



TODAY

The Parish Magazine for the Exe Valley Mission Community

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2021

Price 50p

THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON.

We're having a lovely time away. It's been a good thing to put 'work' behind us for a little while and to see some new things and gain a fresh sense of perspective.

So we've been exploring Cardiff – the castle, the gallery with some wonderful paintings and ceramics, the theatre, the cinema, we've got lost in various arcades, walked around the majestic Bute Park and hopped on a water bus to explore Cardiff Bay and the regeneration of that area. It was great – and very impressive, and it was obvious, even to our enthusiastic-tourist-rose-tinted-eyes that Something was Going On!

The Navy was there marching up and down, being shouted at and generally shuffling sideways with their eyes right. There was a band marching in the distance, moving towards the Senate building. There were people in airforce uniform shaking hands vigorously with those about them. There were chatty policemen, TV cameras discreetly camouflaged, and in front of the impressive gothic custom's building, were three benches looking out to sea.

On the middle bench sat a couple (I was going to say elderly, but actually they didn't seem much

older than us!) who had brought a picnic lunch and were resolutely eating it, their eyes firmly fixed on the sea.

By this time a crowd had gathered, because very definitely there was Something Going On. The couple kept eating their sandwiches (although they might have moved on to something more biscuity). What they absolutely failed to recognise or acknowledge was that right behind them the army had turned up in full force, with three highly polished field guns, and several boxes of blank charges, and lots of shouting and stamping and re-positioning.



The couple kept on chewing, adamantly refusing to look round or budge from their bench until they had finished their lunch!

Of course, the Something Going On, was not the couple's lunch but preparations for HM The

Queen's visit the following day for the state opening of the Senedd, with a 21 gun salute. It was fascinating, and a pleasure to watch, and the lunch-eating couple's reaction was very amusing – and tolerated with impressive goodwill.

But..but..there seemed to be a dogged determination not to acknowledge the Royal Visit, or what was going on around them and to look stubbornly in the opposite direction.

We are approaching the time of year when we too will be making all the necessary preparations to celebrate Something Going On - Christmas. Hopefully we will all be able to celebrate with our family and friends this year. But Christmas is so much more than that. We are anticipating a royal visit, acknowledging that Jesus, Emmanuel, God's Son is with us.

Let's take the time to look at what is going on around us and behind us – as well as enjoying and finishing our lunch!

With love and prayers,

Steph

Copy Deadline for January / February 2022 issue

Monday 6 December 2021

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Curate Claire's Column

A HUGE thank you to my church family! My family and I are really grateful and touched by your warm welcome to us as we join the Exe Valley Mission Community. The welcome you gave us the day after my ordination in the shape of an enormous tea and warm conversation was just wonderful. As rotas and opportunities allow I'm enjoying further conversation and listening to how I may be helpful in this community. I am available on the phone 07873 575266 or claire@exevalleymissioncommunity.org (days off Tuesday and Fridays) I love visiting and being visited, it would be great to spend time with you
Grateful thanks
Claire

EDITORIAL

"And when we give each other Christmas gifts in His name, let us remember that He has given us the sun and the moon and the stars, and the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans - and all that lives and move upon them. He has given us all green things and everything that blossoms and bears fruit and all that we quarrel about and all that we have misused - and to save us from our foolishness, from all our sins, He came down to earth and gave us Himself"

Sigrid Undset

God Bless you this Christmas.

Dawn

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FROM STEPH

MID DEVON MESSENGER - HOW WE THRIVED DURING LOCKDOWN

Many of you will know about the Mid Devon Messenger – a free local talking newspaper for the blind and visually impaired, and a registered charity.

All had been running smoothly for nearly 40 years... until lockdown! Overnight we had to evacuate the studio at Heathcoat Fabrics in Tiverton, put our heads together and come up with a plan. With a little ingenuity and bags of determination, we switched to a whole new way of working without missing a heartbeat – or even a single week's delivery.

At first, Rod and Helen produced the recordings each week, reading news, articles, quizzes, interviews and entertainment from the Gazette, parish magazines and elsewhere. We were upbeat, knowing the last thing our listeners needed was more bad news.

When the dust settled we were joined by 20 of our readers who adapted to a 5 week roster, recording at home using their mobile phones or laptops, emailing their recorded tracks to the technician of the week. Despite all the complications, it's been working a treat and listeners are happy - though volunteers do miss getting together in the studio!

Our listeners have often told us that when the yellow MDM pouch drops on their mat on a Thursday morning, it's like a friend has come to visit. One recording had been 'a real pick-me-up, like a nice glass of wine!' We're so glad we haven't had to stop visiting, and have been able to do something to alleviate the isolation and loneliness that have been such a sad feature of the lockdown.

We are now extending our **free** service to others who struggle to read a paper and keep in contact. People suffering from Parkinson's, stroke, rheumatoid arthritis, dementia and other disabilities may want to receive the Messenger and continue to feel a part of their community.

If you know of someone who you think would benefit from our **free** service, please contact us or pass on our details. And if you would like to join us as a volunteer, do get in touch. Call Helen McIntosh on 07834 688838. You can find more information, and hear the latest recording, at our website www.middevonmessenger.org.uk.



**On the left:
Carol Brown and her guide
dog, Nellie, listening to the
Messenger**

**On the right:
A typical recording session
at our Studio in Heathcoat
Fabrics.**



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



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ZOOM CHURCH

We asked Tilly, our youngest Zoom member some questions regarding Zoom Church.

What do you like about Zoom Church?
'We get to say hello to everyone and pray to God'

Who do you get to say hello to?
'Steph, Robert, Jackie, Auntie Shirley, Myrtle, Derek and Mary and John'

Why do you like talking to them?
'Because they talk to me and say hello to me and John holds up pictures for me to see'

Why do you like seeing the pictures?
'Because they look nice and I like all the stuff on them. My favourite is the rocking horse. John makes them just for me and I love it. It's good to meet John'

How many friends have you made on Zoom?
I have made lots of new friends and I like seeing them every week'

And from mum and dad;
 Nik and I have really appreciated Zoom Church because despite everything it allowed us to keep meeting together with our church friends. We are able to get teaching together and all without the rush to get a small child fed, dressed and out of the door on time. It is also useful that we are muted which means we don't have to worry quite so much about keeping Tilly quiet! Now that we are able to travel again it also means that we can still be at church even when visiting family in Wales. Most of all though, it helps us to deepen our faith and to introduce our daughter to church in a relaxed and comfortable way.

Christmas Coffee Morning

The Cottage, Washfield
 Saturday December 4th
 10.00am onwards.
 Bring and Buy, Raffle
 and Chat!



LOXBARE & CALVERLEIGH CAROL SINGING

Monday 20th December
 6.00pm at Loxbore Church

Wednesday 22nd December
 6.00pm at Calverleigh Hall



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NATURE NOTES

Somewhat late in life I have just finished 'Tarka the Otter'

Like Dickens, Shakespeare and medicine there is much to be said for leaving them out of reach of children until a dose can be appropriately measured and used.

This classic, despite N. Devon folk considering Williamson to be mazed, is a great and lyrical presentation of the British countryside and the lives of wild animals.

It is not an easy read as the tension concerning the fragility of life and difficulty of finding food [viz. eat or be eaten] cannot be escaped.

Although the long shadow of the Great War is seen in this book the message is universal even when dressed in a fiction, but the author's generation probably deserved more escapism.

I most enjoyed being transported to Braunton Burrows again, and realised by a strange coincidence that my first sighting of an otter in daylight was on Romney Marsh. These are strange lands where the walking is easy and the distant horizon bends around you. It is easy to see a very long way, and understandably the movement of animals is furtive and sudden such that you are uncertain of what you glimpsed – the slither of an eel?; the twitching movement of a tall grass by an unseen agent?

They are lonely and haunting places and yet comforting to the mind and imagination, especially when accompanied by the cry of a curlew or owl or if the mist envelops you. It is not wild as the moor is wild, and winds can be gentle.

You are ever conscious of the sea or major estuaries just beyond your sight and reach, and the twice daily delivery on the tide of at least some food for those higher in the food chain a repeated blessing.

The otter is at home whether in water or marsh but would that they were as numerous as frogs. I have been on Shoreham marshes [yes, where Pip unexpectedly met Magwitch] in the height of summer and been deafened by the croaks of unseen male frogs. However if you want to see otters I suggest a visit to Scotland and on the visit you may wish to read 'that other otter book'

Thomas More

MORNING SERVICE ON LINE, THE SUCCESS WE NEVER KNEW WE NEEDED

Some of you may have noticed on the Holy Communion Welcome Sheet (St Peter's Tiverton) the words 10 am Morning Prayer on line and given no further thought to it, others may have decided they could have no use for it, but yet others might be curious to know more.

Many assumed it was just an emergency stop gap measure while the church was closed and that once services restarted it would have served its need and closed down. We could not have been further from the truth. Many, especially the older amongst us, have really appreciated an alternative way to worship and we think numbers will swell further when winter arrives.

There are some who never make it to church for real and some others lucky enough to manage both. Although those joining Zoom may be under 20 in number, those just using their phones swell our congregation to well over 40. So you don't need to use a computer to take part. One thing that particularly appeals to me about it is that it is held jointly with the Exe Valley Parishes so we get to know a whole lot of new people. It is not a pre-recorded such as Prayer for the Day or Songs of Praise, indeed it is very much live.

Many of us like to arrive up to ten minutes early to have a bit of a chat first as there is no virtual coffee at the end. As often as not I get a cheery "Good Morning John" from Steph. How does she remember everybody's name? There is obviously a bit of duplication with the following Communion, the readings are often but not always the same as is the collect. But we get a stimulating sermon and help with the readings from a lay member. Sometimes its a familiar face such as Nickie Johnson or Jenny Palmer, at other times somebody from the other parishes whom we soon get to know. The whole thing is over in 25 minutes yet seems to contain all the essentials. So if ever you feel a bit under the weather or any other reason cannot make it in person why not give it a try.

John Speaight



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PARISH ROUND-UP

CALVERLEIGH

It is lovely to see that there is still a lot of colour in the gardens as we move further into October. I wonder how we will be fairing as the new month arrives?

We hope that all those who have moved onto new places of education have settled into the new term well.

This year the Potato Competition results night was held in the village hall. There was a good turn out of people and a few newcomers who have moved to the village in the past 12 months. The potatoes had a bit longer growing this year and this may have reflected in the good crops, all grown from two spuds per person. The winners were: in the men's category - Tim (15lbs 6oz), with runners up Charles, Kipper and Morley; in the women's category - Brenda (29lbs 1 oz), with runners up Sue, Pat and Diana; in the children's category - Tilly (10lbs 3oz), with runners up Rhys, Callun and Evie. Well done everyone. Thanks go to Gillian, Mary, Tim and Louise for organising the evening and to all who supplied a delicious supper. A total of £620 was raised for church funds.

The Produce and Flower show took place in August after cancellation last year due to the pandemic. Although entries were down a little this year the quality definitely wasn't. There were concerns that not all categories would go ahead but fortunately this was not the case. Congratulations go to Maureen Furneaux who won Best in Show with her beautiful display of flowers in the 'Pretty in Pink' category,

along with all who entered and won a first, second, third, highly commended or a well done certificate. It is good to see so many of the next generation taking part with baking and craft. Our thanks must go to Rita and Sheila for organising the show but sadly they have both said that it would be the final show they organise. Hopefully we will have people come forward who would like to take on this fun 'friendly rivalry' fundraising event. Thanks go also to all who helped set up the tables for the day, played a part in stewarding, judging, working in the kitchen and to those who supplied refreshments or draw prizes for the afternoon.

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.

Congratulations to anyone who have been or will be celebrating a new birth, birthday, wedding or an anniversary in the coming months. (Please let us know if you want us to add a message here in the magazine).

On 4 September, the marriage of Steven and Sara took place in church after being postponed 12 months ago. Our very best wishes are with you and your family for a long and happy future together.

The following weekend saw 90th birthday celebrations for Myrtle. A special service was held in church with a large number of family and friends coming together to sing favourite hymns chosen by Myrtle and then her great grandchildren sang one to her. It was a special occasion, which was

followed by a birthday tea in the village hall immediately afterwards. Donations were suggested instead of presents and a total of £500 was given towards church funds. Thank you Myrtle!

On the same day a welcome tea was held at Templeton village hall for our new curate Claire Curtis who had been ordained at Exeter Cathedral the previous day. Congratulations Claire! We are very glad to be able to welcome to the Exe Valley Mission Community. We hope that your training, under Steph's expert guidance, goes well and we look forward to you being with us at a service at Calverleigh.

The Harvest Supper took place on Saturday 18 September in the village hall. This year it was a bring and share supper and a lovely variety of food was provided. Two hymns were sung during the evening along with some food and plant based quizzes compiled by Aubrey. Our thanks go to all who helped in any way in preparing for the evening. Although it was a much simplified evening compared to other years we felt that it worked well!

A service of Harvest Thanksgiving was held the following morning. The church, as ever, was beautifully decorated with locally grown produce and flowers which helped to give off a lovely aroma when the church door was opened. It was nice to be able to celebrate a return to some kind of normality with this being the first major service since the removal of restrictions.

The fruit and veg was later taken to the Salvation Army who used it to provide meals during the week for local residents. They were very grateful to have been thought of to receive the

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PARISH ROUND-UP

food. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously of their produce.

Events Coming up:

We are looking forward to holding our Autumn Fayre on 20 November in the village hall from 10.30 - 2pm. Light refreshments will be served along with cake and beverages. All the normal stalls and competitions will be available along with a Chinese auction, a cake and produce stall and a craft stall to the keep the younger ones occupied for a small fee.

Our Christingle Service will be on Sunday 5 December at 3pm.

The Carol Service will be on Sunday 19 December. There will be a box under the Christmas tree to collect items for CHAT. Donations of toiletries, dried and tinned goods are always in demand for distribution to those in need. Any goods received will be delivered to CHAT early in the new year.

Loxbeare and Calverleigh Carol Singing. This will take place over two nights – Monday 20 & Wednesday 22 December (weather permitting) starting at 6pm. On the Monday we will meet at Loxbeare church car park and Wednesday at Calverleigh village hall car park. This is a very enjoyable event and raises money for worthy causes. This years' charities are Motor Neurone and Cancer Research. We are always on the lookout for more voices to join us, so if you enjoy singing carols and would like to be a part, please contact Aubrey or Jackie for Calverleigh or Sue for Loxbeare. Each evening ends with supper and a bit more singing at venues to be arranged.

Do you have anything to share in the magazine? Please send us your photos, news, birthday messages, anniversary

congratulations, stories, recipes (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

CHRISTMAS is just around the corner, with it the Christmas Markets and Fairs, which is a great way to begin going out and about again, if it feels safe for you to do so.

CRUWYS MORCHARD FAIR is on Saturday 13 November in the Parish Hall at 11.00am – 2.00pm. Do come.

EXETER CHRISTMAS MARKET is on the Cathedral Square from 18 November – 18 December. A very good day out.

CHRISTMAS CAROL Service, in the Church, is on Sunday 19 December at 11.00am. We hope to be able to have Christingles this year and once again we will be collecting non perishable foods, toiletries and cleaning products for CHAT (Church Housing Action Team)

For all other services, both in Cruwys Morchard and all the other nine parishes in the Exe Valley Mission Community, look in the centre pages of this magazine.

It was good that we were able to have our Harvest Festival celebrations at the end of September and to see so

many parishioners and families join us for the service, sports and the tea. The weather was good and we all had great fun. Thank you to all who helped with the sports, the service and preparing and serving the tea. A big thank you on behalf of CHAT for the donations of food, toiletries and cleaning products.

Flower and Cleaning Rota

Oct 25/1 Nov – Sonia Notley and Claire Miller

Nov 8/15 - Sue and Pauline Guscott

Nov 22/29 - Denyse Standen and Jo Hilton

Dec 6 - Cindy Trick

Dec 13 - Decorators for Christmas

Dec 20/27- Diana Vincent and Val Randerson

MOWING . A big thank you to every one who has helped keep the Churchyard looking so spick and span throughout the year.

THE CRUWYS ARMS GARDENERS.

It was a good meeting last night, thank you for coming, it is great to meet face to face with people again. As usual we talked about food first! Beginning with our Christmas party. Thai food was preferred, an address of a take away is Little Ley, Nomansland and they only deliver within a 15 mile radius. Please could you all look at the menu (maybe order up a sample meal) and let me know whether to contact them to see if they can do a large order? It was suggested that 8 December would be good. If you want to go ahead please let Clare Penny know, so as to have an idea of numbers.

Topics for the next meeting on 3 November, might be Fruit trees as they can still be planted in November. We will need one person delegated to lead the discussion, Gerry was suggested. We could also hear about good ways of

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preserving fruit and some favourite fruit recipes.

One more thing - I heard on the radio this morning that the butterfly count this year was drastically down, partly due to a cold wet May but with all the other contributory factors such as habitat loss, pesticides etc. We talked about wild flower meadows for one of our topics. I have been wondering if we could expand this into a larger public talk/meeting in C M Parish Hall about the insect decline generally and how gardeners and farmers can help. One possibility would be two or three speakers giving a short introductory talk. This could be arranged for March or April 2022.

YOGA: on Thursday mornings in the Parish Hall. To Join ring Hilary on 01363 866245.

CRUWYS MORCHARD YOUNG FARMERS CLUB

The young farmers have now started their new year and new officers have taken up their roles, with George Rice as Chairman and Gracie Rice as Secretary. The club has had their Presentation Evening where they had a fish and chip supper with a selection of desserts, followed by presentation of skills for life certificates and cups. Gracie Rice was awarded the Girls Cup, under 18s Cup and the most enthusiastic member award, George Rice gained the Boys Cup.

The Tractor Run went well with near on 30 tractors turning up, with plenty of onlookers waving them off from the parish hall. Everyone seemed to enjoy the good weather and the day, many thanks to all who supported us. We raised around £400 which is divided between club funds and Children Hospice SW. The new members afternoon was a success, with plenty of

new faces and fun had by all. The club's next meeting is on Tuesday November 2 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

STEPH'S LUNCHES: Thank you very much Steph for having six lunches during this Summer, it was lovely to sit in your garden and eat delicious food with other parishioners from all your other parishes.

STEPH'S SOUP KITCHEN: During the Winter months, from November onwards on the third Friday of the month, Steph will be holding a bread and soup lunch with pud! It is a great opportunity to meet up and chat. The first lunch will be on Friday 19 November 12.30-2.30pm. Please let the office know if you would like to go. Steph is a brilliant cook.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH in North Street, Pennymoor, is open as usual. Services on Sundays are at 4.30pm, followed by refreshments.

On 1st, 2nd, and 4th Sunday of the month in Pennymoor, and 3rd Sunday at 2.30pm in Way Village Chapel. Watch the notice board in North Street for the full Christmas programme.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who are unwell or who are grieving at this time, especially the family of Pamela Lewinton from Way Village. And for Ali, who is so unwell, and all her family.

Best wishes and welcome to those who have moved to the parish recently. Dave in Moor View, Grant and Frances Brace with Toby, aged two and Piers, Alisha and baby James.

Volunteers are wanted to take on this very easy job for the parish, collating the Today Magazine. I have done it since

2014 and it is time we had a fresh face to do the job. Please ring 01363 866 864. It takes me two half days every other month. And I am useless with a computer!!

LOXBEBARE

At the time of writing, we are enjoying lovely sunny days and dry weather. A good start to the Autumn months. It is good that we are able to meet and hold meetings in Church and social events in the Village again, but we remember those who are or have been affected as a result of Covid. We continue to pray for all the medical staff working under such pressure and trying to catch up on waiting lists.

Our Harvest Celebrations in giving God thanks for all his good gifts were held with a service on Sunday 19 September in the afternoon followed by a bring and share tea. The offering plus make up of £300 was given to Tear Fund.

The Harvest Supper was held on the Monday with money raised by tickets, auction of produce and donations of £500 went to Chat. Thank you to all who helped with decorating the Church, taking part in the service and the harvest supper evening.

The Remembrance Sunday on 14 November will start at 10.50am to allow time for the two-minute silence. There will be Holy Communion at this service taken by Steph. November 21 will be Morning Worship at 11.00am.

December 12 will be the Cluster Holy Communion Service at Loxbeare at 11.15am.



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PARISH ROUND-UP

Looking ahead to Christmas our Carol Service will be on 19 December at 6.30pm. This year there will be a Christmas Eve Communion Service at 6.00pm with Steph, Claire and Dave Edwards. No service on Christmas Day or Boxing Day Sunday at Loxbeare.

This year the Calverleigh & Loxbeare Carol Singing will be on two nights, not three as in previous years. The first night will be on Monday 20 December meeting at 6.00pm outside Loxbeare Church and the second night the 22 outside Calverleigh Hall. We are hoping for numbers to support and join in so that two groups can split to cover a bigger area each night. Do Come!. We will be collecting for the Motor Neurone Disease & Cancer Research. We thank Ron & Margaret for the years they have organised it. Ron can remember it taking place for 80+years! including during the war. Anyone interested in joining contacts are Sue Troake on 01884 259496 for Loxbeare or Aubrey Goldsworthy or Jackie Herniman for Calverleigh. Supper to follow.

Jean held a coffee morning on Saturday 18 September to raise funds for the Blythwood show box appeal. A total of £250 was raised. Thank you to everyone who gave and helped. For those who have filled boxes themselves please either give them to Carol, place them in the Church by the 14 Nov or there will be an evening at the Village Hall on Tues 2 Nov from 7.00pm for anyone to drop off and/or help pack more shoe boxes. Contact Carol on 01884 881480 if you need more details.

Wonderful news, three babies were born in the last week of September in Loxbeare!! A little boy, Angus Colin, was born to Graham and Abi Radford.

Grandson for Steven and Carol and great-grandson for Colin and Margaret and Christine Palfrey. Also, twins were born to Henry and Hannah Frankpitt. A little girl Nora Mary and a little boy Gus William, brother and sister for Martha. Congratulations and best wishes to you and all the families.

Also, some of you may remember Ryan Doella, the youth leader in the Exe Valley from several years ago and his wife Georgina, now living in Nomansland, who have also had twin boys. Our love and congratulations to them as well.

We send our love and prayers to Robert Gordon during his time of treatment and for complete healing. May God bless both Robert and Steph in their ministries.

We also continue to pray for all who are still waiting for appointments and or treatments and for any feeling unwell.

Happy Birthday to all who have birthdays in November/December and to any celebrating special occasions.

Welcome to the new people who have moved into The Barn, North Sidborough. We hope you will soon settle and be happy in Loxbeare.

The Village Hall AGM will be on 9 November in the Hall at 7.30pm. All welcome.

We have started the cream teas on the second Saturday of the month. The first one was 9 October. The next will be on November 13 at 3-4.30pm. Come and enjoy a cream tea and homemade cakes and meet with friends in the Village. Donations will go to the chosen charity of the month. Contacts: Carol 881480, Margaret 881362, Jean 881400. December 4 will incorporate the Christmas Fayre and cream tea at 2.30-

4.00pm. Donations of cakes, jams etc for the Christmas stall. Contacts above.

OAKFORD

The ever popular Songs of Praise was held in church on 22 August. A lovely evening of thoughtful and sometimes humorous readings with Dave Edwards playing his guitar and Levon Stefan playing the harmonica to accompany the singing. Delicious refreshments and chat followed. We're grateful to all the readers, music makers and caterers.

As always happens, St Peter's was beautifully decorated for the Harvest Festival on 26 September. Steph led the service assisted by Claire who also delivered the sermon. Our thanks to Mary, Dave and Peter, our accomplished music makers, who took the singing to new heights.

Many hands made light work of taking all the produce and flowers to the Village Hall for the evening supper and auction. Thank you to everyone who helped make this a most enjoyable occasion especially to Paul Chappell, the auctioneer, and Dawn who organised the catering and team of cooks. Approximately £700 was raised and has been donated to CHAT.

Remembrance Sunday falls on 14 November this year. Following a short service round the War Memorial in the village at 10.50am everyone is invited to come into the church for readings, hymns and prayers to remember the Fallen.

A Tea Party with the opportunity for some present buying is planned for *continued on page 12*

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7 NOVEMBER

10am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

11.15am Morning Worship

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Oakford

LOXBEARE

See Oakford

OAKFORD

**11.15am Holy Communion
with Baptism**

***Steph Gordon-Jeffs
with Dave Edwards***

RACKENFORD

See Oakford

STOODLEIGH

See Oakford

TEMPLETON

See Oakford

WASHFIELD

See Oakford

WITHLEIGH

10.30am Family Service

14 NOVEMBER

10am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

**10.50am Holy Communion
with Remembrance**
Georgie Bell and Claire Curtis

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.50am Remembrance

LOXBEARE

**10.50am Holy Communion
with Remembrance**
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

OAKFORD

10.50am Remembrance

RACKENFORD

10.50am Remembrance at
War Memorial

STOODLEIGH

10.50am Remembrance

TEMPLETON

10.50am Remembrance

WASHFIELD

10.50am Remembrance

WITHLEIGH

10.50am Remembrance

21 NOVEMBER

10am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

11.15am Morning Worship

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Withleigh

LOXBEARE

11.00m Morning Praise

OAKFORD

See Withleigh

RACKENFORD

See Withleigh

STOODLEIGH

6.00pm Evensong

TEMPLETON

See Withleigh

WASHFIELD

3.00pm Evening Prayer

WITHLEIGH

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

28 NOVEMBER

**OUR
MISSION
COMMUNITY
GROUP HOLY
COMMUNION
SERVICE**

is at

**11.15 am in
CALVERLEIGH**

***Steph Gordon-Jeffs
& Claire Curtis
with Dave Edwards***

Everyone welcome

**Please come and
join us !!**

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.



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.



5 DECEMBER

10am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

3.00pm Christingle

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.00am Morning Praise

LOXBEARE

See Rackenford

OAKFORD

See Rackenford

RACKENFORD

11.15am Holy Communion

*Steph Gordon-Jeffs
with Dave Edwards*

STOODLEIGH

See Rackenford

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

See Rackenford

WITHLEIGH

4.00pm Christingle

12 DECEMBER

10am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

See Loxbeare

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Loxbeare

LOXBEARE

11.15am Holy Communion

*Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and Claire Curtis*

OAKFORD

10.15am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

See Loxbeare

STOODLEIGH

11.00am Morning Prayer

TEMPLETON

See Loxbeare

WASHFIELD

See Loxbeare

WITHLEIGH

10.30am Morning Worship

19 DECEMBER

10am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

3.00pm Carol Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

11.00am Carol Service

LOXBEARE

6.30pm Carol Service

OAKFORD

6.00pm Carol Service

RACKENFORD

See Templeton

STOODLEIGH

6.30pm Evensong

TEMPLETON

11.15am Holy Communion

*Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and Claire Curtis
with Dave Edwards+*

WASHFIELD

11.00am Family Service

WITHLEIGH

3.00pm Carol Service

23 DECEMBER

STOODLEIGH

6.00pm Carol Service



24 DECEMBER

LOXBEARE

6.00pm Holy Communion

*Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and Claire Curtis
with Dave Edwards*

RACKENFORD

6.30pm Carol Service

TEMPLETON

6.00pm Carol Service

WASHFIELD

6.00pm Carol Service

WITHLEIGH

11.30pm Holy Communion

Ian Johnson

STEPH'S SOUP KITCHEN

It was lovely to see so many of you over the summer for lunch. During the winter months from November onwards, on the third Friday of the month, I will be holding a bread and soup lunch, with pud. It will be a great opportunity to meet up for a chat. The first lunch will take place on **FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER** between 12.30-2.30. Please let the office know if you would like to come.

BIBLE STUDIES

Will begin on Wednesday 27 October at 7.00pm on Zoom or Conference Call. Put the date in your diary and come and join us.

CHRISTMAS TREE TRAIL!

Follow the trail around all 9 churches in December. See the website for details.

25 DECEMBER

9.00am Zoom Service

**OUR
MISSION
COMMUNITY
HOLY COMMUNION
CHRISTMAS DAY
SERVICE**

**is at
10.30am in
CRUWYS
MORCHARD**

*Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and Claire Curtis*

**Let us all welcome
Christmas together in
love**

PARISH ROUND-UP

Saturday 11 December in the church. A few stalls, raffle, tea and cake from 2.30pm-4.00pm.

And then it's Christmas!

Our Carol Service returns on Sunday 19 December at 6pm. Having missed last year we're determined to make it special this year. A warm welcome awaits to start the Christmas week celebration and we'll send you home humming the old familiar carols and glowing from mulled wine and mince pies!

Carols round the village tree is a tradition looked forward to by everyone who enjoys singing out of doors whilst enjoying mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince pies. Make a date for 6pm on Saturday 11 December.

For the first time since 2011 the church bells rang out in celebration of a wedding at St Peter's on 8 October. Many congratulations to Justin Williams and Emily Baker. We wish you a long and happy life together. Justin and Emily looked so radiant. The flowers were amazing and Steph was on really good form with gin and tonic as a metaphor for things that go well together. Thank you to the bell ringers, who have donated their fee to the bell fund.

Mary and Brenda's Fundraising Group goes from strength to strength and they have lots of crafty goodies to sell before Christmas. Take a look at the Facebook page to be tempted: Brenda & Mary's Crafty Fundraising Group. So far around £1760 has been raised for the church bells. A big, big thank you to Mary and Brenda and to all who donate, make and buy.

The Moorland Club is meeting again. Ollie Tubb came along to the August meeting and introduced us to Qigong. After his talk, all the ladies joined in with some basic exercises. Simply put, Qigong teaches a sequence of gentle, repeated exercises whilst standing and is of immense benefit both physically and mentally. Ollie hopes to start a class in Oakford soon.

Rose Channing entertains at the October meeting on 28 October at 7pm and the November meeting will be on Friday 26 at 7pm when the Village Hall will be set up for the Annual Christmas Fayre taking place on Saturday 27 between 10.30am – 1.30pm. There'll be lots of stalls as usual and coffee & biscuits and light lunches will be available. Covid 19 precautions will be taken to keep everyone safe.

The Christmas theme continues with a lunch at the Hartnoll Hotel on 16 December.

The Village Hall: a plea has gone out for volunteers to join the committee. The Village Hall is a great asset to Oakford and used and enjoyed by many groups but fundraising needs to be ongoing. Enthusiastic people to help with this are needed to manage the planned new extension and maintain the current facility. Julia – juliabluehayes@yahoo.co.uk is the contact.

The very successful Art & Photography exhibition held recently showcased the amazing talent of artists and photographers living in and around Oakford. Well done to all of you. The raffle raised around £300 for the Village Hall funds.

Come along to the Xmas Bingo evening in the Village Hall on 10 December. A fun night out with fantastic prizes. Contact Georgina Potter on 07803 432320 to buy tickets. The August Bingo evening raised £320 which has been donated to the church bells appeal.

The Great Oakford Taste Off makes a come back next year in February. Now is the time to gather fruit and berries for your favourite alcoholic tipples and fruit cordials. Can't wait to get tasting. More info – juliabluehayes@yahoo.co.uk

The next two Sunday dates for the Quiz at The Red Lion are 21 November and 19 December at 8pm.

The Pyncombe Trust has been able to offer financial help to five local students, David Murphy, Joseph and Jack Otton-Pugh, Seth Fyfe and Holly Nugent this year, moving on to further education. We wish them well for their futures.



Left to right
David Murphy, Electrical Installation.
Joseph Otton-Pugh, Commis Chef.
Jack Otton-Pugh, Light Vehicle Service & Maintenance Technician.

Although a little early, this is the last magazine opportunity in 2021 to send seasonal greetings. Remember if retail supplies prove a bit haphazard in December there's always an abundant

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PARISH ROUND-UP

supply of friendship and love at St Peter's. A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

RACKENFORD

The nights are drawing in and the clocks will change on Sunday October 31.

Some may embrace sitting and relaxing earlier than maybe they did in the Summer months when our gardens and DIY need more attention. Our water butts maybe full, however we little need to water our gardens for obvious reasons. We now prepare for the Autumn and Winter months.

What an amazing response for our "cry for help" to attend the upkeep of our churchyard. The 'major cut' on August 14 went ahead with 18 volunteers and it's thanks to you, your hard work and tools that so much was achieved.

The group of churchyard volunteers will hopefully come together again in 2022 (not far away) to construct a rota. The professional contract can no longer be afforded going forward.

We also understand some families maintain their loved ones graves themselves.

The last cut was discussed and will be organised after our Harvest celebrations. Many thanks once again to all the volunteers and we understand you have other commitments.

Our Church is unlocked daily from mid morning till late afternoon. These times may vary especially when the clocks change but if you request to use the

church at a specific time please let us know.

Rackenford School Messy Church / Collective Worship every Wednesday 1-15 to 3-15 during term time.

A sanctuary space for both pupils and staff is an ongoing project in Rackenford Church.

A good sorting, tidying and cleaning is needed in church and the work has begun between us. Its been a long time closed and just needs freshening up to become welcoming for all to enjoy. It's a pleasure to see holiday makers again and people tracing family graves.

Of course it continues to be a worrying and unsettling world and many like to take solace just sitting with their thoughts.

We remember the sadness of Plymouth. Young women and men losing their lives, hardships, stress and the sadness and struggles some families endure, Covid continues and we all try to take the precautions needed to keep ourselves and each other safe. Our prayers and dedication to supporting and helping each other continues.

A private memorial service took place on September 17 for Pearl Stone, when ashes were laid to rest in the church she worshipped in.

It was sad to hear the circumstances of Georgia's death at Fairbanks and our condolences to her family and friends.

Des Reed has moved into a home for health reasons. Our love and prayers to Des and of course to Annette. At the time of going to print its not always possible to visit Des due to Covid.

Our very best wishes to Richard and Christine, Simon, Charlie, Joan and anyone who we have not heard of who have had spells in hospital, receiving treatment, care at home or are generally feeling a bit down and under the weather and all who are bereaved.

Our deepest sympathy to Sarah, Flora, Darren, William and Thomas on the death of David. It came as a big shock to many of us that he had passed away and he will be greatly missed. A memorial service will take place for David in our church.

A memorial service is being held at church on November 6 for Michael, late husband of Helen.

Our planned Sponsored Church Walk had to be postponed due to severe weather conditions. Not to be deterred, we have set another date and will give more details in our next issue.

If we have any new occupants in the village or area, a warm welcome to you all.

It was such a pleasure to welcome George at his baptism and what a joyful service with all the children singing so beautifully accompanied by such talented musicians. We send our love and continued prayers to George and his family.

Claire Curtis our new curate was ordained at Exeter Cathedral on September 11.

We warmly welcome Rev Claire and her family to the Exe Valley Mission Community and look forward to receiving her blessing and company in our church.

continued overleaf ➔

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Many will have already met Claire at the Tea Party held at Templeton on Sunday September 12 and had a wonderful time celebrating her coming to join us all.

All Saints Rackenford Church benefited from the extremely generous donation of £1150 from the proceeds of the 2021 Rackenford and All England Tennis Tournament. The final was held in glorious sunshine on Sunday 29 August at Rackenford Manor. The PCC would like to thank John Dodds, The Tournament Committee and Sir David and Lady Moy Scott for the kind invitation to attend and for the gift of the money which was raised. It will make a great difference to the church's budget in this very difficult year. Ruth very much enjoyed the afternoon.

Many thanks to the ladies for decorating our church so beautifully for the Harvest Services, also to those who gave flowers and foliage.

The school children started off the Thanksgiving Services and held theirs on Wednesday 6, with a delightful service. They also brought a huge selection of produce all of which are suitable to take to CHAT. I'm sure they will be most grateful to Rackenford School children.

We also have a lovely display of pictures adorning pews from the children. Thank you so much.

As many will know and understand we have no venue now to hold our long standing Harvest Supper and Auction, however we did try something new and held a Harvest Tea at the home of Graham and Ruth Fennel. We were so pleased to welcome you all and the comments regarding the delicious spread of tea were pleasing to hear. It

was free to all and we were more than happy to let our visitors take a little home for supper as our bakers contributed so much.

A big thank you to Annette for running the draw. Lovely to have Sharon and her band the Rackenford Rascals, playing Harvest hymns and a few requests, many thanks to them for giving up their time. They also enjoyed playing and joining in with our teas.

On this occasion the weather was kind to us so the band set up outside and others sat with them in the garden. A very good day and thank you all for your support and donations. It was good to have a get together again.

What a lovely conclusion to our Harvest celebrations we had with our Harvest Praise Service on October 10.

Rackenford Rascals Band welcomed people to the service firstly playing outside then in comfort inside a warm church. Our service was Lay led by Mary, Liz and Helen with Graham at the organ playing some of our favourite harvest hymns. We were delighted to have members of the congregation reading lessons throughout, many thanks to them for taking part in our service. A musical interlude with Rackenford Rascals was an extra bonus we enjoyed. Very many thanks to them all.

Our Lay Lead Remembrance Service has been organised for Sunday November 14 at the War Memorial. Derek and Jackie will kindly be taking our service once again as they have for a number of years and we are most grateful. Thank you also to Richard and Christine for continuing to arrange the wreath to lay at this very important service for us all to pay our respects.

Our Lay Led Carol Service will take place CHRISTMAS EVE, Friday 24 December 6.30pm, and we so look forward to being together again. Don't forget its also when Father Christmas will be coming, but much later in the evening of course!

More details of our coming services will have been included in this issue as usual. The Zoom services and many other dates are advertised.

Thank you to all who work so hard to produce the TODAY magazine and also for the voluntary contributions received towards it.

We send our thanks, love and prayers to Steph and Robert.

STOODLEIGH

S t Margaret's Church

Despite a rather overcast day, a successful coffee morning was held on the terrace at The Old Stables at the beginning of September. A total of £247.00 was raised for Church funds. Thanks to the supporters for their generosity.

The Harvest Thanksgiving Service in October was well attended and we were delighted to welcome those from other parishes. The Rector officiated and the music for the service was shared between Dave (guitar) and Sue (violin) with Jennifer on the organ as usual. The church was a picture of colour. Very many thanks to all those who created such wonderful arrangements.

continued overleaf ➔

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Then it was time for the Harvest Skittles in the Parish Hall where much fun was had by all. The rival teams led by Yvonne and John Lang produced a high level of competition which came to a head with the final 'Killer' competition. Phil Talbot was the champion! £302.00 was raised for the church.

At the latest PCC meeting, it was decided not to have a Christmas Fayre this year but instead to have a musical evening with wine and cheese in the church on Saturday 4 December. Plans are also in the pipeline for further events next year including coffee mornings.

There is no service in Stoodleigh on Christmas Day but there is a Group Holy Communion Service at 10.30a.m. in Cruwys Morchard.

Services at St Margaret for November and December are:

- Sunday 14 Nov. Remembrance Day Service 10.50am.
- Sunday 21 Nov. Evensong 6.30pm.
- Sunday 12 Dec. Matins 11.00am.
- Sunday 19 Dec. Evensong 6.30pm.
- Thursday 23 Dec. Carol Service 6.00pm.

Congratulations to Philip Palfrey and Lara Webber who were married on 23 October

The '100 Club' has started again for 2021-2022. Membership is due as soon as possible. New members' joining fee will be £10 for the remainder of the year to April 2022.

Prize winners. August: Eileen Fewings, Mervyn Brice, Trevor Crowland and Joyce Lacey September: Kathy Thorpe, Vanessa Turner, Jan Mills and Rosie James

Parish Hall.

It's great to be able to report that the hall is now being used much more regularly. Thank you for your support while we begin socialising as safely as possible once more.

There are weekly Pilates and Zumba sessions and Yoga when the weather doesn't allow us to use the field.

A super cream tea was enjoyed at the end of August. We had a walk around the village including Jan and Ian's garden and then into the Church to see some lovely floral displays before returning to the Hall for delicious scones, cream and jam and cakes.

In October, committee members hosted the first Parish Hall Coffee Morning for 18 months. What a treat after so long. It's hoped that these Coffee Mornings will be running on a regular basis now – watch out for the dates on the parish website calendar and the community email. Books are available again so please check out the shelves when the Hall is open.

The Autumn Market and Coffee Morning returns on 30 October after a two year gap. Pop in between 10 am and 12 noon to browse the wonderful items on sale and stay for refreshments. Covid safety information is on the Parish Hall page of the website or contact Geraldine for details on 351391.

The Parish Hall AGM 2021 is on 16 November at 7.30p.m. All Stoodleigh residents, users and hirers of the Hall are invited to attend. The Committee would love to hear suggestions and ideas for the future; you are all most welcome. The Parish Hall is available for hire so please book with Jan on [rusianjan@btinternet.com](mailto:russianjan@btinternet.com) or 351401

Gardening Club

Thanks for all the entries for the annual potato in a bucket competition. The winner for the second year running was Ann Roberts with a potato weight of 1.675kg. Congratulations!

TEMPLETON

Over these past few months, there has been a cautious and a gradual recommencement of social activities with opportunities for the community to come together, taking advantage of the mild autumn weather. How wonderful it has been to spend time with friends and neighbours again. Now, with its short days and starry nights, "the most wonderful time of the year", we can perhaps take a moment to reflect on the beauty of winter, and the power of the Christmas spirit.

St Margaret's Church

Services at St Margaret's Church, Templeton have resonated with hymn singing again. The churchyard extension is nearing completion and looks beautiful. As always, there are other tasks awaiting our attention to help maintain the church and its fabric but it is also important to reflect on what an asset we have and how we should use it.

Templeton Mini-Fete

On Saturday August 14 Templeton held its 2021 Mini-Fete. This year, the fete was on a smaller scale with as many outside activities as possible.

It's hard to believe that this was our first event for two years. Having a large marquee as well as the village hall and

continued overleaf ➔





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PARISH ROUND-UP

field gave us lots of space. We were blessed with wonderful weather, the sun shone and everyone enjoyed the cream teas, hot dogs, ice creams, lots of games, bric-a-brac, clothes, produce and book stalls. Thank you everyone for taking part and making it such a successful and fun day. It was just so lovely to see everyone. £949 was raised which will help support village funds. Please take a look at the photos from the day on the Templeton Village Hall Facebook Page.

Duck Race

On Sunday September 5 the Duck Race took place at Templeton Bridge. The race started at Great Esworthy Farm and ended at Dartcombe Mill. It took a while to persuade the 353 ducks to scramble down river as there was so little water, but they soon set off and as always, it was a very exciting race. Everyone was able to sit outside and enjoy cream teas and pasties in the garden, peruse the books, plants, bric-a-brac stalls, take part in the raffle, and most importantly, there was time for a chat. A big thank you to everyone who contributed so generously to the Duck Race and made it a really enjoyable day. £494 was raised to support village funds. First prize, £30, went to Lynda, second prize, £20, to Teresa, third prize £10, to Ginah, and last duck home, £5, went to Julie Woollacott. There are some photos of the event on the Templeton Village Hall Facebook Page.

Harvest Supper

A big thank you to everyone who came to Templeton's Harvest Supper on Saturday 2 October at Templeton Village Hall. This is one of those precious times in the year when the community comes together to celebrate

what we have as well as being an opportunity to catch up and chat. This year was a particularly special occasion as everyone was looking forward to meeting up again. There was a tasty spread of hot and cold dishes and a variety of delicious desserts. Many thanks to all those who contributed the fantastic food and did the washing up. It was a wonderful meal and a truly enjoyable event. At the end of the evening, everyone was given a piece of clay and invited to just to enjoy working with it in the moment. There did not need to be a specific outcome. The event encouraged much discussion and was great fun. There are photos of some of the clay models made on the night on the Templeton Village Hall Facebook Page. The evening raised £299.50 with entry tickets, and the draw raised £96.00, all of which will help support the much-needed funds for the maintenance of, and repairs to, St Margaret's Church in Templeton.

Harvest Festival Service

Templeton's Harvest Festival Service was held at St Margaret's Church on Sunday October 3. The church was filled with beautiful flower arrangements and generous food donations. All the donations of fresh, canned and packaged produce have been taken to the charity CHAT (Churches Housing Action Trust) in Tiverton, for which they were extremely grateful. Thank you everyone for your generosity.

Future events

The centre pages in this magazine cover the many services that will be held over the next two months across the nine parishes in the Exe Valley. Many of the Templeton Church services

will be lay-led, but a Holy Communion Service will be led by Steph and Claire with Dave Edwards on his guitar, on Sunday 19 December at 11.15am.

On Sunday 14 November at 10.50am, there will be a lay-led Remembrance Day Service at St Margaret's Church, Templeton, commemorating the lives of so many people lost in our wars. Since 1919, on the second Sunday of November, a two-minute silence is held at 11am at War Memorials, Cenotaphs, Religious Services and shopping centres throughout the country to remember all those killed in conflicts across the world.

Templeton Bonfire and Firework Night Sadly, there will be no Templeton bonfire and firework night this year. Given the uncertainty of Covid, the committee felt that it would be very hard to manage the number of people attending the event, which has always been very popular and very well supported. The committee felt that it would be wiser to leave such a large event until next year.

Christmas Eve

On Christmas Eve, Friday December 24 at 6pm at St Margaret's Church, there will be the ever-popular Templeton Christmas Carol Service with readings and our favourite carols. So put the date in your diary now.

Templeton Village Hall Christmas Competitions

The 2021 Templeton Village Hall Christmas Competitions will be held over four Saturday club nights at the village hall from November 27 until Saturday 18 December. The skittles and the table tennis table will be set up in the hall from November to allow

continued overleaf ➔



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PARISH ROUND-UP

people to practice, leading up to the big events. Mark will post the schedule of days the skittles, table tennis, darts and pool competitions will be held on the Village Hall Facebook page. Please sign up for these in advance. If you need more information, please email Mark at mark.stone.pct@gmail.com. Please come and join in the games, or come up and spectate. These are very exciting events and the bar will be open.

December 18 Children's Christmas Party

On Saturday December 18 at 3pm, there will be the annual Children's Christmas Party at Templeton Village Hall with tea and games – and, don't tell anyone, we are expecting a visit from Father Christmas! If you would like your children to come to the party, please contact Tony Loosemore (07510 128683) to give him an idea of catering numbers. You will also need to bring a wrapped and clearly labelled gift for your child with their full name marked on it, which Father Christmas will look after for them.

Knit and Natter

Knit and Natter 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 upholstery or just come for a coffee, biscuits and a chat. (£1 donation for church funds). Future dates include 24 November and 29 December.

Next year we hope to organise a tractor run, and a safari supper – more details to follow!

Congratulations, warm welcomes and best wishes.

Congratulations to Paul and Sophie Morgan (nee Rowcliffe), who were

married at St Margaret's Church in September. We wish them every happiness in the future.

Welcome to Nick and Janis Smith who moved into Great Bradley Cottage during the Summer. They are also managing the Natural Burial Ground. We hope they will be very happy here in Templeton.

Our thoughts and best wishes are with all those who are unwell, or who have been in hospital, awaiting, or recovering from, surgery or who are having a difficult time. We hope that you will soon be feeling better.

Church Flowers and Cleaning Rota for November and December

- 7-14 Nov Remembrance Julie Dent
- 22-28 Nov Flowers/Cleaning Sue Coffin
- 5-12 Dec Advent Cleaning only Theresa Pancherz
- 19-26 Dec No flowers first week Ginah Palmer
- 2-9 Jan Cleaning only Bindy Lindon

must never take them for granted. Claire Webber gave a very enjoyable and wise talk about her experiences as a farmer's daughter, when she often thought life was more exciting in the town! Later, as a farmer's wife, bringing up their family on a farm, she realizes what a special childhood she had and her children are now entering in to all the hard work - and pleasures of a farmlife, caring for their animals and looking after the land in the best way possible.

After singing our last Harvest hymn we joined the big Village Day and were able to appreciate all the advantages of living in such a vibrant village. Newcomers were welcomed and ideas sought for new activities, and a lavish cream tea much enjoyed. The bar was opened and over a hundred people met and talked!

We had great pleasure on October 10 of welcoming our new Curate, the Rev'd Claire Curtis, who assisted at Holy Communion for the first time. We wish well for her time with the Exe Valley Churches.

We are already thinking about Christmas (not shopping - yet!) It is not our turn to have a service on Christmas Day and so we will gather in Cruwys Morchard with Steph and Claire for the celebration of Christmas Holy Communion at 10.30am. Washfield Carol Service will be on Christmas Eve at 6.00pm when we stop the rush for a while and come and think, and sing, about the Christmas story and afterwards meet over refreshments! On 19 December at 11.00am there will be an early celebration of Christmas for all the family, and this will be a chance

continued overleaf ➔

WASHFIELD

Conkers, mushrooms, sloes, blackberries and cooking apples...the harvests of late autumn, before the starkness of winter finally comes. Enjoy these last days of autumnal sunshine with long walks in the falling leaves and the final cuts of the lawn.

Greetings on this Indian Summer Day in Washfield! Harvest Thanksgiving has come and gone and the Service, in a beautifully decorated church, was a very traditional reminder of all we owe to the farmers and their families. They care for our countryside and provide much of our food and we

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PARISH ROUND-UP

to invite all the children to the church again, to decorate the tree and have fun. Andrew Herniman has ideas! Maybe a percussion band??

Please look out for notice of a date for tyding up the churchyard one Saturday morning in November. If you can spare any time between 10.00am and 12.00 noon it would be much appreciated.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who are unwell or anxious at this time. Every Thursday at 10.00am there is a short service in the Worth Chapel when all village concerns are thought and prayed for. All welcome.

The 'Village Day' on 18 September was very well received and attended by many parishioners. We met new neighbours and forged fresh acquaintances and after 18 months of little social contact, renewed and celebrated old friendships.

It was lovely to see the children involved in the quiz and playing in the field together and the adults browsing the many information points around the hall. All the groups made a huge effort to represent themselves and we all learnt more about our village, past and present, and many suggestions were made about what we would like to see in the future. Let's not leave the positivity of this day behind but take the proposals forward, act on the recommendations made and make our village fit for future sustainability, any other option is worrying in the longer term.

Don't forget the established groups that meet regularly: they are all open to new partakers.

The Social Club (currently the bar is open every Tuesday evening) including

a Book Club, Craft Group, table tennis, Scrabble and special events. Membership is just £5 per year. Phone Chas on 01884 669001 to find out more about club nights, membership and how to get involved.

teatime@thehall afternoons are on the second Tuesday of each month between 2.30-4.30pm. All welcome for tea, cake, friendship and chat. Phone Enid on 01884 252448 for details or just pop in.

The Lunch Club meets each month on a variable Thursday for a two-course lunch @ just £6. Phone Anne on 01884 255298 for more details.

St Mary's Church, a constant for eight centuries! Services are as detailed in the centre pages of this magazine. Church Warden Jeanne Jones, on 01884 254306, can give more information.

The Memorial Hall, a constant for almost 100 years. Always keen to have new committee members and volunteers. Chair, John Burton is on 01884 254095

One recent, additional group to come out of a suggestion from the village day is a Family Get Together session, meeting once a month on a Monday between 3.30-5.30pm. Such a lovely idea and, with lots of young children currently in the village, well supported. For more details contact Carly Butt.

The African proverb 'it takes a village to raise a child' could easily be as applicable when changed to 'it takes many villagers to keep a village relevant and thriving'. Please join us in this cause.

To see what is happening currently, and in the future, in Washfield take a look at

the website: www.middevonparish.co.uk/washfield/ the Facebook site 'Humans of Washfield and Lower Washfield' and look out for posters around the parish.

We wish all those with special celebrations our very good wishes and, if you are feeling unwell, are awaiting treatments or ops, or maybe you're feeling low, we are not just here with words but can help with supporting you. Please share with someone if you need support and we can be there for you. The pandemic may be over (?) but the wrap-around, caring network that was in place then is still only a phone call away.

At the time of writing this piece it seems too early to mention Christmas but all too soon it will be upon us. Let's hope it's a good one for you this year (well, it can't be much worse than last year!) We are going to have a Christmas tree outside the hall again and plan to have Carol singing around it (for a charity) one evening. Look out for the date and time of this and come along if you are able.

Signing off for this year and looking forward to 2022.

WITLEIGH

Our Garden and Flower Show in August was a success, after a break due to Covid. Congratulations to Henry, Shirley, Brenda and Jasper who were our Cup winners, and especially Brenda for being overall winner of the Show with her floral arrangement. We were missing a few entrants, but it was lovely to see new people in the village

continued overleaf ➔

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PARISH ROUND UP

taking part. We look forward to seeing you all again next year.

There were positive comments on this year's Harvest Festival organised by Stephen and Janet. The tea after the service was a huge success and it was lovely to see so many people, especially those who were not able to attend the Harvest Supper on the Monday evening.

Devon Freewheelers were the beneficiaries of the auction held following the Harvest Supper, and it was good to be able to welcome a member of the organisation to the Supper to speak about their work. Given that many people attended the supper this year for the first time, and who would not have heard the Freewheelers speaker a few years ago, this was greatly appreciated. A sum of £350.60 was raised from the sale of produce.

A Community Lunch is to be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 2nd November. 12.30 for 1pm. This will be a two course meal for £5 each. A Charity Draw will give you chance to support a local charity. If you would like to join us please book your meal with Christine 01884 257571.

Scottish Dancing Classes are starting again at the beginning of November. If you would like to join us please call Giles 01884 257123 for more information.

Upcoming lay-led Services at St Catherine's in November and December are:

Sun. 7 November – Family Service at 10.30am

Sun. 14 November – Remembrance Service at 10.50am

Sun. 5 December – Christingle Service at 4pm

Sun.12 December - Morning Worship at 10.30am

Sun. 19 December – Carol Service at 3pm

There will also be a Cluster Holy Communion service at St Catherine's on Sunday 21 November at 11.15am, and a Service of Holy Communion on Christmas Eve at 11.30pm.

Our Christmas Bingo will take place on Thursday 2 December, Eyes Down 7.30pm.

Our Christmas Fayre will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 4 December, and will run from 10.30am to 3pm. In addition to the invited and church stalls, there will be two draws, one taking place in the morning and one in the afternoon. Donations of cakes and draw prizes will be gratefully received. Refreshments will be served during the course of the day, including light lunches.

Our Carol Service will be held at 3pm on Sunday 19 December, and gifts of non-perishable items will be collected under the Christmas tree at the beginning of the service. The gifts will then be passed on to C.H.A.T in Tiverton. Following the service, mulled wine / orange juice and mince pies / shortbread will be served in the Village Hall.

Congratulations to Cathy on the birth of her twin grandchildren, Gus and Nora, born to Hannah and Henry, giving Martha a brother and sister. Also congratulations to the great grandparents, Harry and Sylvia and Christine. Love and best wishes to you all.

Congratulations also to anyone else who has a special anniversary, and to any who have special birthdays.

Although the last magazine included a welcome to the new occupants of Sawyers, they had not moved in at the time, but are doing so imminently. We would like to extend a further welcome to you and look forward to meeting you all soon.

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

Forthcoming Events:

Tuesday 2 November - Community Lunch in the Village Hall, 1230 for 1pm.

Thursday 2 December – Christmas Bingo in the Village Hall, 7.30pm.

Saturday 4 December – Christmas Fayre in the Village Hall, 10.30am – 3pm.

Flower Rota:

November 7, 14 - Christine Luxton

November 21, 28, December 5 - Linda Taylor

December 12, 19, 26 - CHRISTMAS



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