I am being ordained at Exeter Cathedral on the 11th September, then joining you as a self supporting minister on the 12th.

Being a local country girl, I grew up on a family farm in the nearby village of Cove, enjoying everything about working hard as a team whatever the season and appreciating the great outdoors.

For the last 8 years my husband Andrew and I have been living in Templeton on a smallholding with our 3 sons Will (21) Alex (19) and Sam (10) and my mum Eileen Babbage. We love sharing our home with others and have a small retreat.

Those of you who don't know me are perhaps wondering what is Claire like? Well, I will absolutely love spending time with you all and getting to know you. I am a keeper of sheep, creative and my favourite thing to do is riding. In fact you may have seen me on the roads already pray riding in preparation for journeying with you all in God's work in this area. I have always felt called to serve in the area I live, so working here seems the right thing to be doing.

My faith in Jesus gives me real purpose for everyday and I carry a great deal of joy and hope because of this (Nehemiah 8 verse 10).

My hope for the Exe Valley Mission Community is that we may all realise what God would have us do as we love and help each other, knowing all the while how much we are dearly loved by Him.

Please say hello, it will be great to meet you. I'm really looking forward to it.

With love

Claire

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NATURE NOTES

As Nature's growing season comes to an end we reflect on a time when the fits and starts during this period seemed to mirror our faltering steps in trying to return to normality.

The self inflicted damage to the supply chain caused by Brexit and the pandemic simply added to the annual challenge of trying to grow things for sustenance or pleasure. This difficulty was put into further perspective when I heard on the radio that scientists have now found out that grass actually knows when it is being cut! We are asked to believe that messages are sent onwards by grass being cut, such that those awaiting the chop drive their nutrients downwards to better protect their future.

I am perfectly happy to believe this to be true despite how extraordinary it seems. I say this mostly out of humility as it is hard to truly understand what is going on.

This year – seed germination was so slow; sunflowers are tiny; the apples have not set but the soft fruit in bush and tree is plentiful; vegetables do well and grass growth has been so vigorous that some hay was gathered alongside the cattle as they were only just working on their immediate share of the fodder.

I extend my sympathy to all who have struggled with Nature to provide and those unhappy with staycations this summer. Spare a thought for weather forecasters who have to pretend they

are more in control – thanks to severe weather warning that wrongly hovered over the Mid-Devon show those that were driven into the beer tent may be oblivious to the cider shortage to come.

My highlight of the season now ended was the return of the glow worms – they have only fitfully appeared over the last decade and though this was a lonely one, it was a glimmer of the promise of future glowing and more predictable summers.

Thomas More

Coffee Morning

18 September from 10.30am at Barton View, Loxbeare

To raise funds for Blythwood Shoe Boxes for Christmas

The Church will be open for Harvest decorating



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN FOOTPATHS, BRIDLEWAYS, RESTRICTED BYWAYS & BYWAYS IN THE PARISH OF WASHFIELD

A review of public rights of way in the Parish of Washfield is now being undertaken by Devon County Council

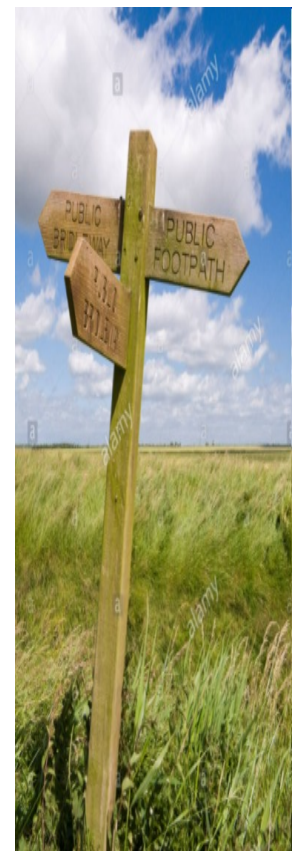
You are invited to a PARISH PUBLIC MEETING about the Definitive Map Review at the Washfield Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 29th September 2021 at 7.30 pm

at Washfield Memorial Hall, Washfield EX16 9QZ (now rearranged from the original date of 15th April 2020)

A short talk will be given about the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way and how changes can be made followed by questions and discussion.

For further information contact Mrs Tania Weeks, Public Rights of Way Officer, Definitive Map Review, Devon County Council Telephone: 01392 382833

Email: tania.weeks@devon.gov.uk



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 John 8:12 (NIV)



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PARISH ROUND-UP

CALVERLEIGH

As life is returning to what feels a bit more 'normal' it is great that we are now able to meet up in larger groups and begin to partake in some of our usual church/parish activities. However we are aware that for some of our congregation or parishioners life is still being lived in a cautious and safe way and we must continue to respect each others right to do this. Hopefully in time we will all have the confidence to meet up again with friends whose company has been missed.

It is so good to be able to hold a service and to join in singing as a congregation, giving praise and thanksgiving for all that we have been given in this life. Listening to hymn music has enabled us to continue with our services but as nice as it has been, especially when we could hear recorded voices, it is not the same as being able to use our own voices. This is still carried out in a safe way, even though restrictions have been removed, and those wishing to wear a mask when singing are free to do so.

Calverleigh hosted the Group Service with Holy Communion on Sunday 8 August, which was led by Rev'd Steph Gordon-Jeffs. Our congregation was welcomed from around the valley and it was good to be able to meet face to face with those who we have been seeing on Zoom, or hearing via Conference call. Dave Edwards and Sue Rivett provided the music with guitar and violin and the congregation sang with gusto.

Thank you Steph for a lovely service and to Dave and Sue for the music.

TODAY Magazine

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Also on the 8 the village hall committee kindly organised a Tea on the Green afternoon but due to the inclement weather during the morning, opted to hold it indoors instead. A lovely tea consisting of three choices of sandwich filling along with scones, clotted cream and a choice of three different jams were provided.

It was wonderful to see those that we had not seen for a long time, but also faces of new residents that we hope to become familiar with in the near future. As the afternoon began the sun shone and many people made use of the green to mingle, 'catch up' or become acquainted.

Following the tea those attending were entertained by 'In Harmony', normally a trio but on this occasion a duo. Although they had concerns about their programme, being a singer down, they sang songs and medleys from the 50s and 60s. Thank you Cathy and Lyn, you performed very well.

Thank you to the hall committee, Mrs Drew and her helpers for the tea and of course to everyone who turned out to make this a very pleasant afternoon.

A warm welcome to all who have moved into the village recently and we hope that you will be very happy in your new surroundings. Now that there is a bit more movement of people coming together, we hope to meet you at either a village or church event or a combination of both, where you will be able to get to know your new neighbours. Please see the Exe Valley Mission Community website for updates of services/activities within the group or at St. Mary's.

Congratulations to Nik and Dave who celebrate their 10th Anniversary on 17 September. We'd also like to wish Myrtle a very happy 90th Birthday. We hope that you have a great day!

Congratulations also to anyone else who have been or will be celebrating a life event: birth, birthday, wedding, anniversary in the coming months. (Do tell us if you want us to add a message here in the magazine).

For all those who have received exam results we hope that you have achieved everything needed to proceed to the next part of your education or for your first steps into working life.

As the new school year begins we wish all those children on their first steps into school life a happy and settled time and the same to all who are now moving onto secondary school/college or university. May this new school year be a much less disruptive one than the last two for all members of staff and pupils.

Our condolences go to anyone who has had a bereavement in recent times. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this most difficult of times. May God comfort and protect you at this difficult time.

Events Coming up (Hopefully!)

Our next monthly time of prayer will be on Saturday 4 September from 9 - 11am either in the church (that's right, I said it), or in the comfort of your own home, shed, campervan or car. In October it will be on Saturday 2.

Starting in September, some of our regular services will return to 11.15am and Cluster Services are being reintroduced. Our cluster group is Calverleigh, Loxbeare and Washfield. Please see the centre of the magazine

(or the website) for service times and venues.

Harvest weekend will this year be 18/19 September, a week later than normal, due to circumstances beyond our control. It is hoped that there will be a Harvest Supper on 18 Sept in the village hall. A Harvest Thanksgiving service on the Sunday will be at 11.15am in church. Definite details will follow. Please look out for posters/flyers nearer to the time.

A meeting is to be held at the home of Ron and Margaret Tidball on 4 October at 7.30pm to discuss how we move forward with the organising the Loxbeare and Calverleigh Carol Singing. It is a very worthwhile event that raises money for local charities as well as being a lot of fun, and has supper included! Please let Ron and Margaret know if you will be attending the meeting. (See also under Loxbeare for more information)

We are very much hoping that our Autumn Fayre will be able to go ahead on Saturday 20 November. For those of you who are new to the village, this is an annual event (except for last year, of course) that takes place in the village hall with light lunches, tea/coffee, competitions, tombolas, cake and produce stall, bring and buy table, chinese auction along with some craft stalls. To occupy the little ones there is usually a craft stall at a very minimal cost where they can make, colour or glue to their hearts content.

Mowing Rota

23 Aug - 4 Sep: Mr C Durnan
6 - 18 Sep: The Webber Family
20 Sep - 2 Oct: Mr A Hancock
4 - 16 Oct: Mr K Hayes

continued overleaf ➔



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PARISH ROUND-UP

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

Please see the website (www.exevalleychurches.org/calverleigh) for any update information on services or activities.

CRUWYS MORCHARD

OUR CHURCH IS NOW OPEN TO ALL

Do we need a defibrillator in Pennymoor? In fact two defibrillators, one at the pub and one at the village hall?

Please ring Val on 01363 866 662 with your thoughts.

Hopefully by the time you read this the road hedges will have been cut and much safer to drive down. There are so many cars driving down our lanes far to fast. Yesterday a well polished vehicle ran over two chickens and did not even stop, it left dead chickens and huge long skid marks on the road. Very kind new neighbours helped clear it all up. The new Highway Code says that the speed limit is not a target. Adapt your driving to the appropriate type and condition of the road you are on.

The Church Fete was a great success, in early July, with wonderful weather and

lots of people, over 100, including children signed in on Track and Trace. We raised £768.00 for church funds. It was especially nice to see so many of the new comers in the village(as well as a couple from a nearby camp site.) I hope we will see you at many more events during the year.

Devon Historic Churches Day is on 11 September, incorporating the national RIDE AND STRIDE for churches. See how many churches you can visit on bike, car or foot, there are normally refreshments in the churches or in the porches, please remember to sign the list in the Church. I will leave the Sponsorship and Donation Forms in the porch of the Church.

The next Church event is HARVEST FESTIVAL on Saturday 25 September. It usually takes place over two days. On Saturday 25 we begin with a short service in the Church at 2.15pm, followed by sports (prizes for all winners) in the field nearby and tea for everyone on long tables in the parish hall. There is usually a Harvest Thanksgiving in the Church on the Sunday. Please check in the middle pages.

The Christmas Craft Fayre will take place at the Hall on 13 November, save the day. If you would like a stall or any other enquiries, please ring Diana on 01363 860227

All services in our church are published in the centre pages of this magazine.

The greatest sadness this month is the cancellation of the Annual Flower Show which would have been on 14 September. The small stall of plants is still outside Chrissie's house, next to Pennymoor Timber, with a donation box. All

donations go towards the next Flower Show. It is the perfect way to recycle and exchange surplus plants.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH in North Street has services at 4pm on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, with tea and biscuits.

THE CRUWYS ARMS

Paul and Carol would like to thank those who are coming to the pub and helping to keep our local going. Without you there would be no pub! Don't forget, even if you don't drink - we do serve great food! Immense gratitude to Val for keeping the gardens looking so fantastic throughout the summer. Her constant weeding and watering certainly pays off, but she doesn't often get to hear the many compliments from customers who admire her work. And the hidden gnomes around the garden bring a smile to many a face!

We are looking for part time bar staff – please call 07369 207036, if you are interested. Thanks

THE CRUWYS ARMS GARDENERS met informally in the pub on Wednesday 4 August and will meet again on 1 September in the Cruwys Arms at 8pm, do come. Thereafter they will meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 8pm in the pub.

YOGA; on Thursday mornings in the Parish Hall. To join ring Hilary on 01363 866245.

CRUWYS MORCHARD YOUNG FARMERS CLUB

We have been busy with the show season, the club coming 8th in cubicle, 6th in promotion board and 5th in scrapbook also individual members with many awards as well.

At Mid Devon Show we did even better
continued on page 12

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5 SEPTEMBER

10am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

11.15am Morning Worship

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.00am Morning Prayer

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OAKFORD

See Rackenford

RACKENFORD

11.15am Holy Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

STOODLEIGH

See Rackenford

TEMPLETON

See Rackenford

WASHFIELD

See Rackenford

WITHLEIGH

10.30am Morning Worship

12 SEPTEMBER

10am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

See Loxbeare

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Loxbeare

LOXBEARE

11.15am Holy Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs
& Claire Curtis

OAKFORD

10.15am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

See Loxbeare

STOODLEIGH

11.00am Morning Prayer

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

4.00pm Tea Party for

Claire Curtis

WASHFIELD

See Loxbeare

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Harvest Festival

SATURDAY

18 SEPTEMBER

WASHFIELD
HARVEST FESTIVAL
2.30pm
Followed by BBQ &
games on The Green

SATURDAY

25 SEPTEMBER

CRUWYS
MORCHARD
HARVEST FESTIVAL
2.15pm
Followed by Tea &
Games at the Village
Hall

19 SEPTEMBER

10am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

11.15am Harvest Festival

CRUWYS MORCHARD

11.15am Holy Communion
Georgie Bell
& Claire Curtis

LOXBEARE

3.00pm Harvest Festival

OAKFORD

See Cruwys Morchard

RACKENFORD

See Cruwys Morchard

STOODLEIGH

6.30pm Evening Prayer

TEMPLETON

See Cruwys Morchard

WASHFIELD

6.00pm Evening Prayer

WITHLEIGH

See Cruwys Morchard

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26 SEPTEMBER

OUR
MISSION
COMMUNITY
GROUP
HARVEST & HOLY
COMMUNION
SERVICE

is at

11.15 am in
OAKFORD

Steph Gordon-Jeffs
& Claire Curtis

Everyone welcome

Please come and
join us !!

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.



3 OCTOBER

10am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

11.15 am Morning Worship

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Stoodleigh

LOXBEARE

6.30pm Evening Praise

OAKFORD

See Stoodleigh

RACKENFORD

See Stoodleigh

STOODLEIGH

11.15am Holy Communion
with Harvest
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

TEMPLETON

10.45am Harvest Festival

WASHFIELD

See Stoodleigh

WITHLEIGH

10.30 am Morning Praise

10 OCTOBER

10am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

See Washfield

CRUWYS MORCHARD

11.00am Morning Prayer

LOXBEARE

See Washfield

OAKFORD

See Washfield

RACKENFORD

6.00pm Harvest Praise

STOODLEIGH

See Washfield

TEMPLETON

See Washfield

WASHFIELD

11.15am Holy Communion
*Jane Wilson
and Claire Curtis*

WITHLEIGH

10.30am Morning Worship

17 OCTOBER

10am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

11.15am Songs of Praise

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Templeton

LOXBEARE

11.00am Songs of Praise

OAKFORD

10.15am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

See Templeton

STOODLEIGH

6.30pm Evening Praise

TEMPLETON

11.15am Holy Communion
*Georgie Bell
and Claire Curtis*

WASHFIELD

6.00pm Evening Prayer

WITHLEIGH

See Templeton

24 OCTOBER

OUR MISSION COMMUNITY HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

is at
**11.15 am in
WITHLEIGH**
*Ian Johnson
& Claire Curtis*

Everyone welcome

**Please come and
join us !!**

31 OCTOBER

10am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

See Washfield

CRUWYS MORCHARD

11.00am Family Service

LOXBEARE

11.00am Morning Praise

OAKFORD

See Washfield

RACKENFORD

9.00am Morning Worship

STOODLEIGH

See Washfield

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

11.15am Holy Communion
with Baptism
*Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and Claire Curtis*

WITHLEIGH

10.30am Morning Worship

PARISH ROUND-UP

with the club winning the Percentage Cup and jointly winning The Club Cup for most points won. Many members entered various classes from stock judging and cookery to photography and craft. The club had a clean sweep of the junior cups with George Rice winning junior boys with Harry Rice as reserve.

Dates of events coming up;

Wednesday 18 August- new members afternoon running from 4-8pm, anyone aged 10-26 are welcome, we are doing a barbecue together with games and fun and possibly a slip and slide at Windmill Farm EX168LU

Sunday 12 September - club tractor run leaving from the hall at 10am, any and everyone welcome to see the tractors before they set off, food available at the pub.

Saturday 18 September - Saturday club presentation night

The club is planning on celebrating their 90th anniversary, all past and present members are invited, further details to follow soon. Many members are off to Wales on the junior SWA weekend.

We are planning another photography, first aid and food hygiene course for skills for life. Planning a trip to RNLI for a tour of the station and a BBQ on the beach.

The club have still got some 'Livestock Respect' signs for anyone that has a public footpath across their land the sign says "keep dogs on leads around livestock"

Best wishes to Ali, now she has returned home, our prayers are with you, get well soon. Bob and Louise are still not into their house which had been flooded.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have been unwell or have had a recent bereavement

Best wishes to everyone who have moved to our village recently, forgive me for forgetting everyones name! Jeanette and Dave. Sue and Mike Wragg (from South Africa) Jilly and Tony, Carol and Richard, Sharon and Harlan, Ashleigh, their daughter with her partner Jordan and also Luna, Nova and Casey, their dogs and lots of sheep. Thank you Sharon and Harlan for all your help with sweeping up our chickens.

Good wishes to everyone who has moved to the village during this lock down.

Since our original lockdown at least 12 properties in the village have changed hands. We look forward to meeting very one soon.

LOXBARE

Lockdown restrictions have been lifted! It is so good to be able to meet in Church, sing and worship together and to have the freedom to spend quality time with family and friends, but it looks like we still need to be careful with covid numbers as they are. We remember all who continually work in the NHS, care workers in nursing and caring for others for the continuing vaccine programme and for those developing new vaccines.

After such a long time we can now move forward and at least start making plans for Church and Village events and trust we will be able to go ahead with them all.

We will be holding our Harvest Thanksgiving Service on 19 September at 3.00pm. Please do come and join us to give thanks to God for a good harvest so far this year. This will be followed by a Bring and Share Tea. There will be no Saturday service this year. On the 17 and 18 September we will be decorating for Harvest. Anyone is welcome to help or just to drop off flowers and produce. Jean will be holding a coffee morning on the 18 September, so pop in and help raise funds for Blythwood to fill shoe boxes in November.

The Harvest Supper will be on Monday 20 September at 7.00 for 7.30pm. Price £5 with auction after. Monies will go to Chat. There will be a meeting in the hall on 13 September at 7.30pm to plan for the supper, if anyone is interested to help.

Ron was presented with a jigsaw and frame of Loxbore Church, a token of thanks for the many years' service as Church Warden at the PCC meeting which was held on 4 August.

The next PCC meeting will be on 7 October at 7.00pm in the Church.

There will be a service in the Church on 12 September at 11.15am to be taken by Steph, and we will be welcoming Clare Curtis as our new Curate. We pray God's blessing on her ministry here in the Exe Valley Parishes.

In October, Church Services will be Evening Praise at 6.30pm on the 3rd, Songs of Praise at 11.00am on the 17th and Morning Praise at 11.00am on the 31st. Please do check the middle pages. Beginning in October, coffee, tea and biscuits will be offered after the service.

continued overleaf ➔

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PARISH ROUND-UP

The Church will now be opened each day between 9.00am and 6.00pm if anyone wishes to go in.

There will be a meeting at Ron and Margaret's at 7.30pm on 4 October with Calverleigh for anyone interested in helping with Carol Singing this year. Contact Ron on 01884 881362.

We are pleased to hear Richard Heywood is now getting on well after a spell in hospital in July. We pray for Ron and Steve Troake and anyone else who is waiting for treatment. Also, for Maurice and Marlene Taylor and all who are not feeling well.

Happy Birthday to all who have birthdays in September/October and to any celebrating special occasions.

A Bonfire and BBQ was held in Arthur's field opposite the Church on 16 July. Thank you to those who organised and helped in anyway.

There will be a Village Hall meeting on 9 September at 7.30pm in the Hall. On 11 September starting from 2.00pm at the Hall, there will be a Treasure Hunt followed by a Bring and Share tea. Contact Carol on 10884 881480 for more details.

The Village Hall will be opened from 7.00pm on Tuesday 2 November for anyone wishing to help fill the Blythwood show boxes and/or drop off ones you have already filled. Again, contact Carol on 01884 881480 for more details.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all children starting school for the first time, for those moving to High School and for those young people beginning

colleges/universities and all the challenges that will bring them.

May we all stay safe and take care as we enjoy the freedom that the lifting of restrictions has brought. God Bless.

OAKFORD

Dare we trust that we are back to normal? Services in St Peter's are up and running; hand sanitising just in case, mask wearing optional but take care and, yes, singing is permitted inside the building. So let's hope this can continue through the winter without any more setbacks. Thank you to our lay leaders, Mary, Dawn & Wendy, who make our Morning Praise and Evensong services so enjoyable.

The Group Harvest Festival will be held in St Peter's on 26 September at 11.15am. The service will be led by the Rev'd Steph Gordon-Jeffs assisted by Claire Curtis, our new curate and Dave Edwards will play live music. We'll be grateful for flowers and vegetables etc. to decorate the church and to auction at the Harvest Supper later that same evening. They can be brought along on the morning of Saturday 25. Tickets for the Harvest Supper and Auction £7 are available from Dawn (01398 324035). Bring your own drinks and lots of coins!

Steph officiated at the baptism of Ella Florence Barcoe which took place on 25 July. Ella's parents, Laura and Paddy, brother Patrick, grandparents, Richard and Bronwen Hurley together with family, friends and members of the congregation welcomed her into the church community. A very happy occasion. May your faith sustain and

guide you Ella Florence your whole life through.

Fundraising for the church bells continues at a steady pace. Brenda & Mary's Crafty Fundraising Group has now raised an unbelievable £1,352. The Group has over 150 members and donations of handmade items to sell and materials to use have come from as far afield as Nottingham, Darlington and Australia. The Group is always keen to welcome new members willing to make and donate and is always glad of things they can use e.g. wool, cotton, material etc. Follow on: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/914399609356903/>

Another £860 towards the bells came from the Vintage Tractor Run organised by Karen & Paul Pincombe and Mary & Donald Shere which started from Oakridge Farm on the morning of Sunday 8 August. It was well supported despite a damp weather forecast and participants referred to it as one of the best routes they'd been on. Thanks to Henry & Caroline Llewellyn and Richard Cross for allowing the route to access their land. Bacon baps were served to the drivers at the start and a hot meal was waiting on their return. Huge thanks are due to the organisers and volunteer helpers who kept going despite the shocking news that Karen & Paul's daughter Kirsty, Brenda & Bun's granddaughter, had a nasty car accident on her way to the event. Thankfully Kirsty was not seriously injured but it meant that key helpers, Karen and Bun, had to rush off to the accident whilst Brenda stayed but was in a state of shock. Special thanks go to Dawn Williams, Patsy & John Phillips, Angela Hill, Anne Boldry,

continued overleaf ➔

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Cherry Winzer & Angela from Upcott and Mary's daughter and brother who all stepped in to save the day.

Throughout all this Mary was working hard in the kitchen to keep the food cooking. What a morning but very well done everyone and thank you.

A donation has been received from Fraser Anti-Static of Scott's Business Park, Bampton. Grateful thanks to them for this generous gift. The total fund now stands at over £21,000. Still a long way to go so come on Oakford, let's have some more great fundraising ideas we can all enjoy.

Over 30 ladies gathered in the garden at Paul & Jennie Chappell's home for the annual Moorland Club BBQ on 29 July. The weather was kind, the food delicious and a good time was had by all. In addition 10 new members joined up. So thanks to Paul and Jennie and all the cooks and helpers and welcome to the new members.

The next meeting is on Thursday 23 September in the village hall at 2.30pm when Ollie Tubb will talk about and demonstrate Qigong. Something different to learn about and those who wish to will be able to join in. Tea/coffee as usual. Rose Channing will be coming on Thursday 28 October to entertain us with some of her humorous stories.

The Christmas Fayre is a bit later this year on 27 November so save some Christmas shopping until then.

The village hall is the venue for an Art & Photography Showcase on Saturday 25 September. Between 10am – 2pm you can meet local artists and photographers and view their work. Free entry and light refreshments will

be available. Some of the exhibits will be for sale.

Wednesday Quiz nights at The Red Lion have started up again. Dates for the Autumn are: 22 September and 20 October (provisional). Start time: 8pm. Coming soon - watch out for posters to detail a Cheese & Wine evening on Friday 17 September to raise funds and recruit committee members for the village hall.

Also coming next March The Oakford Players postponed and long-awaited production of The Vicar of Dibley – no, no, no, no, yes!

Moving on – following not such a good staycation holiday season, weather-wise, let's hope for an Indian summer in September.

Keep safe and well and remember a warm welcome awaits at the Harvest celebration on 26 September.

thankful to have this service in our community.

Very belated congratulations to Alistair and Coby on the birth of Harriet in February. It has taken a while for the grapevine to get our attention. We hope you are enjoying being mummy and daddy, not forgetting grandma of course.

Congratulations also to Matt and Tara on the birth of Thomas, a little brother for Maisie and a very welcome addition for grandparents Maria and Alan.

Thanks to Dennis again, our bell was rung to commemorate 73 years of the NHS and all the frontline workers (5 July 1948). We cannot begin to imagine the stress and worry they have dealt with during this difficult time. The vaccines have given us all hope and encouragement working towards the future.

Great excitement as the new play area opened on 21 July. A colouring and poetry writing competition was held for school pupils and those at Little Angels. A few winners were given the honour of cutting the ribbon. Its obvious if you live close by, that the area is being enjoyed as you will hear the children playing and laughing with friends, just in time for the school holidays.

A plaque was unveiled by Helen Hyland at Trinity Well to remember her husband Mike Lane who led the plan for the rebuilding of it, completed to his design in 2008. A few will remember the Old Trinity Well and have original photographs. Displays at Trinity Well can be viewed on a variety of occasions throughout the year. Walkers often stop at this point and dogs can enjoy a fresh water beverage. (Thank you Mike).

continued overleaf ➔

RACKENFORD

We seem to have made big strides since our last issue, but not out of the woods completely.

At long last our churches are open again and weddings, funerals etc can take place without restrictions of numbers. Our services have resumed and we can sing inside and pray together for our loved ones, friends and be thankful for the progress made with covid. What a blessing .

Our village shop with its volunteers have continued providing us with such good service, helping in a variety of ways and we remain as always very



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PARISH ROUND-UP

We send our love and heart felt deepest sympathy to Alex and Jasmine and Isla on the devastating birth of their born sleeping baby Ellyse on Friday 2 July. A funeral service was held and conducted by Rev, Steph Gordon Jeffs on Monday 2 August where family and friends gathered to support and comfort Alex and Jasmine and each other through this ordeal. We will remember you all in our prayers and send continuing love as we also remember Jenny and Steve (grandparents) well known to us.

We send our best wishes to all who are ill or struggling in anyway with their health, especially Des, Joan, our friend Jacques and those still feeling the strain having had covid

If anyone knows of someone who is not well or would like to be remembered in the magazine please let us know a week before the date on the bottom of the front page. If you know of anyone who doesn't have a magazine please get in touch or collect one from the display in the village shop.

Congratulations to all those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries. Any very special ones coming up?

A warm welcome to those who have moved into Rackenford. We hope you will be happy in our little village.

To all those who have been eagerly awaiting exam results we hope you received the grades you wanted and we wish you well in the next stage of your education. Some will be moving to new schools, colleges, university, starting school for the first time or your nursery days may be beginning. Lets pray there are happy days ahead for you all.

A memorial service is planned for the late Pearl Stone on Friday 17 September.

There is to be a Sponsored Walk on Saturday October 2. Details from Liz Paxton who is planning this event. Sponsor forms will be available.

Harvest Tea Saturday October 9. Details at a later date.

Harvest Praise Sunday October 10
Lay Led Service 6.00pm.

We pray for the family of George who will have been baptized at All Saints on August 15 and welcome him to share the love of God with us.

We have listened to the banns of Maddie and Ben and wish them every happiness on their wedding day.

The Blackford family would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their friendship and kindness to Vera over the years and to thank everyone who attended Vera's funeral service and burial at our church.

If you are going on holiday have a very happy time, but home or away, stay safe. God Bless.

The wedding of Willie and Jeannie Knowles took place on Friday 16 July to the accompaniment of bells and bagpipes. The church was a mass of beautiful flowers arranged by Phyllis and Angela Hill. The happy couple departed on the back of a vintage tractor to the reception held at Stoodleigh Inn. The bagpipes echoed across the valley.

It was great to see the church packed for the baptism of James and Nikki's daughter Annie Blossom on Sunday 1 August. With godparents, children of all ages and their parents, Annie was welcomed into the church with prayers and singing.

Services will now take on a different tone with more music and hymn singing. What a relief but we will continue to be vigilant.

The Rector has started up the 11.15a.m. Holy Communion Cluster Services where Stoodleigh joins with Oakford and Rackenford on the first Sunday of the month. Group Holy Communion services will be on the fourth Sunday of the month rotating round the nine parishes. Future lay led services at St Margaret's are as follows and we would love to welcome you to this friendly church.

- 12 September Morning Prayer 11.00am.
- 19 September Evensong 6.30pm.
- 3 October Harvest Festival with Holy Communion 11.15am. with the Rector
- 10 October Morning Prayer 11.00am.
- 17 October Evensong 6.30pm.

Now at last we can plan some future events. There will be a coffee morning with raffle at The Old Stable on Wednesday 1 September from 10.30 to 12.00 noon. Do come. We hope that the

continued overleaf ➔

STOODLEIGH

News from St Margaret's Church

The best news is that the church is now open daily from about 9.30a.m. to 5.00p.m. but it will close earlier once the evenings start drawing in. Please use the hand sanitiser on arrival and on leaving and note that there is no regular cleaning.





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PARISH ROUND-UP

weather is fine so it can take place in the garden otherwise it will be inside. Then on 4 October instead of the annual Harvest Supper, there will be a Harvest Skittles with raffle in the Village Hall from 7.00pm. There is an entrance fee of £5.00 in aid of the church. Please bring your own refreshments. Places will be restricted so book in advance via 351402 or 351252. We look forward to catching up with you soon!

Stoodleigh Cricket Club

As we go into August, the end of the cricket season sadly looms. As always, we've had a great season with league cricket on Saturdays and friendlies normally on Thursdays. As the dog walkers will know, the ground has been kept in tip-top condition throughout the season thanks to the band of volunteers led by Stephen Partridge. Unfortunately, whilst we've had an enjoyable season, it hasn't always been successful and it now looks like we will be demoted to the third tier of the West Somerset League; at least that will mean that we'll be playing different teams next year. We have five players who live in the village but it would be great to have more. Please contact our secretary Matt Shaw (<http://www.stoodleigh.play-cricket.com>) if you feel that you can wield a bat or bowl a ball!

The Stoodleigh Gardening Club.

Sadly we have to confirm that our Annual Show will not take place as planned this year. Keep gardening and we'll get together again next summer to share our enthusiasm!

Stoodleigh Parish Hall

The Management Committee is pleased to report that the Hall is once again

open for business! It is now being used -still within careful guidelines for the benefit and safety of our community. We are hoping that by the time you read this, other groups will have returned and events will have started to take place again – probably still with capacity limits!

Evening classes started in early August and Karen was welcomed back with her Pilates Class on Mondays at 7.00pm. A Cream Tea Afternoon took place in Mid- August.

The committee is hoping to organise a small Autumn Market and Coffee Morning on Saturday 30 October. More information on this and hopefully other events at the Hall will be posted on the Stoodleigh community email and the parish website at <https://www.middevonparish.co.uk/stoodleigh/>

Or for more details about the Hall, ring Geraldine on 351391

TEMPLETON

Autumn has arrived, the golden season of the year that God seems to have put there just for the sheer beauty of it.

As long as autumn lasts, I shall not have hands, canvas and colours enough to paint the beautiful things I see. Vincent Van Gogh

In this beautiful part of the country, we have a front row seat so let's take the time to celebrate Autumn.

St Margaret's Church

At the time of writing, we are nearing the complete lifting of Covid-19

restrictions. Sunday services have continued in St Margaret's Church on a twice-monthly basis and at last, hymns can now be sung inside or outside the church! Please take a look at the details on the centre pages of the services in September and October and please do come and join the service. Bring your family along and let us know your favourite hymns.

The work on the churchyard is nearing completion, with the grass beginning to grow on the extended area needed for future burials. We are nearly at the stage of having the area consecrated by the Bishop of Crediton. The next phase is the preparation of a garden of rest. There is also an urgent need to carry out further maintenance and repair work on St Margaret's Church.

Templeton Village Hall

The Village Hall is now open for bookings. If you would like to book the hall for a party, wedding reception, or fund-raising event, please contact Bindy on 01884 860655. The barbecue is there too for you to make use of; especially if we have warm autumn evenings. Social club nights are on Monday and Saturday evenings from 8.30pm to 11pm – please come along for a drink and a chat.

By the time you receive this Today issue, Templeton should have held its Mini Fete – hopefully the first of many more events starting up again after a long period of lockdown!

Knit and Natter

This popular social event takes place between 10.30am and 12 midday at St Margaret's Church on the last Wednesday of each month. Bring any knitting, sewing, crocheting or

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PARISH ROUND-UP

upholstery or just come for a coffee, biscuits and a chat! (£1 donation for church funds).

Duck Race - Templeton Bridge at 2pm on Sunday September 5. The ducks are in training and the race will start at Great Esworthy Farm (limited space for parking) and finish at Dartcoombe Mill. There will be cream teas and snacks available in the garden, with books, plants, bric-a-brac, and raffle. Ducks £1 from Bindy and Roger 01884 860655, at the club, or on the day. And cash prizes to be won!

Harvest Supper – Templeton Village Hall at 7pm for 7.30pm (time tbc) on Saturday October 2.

Please come along and enjoy a lovely supper with a selection of both hot and cold dishes, vegetarian options, desserts and cheeses. The bar will be open from 7.0pm. Tickets are limited so book early! £7 for adults and £3.50 for children under 14yrs, available from Lynda 01884 881318, Reg 01884 860246, Ginah 01884 253552, William 01884 251513, or Bindy 01884 860655. The money raised will help support the much-needed funds for the maintenance of, and repairs to St Margaret's Church, Templeton.

Harvest Festival Service

St Margaret's Church at 10.45am on Sunday October 3.

Please do come and join us. Any donations of fresh, tinned or packaged produce will be very welcome and will be donated to the charity CHAT (Churches Housing Action Trust) in Tiverton. Please could you leave any donations of food in the church porch, and these will be on display throughout the church at the Harvest Festival service.

Thoughts, prayers and good wishes

Our thoughts, prayers and all good wishes go to those people in the parish, and beyond, who are unwell, in hospital, receiving or awaiting treatment, or going through a tough time.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Cindy, Stuart and Ava who have recently moved into Mount Pleasant Farm. We would also like to extend a warm welcome Henry, Cat, George and Benji who have moved into Old Farm. We hope that you will all be very happy here in Templeton.

September/October

Flowers and Cleaning Rota

Lynda Newnes	29 Aug – 5 Sept
Bindy Linden	12 Sept- 19 Sept
Phillida Strong	26 Sept – 3 Oct
Teresa Panherz	10 Oct – 17 Oct
Liz Walker	24 Oct – 31 Oct

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.

Greetings to everyone in this Summer of hot sun and stormy rain!

Covid restrictions have been relaxed with the church now open all of the time. At services we use our common sense and mask wearing is optional. The names of those attending are recorded for 'Track & Trace' until 16 August.

We are now able to have our Cluster Services when we join with Calverleigh and Loxbeare each month. Group Holy Communion circulates around the Mission Community and monthly Evening Prayer at Washfield takes

place when visitors are warmly welcomed.

As a rural Parish we value all the work our hardworking farmers put in to keep us all fed and the countryside kept in good order. Harvest Thanksgiving is an important landmark in our church's calendar. Please help to make it special by coming to our Festival service on September 18 at 2.30pm, when we can say and sing our thanks to God for our beautiful land and all it produces.

There will be a collection for CHAT. Children and the farming community will be involved!

This year we will be joining the 'Your Village, Our Village' event afterwards in the Hall and on The Green for games, food and drink, exhibitions etc for everyone - and particularly for those who are new to our community. It promises to be a memorable day!

One of the activities to be featured on September 18 is church bell ringing and you will be able to hear the bells ringing out around the village as restrictions now allow. We have a faithful band of experienced ringers and six very fine bells in the tower. New recruits to their number are always welcomed and should there be a need, tuition can be provided to learn this ancient and much valued skill. Enquire at the Church table on the 18. Mr Maurice Balment is Tower Captain and can tell you all you need to know.

We thank our Rector, The Rev. Stephanie Gordon-Jeffs for keeping us all in touch throughout the long 'lockdowns' with her online Service each Sunday and her sociable virtual coffee mornings, which are particularly valuable to those who live alone and lack company or those who are now

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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!

PARISH ROUND-UP

frail and find it difficult to attend church services. Steph is always on hand for pastoral care. We look forward to welcoming Steph's new curate, Claire Curtis, who will be at St Mary's for a Service very soon.

Please look for posters advertising a new date for tidying up the churchyard. Help will be welcomed for however a short time!

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 Lympstone. 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 sanctuary in Minehead (I 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/wasfield> and the Facebook site for the village 'Humans of Washfield and Lower Washfield'

WITHLEIGH

The Covid restrictions have, at last, been lifted, but the majority feeling seems to be to move forward cautiously, since the pandemic is far from over, with the recorded case rates in Devon, at the time of writing in early August, at an all time high. The wearing of face masks in enclosed spaces still seems to be the norm. However, it was wonderful to take part in the singing of hymns inside church on 1st August with organ accompaniment, rather than having to venture outside, for the first time since March of last year.

With caution in mind, our PCC met at the end of July to consider, among other matters, the general re-opening of St Catherine's. Although no longer governed by legal requirements, the following decisions were taken:-

The maximum number allowed in church for services for the time being is sixty.

Congregational singing of hymns would resume.

The wearing of face masks is requested when moving around in church, but may be removed when seated.

The church will, once again, be normally open during the day.

continued overleaf ➔

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PARISH ROUND UP

Upcoming lay-led services at St Catherine's in September and October are:

Sunday 5th September – Morning Worship at 10.30am
 Sunday 12th September – Harvest Festival at 3pm

Sunday 3rd October – Morning Worship at 10.30am
 Sunday 10th October – Morning Worship at 10.30am
 Sunday 31st October – Morning Worship at 10.30am

There will also be a Group Holy Communion service at St Catherine's on Sunday 24 October, at 11.15am.

The Harvest Festival Service will be followed by tea in the Village Hall, and a Harvest Supper is being planned by the Village Hall committee for the evening of Monday 13 September, 7 for 7.30pm (Covid permitting). Proceeds from the auction of produce will be sent to Devon Freewheelers. The number attending the Supper will be limited, so please book your places early with Christine on 257571.

Sadly, the decision had to be taken that there would be no Summer Fête this year, but a Christmas Fayre is currently being planned for Saturday 4 December, details yet to be worked out.

Members of the WI have had several tea parties in members' gardens during recent months, when the weather permitted and also enjoyed a coffee at Banana Cafe from time to time. In order to keep in touch Marianne edits a weekly newsletter called Snippets to which members contribute items.

We are planning to hold a Community Lunch on Tuesday 2 November so please put this date in your diaries.

Congratulations to Peter and Marianne who celebrated their Golden Wedding in July. We were pleased to be able to share in the celebration during our church service on Sunday 11 July.

Congratulations, also, to Paul and Elizabeth on the birth of a second great grandchild, a great grandson this time. Love and best wishes to him and his family.

We also send our congratulations to Keith and Jan who were married in our church on 24 July. Best wishes to you both for your future together.

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.

Our sympathy goes to the family of Phyllis Pugsley who died recently and was buried in our Churchyard being united with her husband, Fred, after a service in our Church. Phyllis lived at Jurishayes years ago with Fred and their daughters, Heather and Diane. Even after moving from Withleigh, she always supported our village events.

Our sympathy also goes to John Harris and family on the death of Rosemary. Although living in Tiverton, John and Rosemary attended events in our Village Hall. Our love and thoughts are with both families.

Our thoughts are with all those awaiting exam grades, and we wish you well for the future. We also think of the children

starting or changing schools and hope you all settle in quickly and happily, and with less disruption to learning than in the past year.

Welcome to the new occupants of Brookham and Sawyers. We hope you will be happy living in Withleigh and look forward to seeing you at future events in the village.

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

Forthcoming Events:

Sunday 12 September – Harvest Festival at 3pm, followed by tea in the Village Hall.

Monday 13 September – Harvest Supper in the Village Hall, 7 for 7.30pm.

Tuesday 2 November – Community Lunch in the Village Hall.

Flower Rota:

August 29, Sept 5 – Daphne Chown.

September 12 HARVEST.

Sept. 19, 26, Oct 3 – Shirley Cruwys.

October 10, 17, 24 – Susie Wade.



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