



TODAY

The Parish Magazine for the Exe Valley Mission Community

MARCH - APRIL 2022

Price 50p

FIRST OF ALL!

In the last few days there have been a few 'firsts'!

It was the first time since the first lockdown that I have taken an early service in church rather than zooming.

It was the first time that I have left two people to lead the zoom service in the Rectory, without my being there!

It was the first time I have conducted an APCM (Annual meeting in normal speak!) after a morning service and it was the first time that it was done and dusted in half an hour.

The other day I saw primroses for the first time this year too. None of those things were remarkable in themselves, but together they made me realise that things are on the move and that we are beginning to feel more post-pandemic than pandemic. Hurrah! I was just about to rip off my mask in a wave of post-pandemic enthusiasm, when another set of firsts swept in in the form of storm Eunice!

It was the first time I had been without electricity at home for over 48 hours.

The first time I had cooked golden rice and tuna on top of the wood burning stove. (Actually it was delicious!)

And the first time I had seen my barbecue do a triple back flip in the air, just like something out of the Winter Olympics!

What a time we are having! It's a time of upheaval and change; a time of being grateful for all that we have; and a time for welcoming in the new.

I feel a deep sense of gratitude for all that I have – especially when it is suddenly, albeit temporarily, taken away from me.



I also have a deep sense of gratitude when I hear stories of goodness: neighbour helping neighbour, strangers coming to the rescue, volunteers doing all they can. There is so much goodness in people. It's wonderful!

This Spring we also have the opportunity to welcome in the new. We are starting a new service called 'Explore' at All Saints, Rackenford on Sunday 13 March at 9.30am. This is a relaxed, informal (and short!) service for everyone – with children and families in mind. It will take place on the second Sunday of every month. Whatever your age, whoever you're with come and 'Explore'!

Secondly, if you enjoy a jolly good sing then come and be part of the Exe Valley Choir for the Queen's Jubilee. Please phone Claire and Andrew Curtis for more details (see page 3), and start gargling!

Wishing you, your families and our communities all that is good and full of the joys of Spring!

Steph

Please look at the website for any updates.

Copy Deadline for May / June 2022 issue

Monday 11 April 2022

**THE EXE VALLEY
MISSION COMMUNITY**

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Morchard, Loxbeare,
Oakford, Rackenford,
Stoodleigh, Templeton,
Washfield and Witleigh
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EDITORIAL

As I write this storm Eunice is
battering the West Country.
River levels are up and trees are
down. I am reminded of the
following I have stuck to my
fridge.

There is
NO STORM that God won't carry
you through.
NO BRIDGE that God won't help
you cross.
NO BATTLE that God won't help
you win.
TRUST GOD and never give up.
Amen

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FROM STEPH

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10.30am - 2.30pm



Tea, Coffee, Lunch provided - please inform us of any special dietary requirements

RSVP:- office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org

Andy Humm ~ Steph Gordon-Jeffs

The times they are a-changing!

From March 2022, our Morning Service pattern is changing.

All Services throughout the Mission Community will take place at either 9.30am or 10.45am.

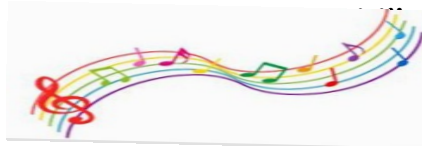
The Zoom/Conference Call will move to 9.30am.



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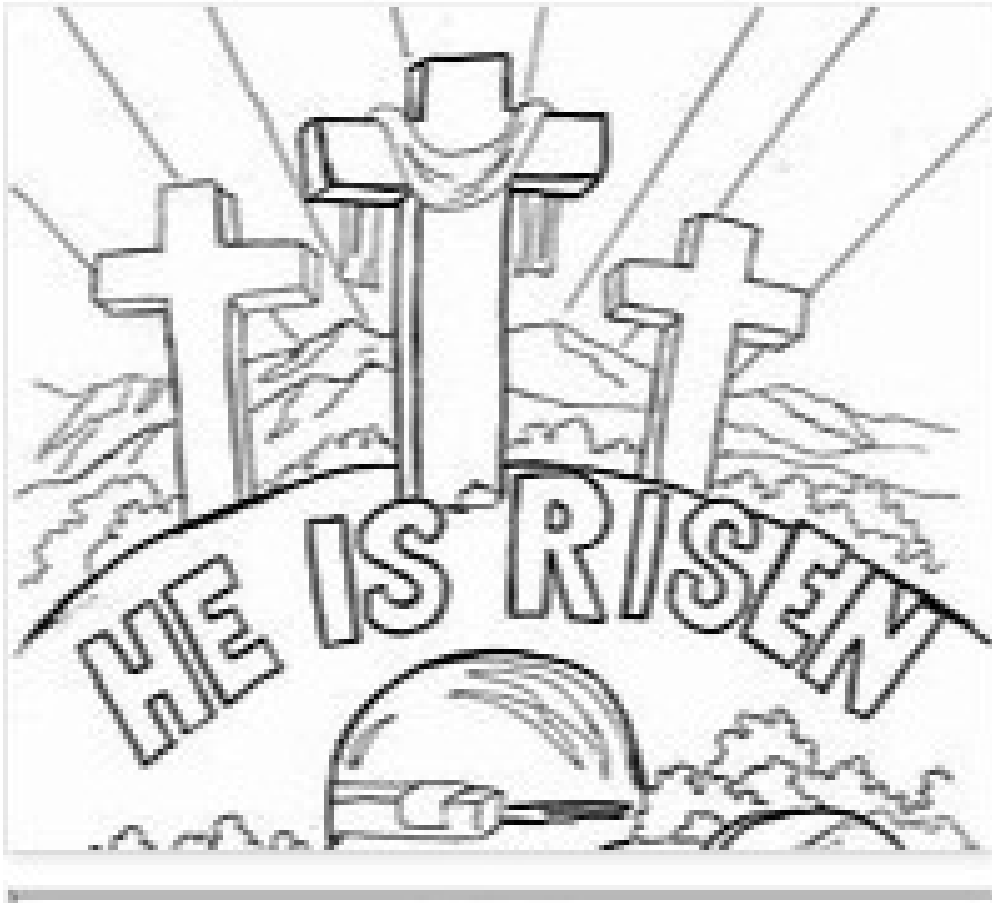


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CHILDREN'S PAGE



Mission Community Easter Flower Trail - Palm Sunday to Easter Monday
Visit all 9 churches throughout the Mission Community and follow the Easter Story

Washfield - Palm Sunday
Templeton - The Last Supper
Witleigh - The Garden of Gethsemane
Loxbeare - Peter's Denial



Stoodleigh - The Trial
Rackenford - The Crucifixion
Oakford - The Burial
Cruwys Morchard - The Empty Tomb

Calverleigh - Picnic on the Beach

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NATURE NOTES

It is fair to record that the Winter has been kind to Devon even if there is something to come.

Perhaps there is something to be said for mud and the colour grey. This is perhaps a little unfair as the fields in the South have gamely tried to stay green and there is one oak tree in Knightshayes that has refused to admit to being deciduous.

As befits the time it appears that Nature has retired from view, and like us is waiting for blue skies when we can spark into life and enjoy it. On the bright days it has appeared that most birds share this impatience to get out, and the grey wagtails in particular wander over rooftops with every sign of suppressed energy.

Irrespective of the day, a walk along the Grand Western Canal will always be met with signs of activity and long views of the countryside bleakly at rest. I cannot promise the flash of a kingfisher, but I can assure you it happens.

The BBC are to be hugely admired for satisfying those who wish to study Nature from the comfort of their armchair. It seems self-evident to me they have attracted the best talents in the World in terms of camerawork and those wholly dedicated to Nature. I have particularly enjoyed Winter Watch and similar seasonal offerings.

I am very conscious of the movement of animals overnight – the cry of the owl, the fresh trails of mammals the day after – but who would have thought that

the hours of Winter darkness are filled with the crowd that the special cameras reveal?

Equally delightful was the cameraman in Devon who reproduced the growth of a giant water lily, a native of Peru, in his shed so that we could see its whole lifecycle.

I do not need to mention David Attenborough and long may the BBC continue – if it ain't broke don't fix it.

Thomas More

To raise awareness

Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) goes by many names: Policeman's Helmet, Indian Balsam, Jumping Jacks, Stinky Pops and Poor Man's Orchid, and it does indeed resemble an orchid.

I recall when I first saw great swathes of it bordering the lanes as I drove from Tiverton to Dulverton, I marvelled at its beauty, its towering pink flowers bobbing in the breeze, almost mesmerising. But, as with many things of mesmerising beauty, it has a sinister side to its presence!

Believed to have been introduced to Kew Gardens from Kashmir in 1839, its explosive seed pods, often reaching more than 7 metres (22 feet) away, quickly spread across the UK. Travelling along rivers and carried by unsuspecting humans and animals it has taken hold and now dominates huge areas, achieving the status of one of Europe's most invasive plants. And

it is here and spreading apace in our beautiful county.

But isn't it a great pollinator? What's so bad about it?

A quick check with Uncle Google will throw up enough information and reasons as to why this NNIS (non-native invasive species) is such a threat to the health of our habitats, wildlife, and land.

To summarise:

It is now our largest annual plant, often reaching between 6-10 feet (1.8m-3m). Its seeds explode up to 7 metres, meaning it spreads fast and colonises new areas quickly.

It competes with our native plants for light, nutrients, pollinators, and space. Killing off vital wildflowers for our insects. It has also been found to deplete the mycorrhizal layer of soil fungi, preventing regrowth of native plants.

In the winter it dies back, exposing banks and leaving them vulnerable to erosion. Without vegetation to stabilise the banks, we lose the banks entirely. We lose the wildlife living within the banks, such as water voles and kingfishers. Flooding is more frequent. A major concern for anyone with a riverside home or grazing for animals.

With the erosion of banks our waterways become heavier with silt. This reduces the water quality and smothers aquatic life, including fish spawning grounds. Our waterways will become devoid of life.

And for anyone who gets out and enjoys our beautiful landscape and far

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PARISH ROUND-UP

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John 8:12 (NIV)



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reaching views, our enjoyment is now obliterated by towering pink flowers.

The costs for tackling this environmental issue run into the millions. Millions of pounds that councils and authorities just don't have.

So what can we do?

Being aware is a great first step. And timing is the next. It is all in the timing of how we can make a difference.

Between May, June and July, critically BEFORE the seed's heads are ripe and ready to explode, is the time to pull this plant up by the roots. And it is an easy plant to pull up!

But it takes many hands to help. It could be small volunteer groups, it could be larger community efforts, individuals tackling the lanes in which they live or a larger movement involving wildlife trusts and river agencies.

Success has been seen across the Torridge River Restoration Project and the Otter Valley Association, so it can be done.

It is an ongoing project, it will need revisiting each year, but each plant pulled up means between 500 and 2500 less seeds to germinate!

I will be out doing my bit and I really hope to see others helping save our countryside.

Lucy Gould

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PARISH ROUND-UP

CALVERLEIGH

With the snowdrops out and the early daffodils in flower the promise of Spring is here for us all to see and enjoy.

A couple of things were overlooked in the last magazine so returning to the Christmas period we must thank all who helped in any way with the preparation of setting up the Christmas tree trail, depicting the story of the 'Little Christmas Tree' which was written by our very own Rev'd Steph Gordon-Jeffs. We hope that many of you were able to travel around the nine churches to see how each church had decorated their tree to represent their part of the story.

Although the Loxbeare and Calverleigh Carol Singers were unable to go out and about before Christmas as usual because of the safety of those taking part and those we would have been singing to, people still generously gave to the two charities. A total of £300 was raised, so Motor Neurone and Cancer Research have each been sent £150. Our thanks go to Sue Troake and all who have given to these very worthwhile causes to further their work.

A good selection of toiletries, dried goods and tinned foods were collected under the Christmas tree inside church and were then delivered to CHAT at the beginning of the new year where they were extremely grateful to have received them. Thank you to all who contributed to help those in need at this time of year.

The Epiphany service on 2 January was well attended and it was good to be able to welcome friends from around

the Exe Valley and to wish them all a Happy New Year.

The funeral service of Kim Goldsworthy took place on 2 February with burial in the churchyard. Kim is the eldest child of Keith and Janice Goldsworthy and grandson of the late Cliff and Marg. The church was full, with mourners also standing outside to pay their respects to a 'kind and gentle soul who has left us too soon'. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of Kim's family at this very difficult time and also with all who are mourning the loss of a loved one.

Events Coming up

By the time of printing, the APCM will have taken place and details of church officers etc, will be given in the next magazine.

A meeting to plan how the community will celebrate the Queen's Jubilee will be held in Calverleigh Village Hall on Monday 21 March 2022 at 7.30pm. Everyone is encouraged to bring ideas to discuss at the meeting.

The next monthly time of prayer will be on Saturday 5 March from 9am - 11am. In April it will be Saturday 2 April, at the same time. If you would like to join in for a short or longer time, it can be wherever you are. Prayer suggestions will be on the website or available from thegoldsworthys@yahoo.co.uk. You do not need to tell us if you are planning to pray at a certain time - but you can if you wish to.

Our Annual Day of Prayer will be on Saturday 7 May from 9am - 9pm where people are invited to take part in half hour time slots (or longer if you desire), again at a place that is comfortable for you. Prayer suggestion sheets are sent out closer to the time. More

details will be available in church nearer to the time. If you would like to be added to the contact list, please contact the email address above. Thank you.

Congratulations to Charlotte and Lewis on the birth of their son and to Katie and Fred on their first grandchild. Are you celebrating a birthday? We want to wish you a very happy birthday, or happy anniversary, or congratulate you on passing a test, whoever you are! (Do let us know!) Happy Birthday to Dave who is turning 41 in April!

Cleaning Rota

28 Feb - 12 Mar: Mrs N Burton
14 - 26 Mar: Mrs R Tapp
28 Mar - 9 Apr: Mrs J Goldsworthy
11 - 23 Apr: Miss S Goldsworthy
25 Apr - 7 May: Miss J Herniman

Mowing Rota

18 - 30 Apr: Mr A Goldsworthy
2 - 14 May: Mr C Durnan

Flower Rota

20 - 27 Feb: Mrs M Radford
No flowers in Lent
17 - 24 Apr: Mrs D Hopper
1 - 8 May: Mrs B Hill

Do you have anything to share in the magazine? Please send your photos, news, birthday messages, anniversary congratulations, stories, limericks (clean ones) or anything else to Dave Burton by calling 01884 561499 or by email: calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org.

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

TODAY Magazine

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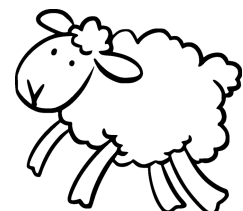
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PARISH ROUND-UP

CRUWYS MORCHARD

SAVE THE DATE

The first weekend in June.

As it is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this year, we should celebrate it in our village. Watch out for a meeting to discuss ideas with everyone to mark this momentous occasion.

Any ideas please contact Diana at vindrv@hotmail.com

I thought that a giant picnic lunch up and down the main street, all bringing tables and chairs, food and everyone sharing.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Our Queen has been a great blessing to Britain and the Commonwealth, a great ambassador for mutual peace and understanding between all peoples. To commemorate her Jubilee, for the whole community I think it would be nice to hold some sort of Street Party, everyone sharing a lunch or tea out on the road, or maybe a field? Weather permitting.

As the Queen is the titular head of the Church of England and Defender of the Faith, for us all, anointed as Monarch 'by God', I would like us to hold a Special joint Service in Cruwys Morchard too. Rev. Ruth Green.

Pennymoor Congregational Church services remain in the usual pattern at 4pm on Sundays. Please look on Facebook for special announcements.

DEFIBRILLATOR

From the Cruwys Morchard Parish Council.

You may be aware that Cruwys Morchard Parish has a defibrillator at the back of

the Mount Pleasant Inn in Nomansland, but recent discussions felt that it would be a good idea to have a 2nd defibrillator in the parish.

It is important that the parish council has as many views from the residents in the parish on making decisions as to whether another defibrillator is needed and if so, where it should be positioned, funding etc so it has been decided that the parish council will hold an open meeting to discuss all options. The meeting has been arranged for:

Wednesday 6 April 2022 in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm.

The Parish Council would like to see as many interested parishioners as possible at this open meeting. I would be grateful if you can let me know if you will be attending the meeting by either emailing me at: cruwys.morchard.pc@gmail.com (preferred option) or telephoning me on 01363 866728 so we know who will be coming.

FLOWER and CLEANING ROTA.

Feb 28/Mar 7- Lorna Warren - No flowers Lent

March 14/21 - Carol Chisholm and Jackie Mitchell - No flowers Lent

March 28/April 4 - Lorna Warren No flowers Lent

April 11 - Decorators for Easter

April 18 - Cindy Trick

April 25 - Carole Chisholm and Jackie Mitchell

May 2/9 - Diana Vincent and Val Randerson

Mothering Sunday is 27 March, we have a service in our Church at 10.45am.

Shrove Tuesday (pancake day) 1 March

Ash Wednesday 2 March

Good Friday 15 April

EASTER SUNDAY 17 APRIL

On 16 January we welcomed Oliver Raymond into the Church at his Baptism. The Church was full and Dave Edwards was on the guitar, to accompany us.

THE ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW

It is hoped that the Annual Flower Show will go ahead this year on 13 August. Schedule will be the same as last year, this will be available to parishioners on Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall Website and also on the Cruwys Morchard Community site on Facebook. If you require a 'Hard' copy, please contact Pauline at 5 Moorview. Potatoes for the under 16's are also available now. This was very well supported last year. Any queries to pauline.8@hotmail.co.uk. Stay Safe and Happy Gardening to you All.

Also this year we will have a SCARECROW competition at the show to be entered by families/households in the parish. There is a £20 prize for the winner.

CRUWYS ARMS GARDENERS

Cruwys Arms gardeners met for the first time in 2022 on the 2 February, full of enthusiasm to start the new gardening year. As always we plan to visit gardens open to the public through the Spring, Summer and Autumn and those suggested were The Garden House at Buckland Monacorum, Barrington Court near Ilminster, Burrow Farm Gardens near Axminster and Montacute House in Somerset.

As for our monthly 'first Wednesday in the month' meetings, suggestions were made for speakers and for topics of interest to explore in discussions.

continued overleaf →



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PARISH ROUND-UP

We plan a 'seed swap' in March and following a tradition set up in one of our early meetings one of the group will be handing out 'mystery seeds' for each of us to grow. There is great competition to be the first to identify the resulting plant as it grows - always assuming we get it to germinate in the first place!

Once the season has turned to summer we look forward to a barbecue in one of our gardens and we also make a tour of those members' gardens that are happy to take part. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month in the Cruwys Arms at 8.00pm. Anyone can come along; there is no formal membership and no charge so if you are into gardening or just into gardens you will be made very welcome - just turn up.

PLANT SALE.

We are having a plant sale and cream tea on 29 May 2022, do come.

YOGA in the parish hall, ring Hilary on 01363 866245.

THE CRUWYS MORCHARD YOUNG FARMERS

The club had a wonderful success in the pantomime competition this year, coming first and Jessica Kingdom receiving the best moment cup for her ballet dance in their performance of Cinderella, so the club is now preparing for the next round which is at Exmouth pavilion on Saturday 26 February.

Jessica also has won the Exe Valley Junior Member of the Year.

The club are providing cakes for the monthly bingo at Tiverton Rugby Club. Next ones are on the 11 March and the 8 April.

They are also planning a dung sale, if anyone is interested for their gardens.

The club has been enjoying some seasonal ice skating events and are hoping to attend the county roller skating evening as well.

Skills for life, they are planning milking and basic horse husbandry.

Next meetings are on Tuesday March 1 and Tuesday April 8, at Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall at 7.30pm.

CONGRATULATIONS to Imi and Steve on the birth of Binkie Olivia, she arrived on 3 December 2021. They have now moved to a new house in Witheridge. Good Luck.

Deepest sympathy to Pauline Guscott and family, upon the passing of her Mother, aged 89, she had been driving her car until just before she passed.

Best wishes and prayers to all those who are not well in the parish, and those who are awaiting treatment

Welcome to everyone who has recently moved into the parish.

LOXBWARE

It is good to see the signs of spring with many flowers and buds already making their appearance giving us hope of longer & hopefully warmer days.

Christmas seems so long ago now but we held a carol service on 19 December with the congregation participating and singing many of our favourite carols, taken by Jean & Carol. A donation of £200 was sent to Vbranch House.

No service was held on Christmas Day or Boxing Day, but Steph led a Holy Communion service with Clare. Dave

Edwards and Sue Rivett provided the music, leading us into the celebrations and thanks to God for sending Jesus to be our Saviour.

Many thanks to all who helped decorate the Church and organised and took part in the services or helped in any way over the Christmas period.

Although the carol singing around the villages of Loxbeare and Calverleigh disappointingly was cancelled because of Covid risk, Sue, Aubrey and Jackie received donations totalling £300 which was divided between the Motor Neurone Disease and Cancer Research. Many thanks to those who gave so generously.

On the 6 March and 3 April, there will be Morning Worship and 13 March there will be a Cluster Service at Loxbeare. Please check the middle pages for all dates and times of services and also for our Good Friday/Easter Sunday services.

On the 27 March, we will be having a Mothering Sunday Breakfast starting at 9.30am with the service at 10.30am. Both in the Village Hall. Do come and join us and share a time of thanks for Mums everywhere and to worship God together.

We continue to pray for Maurice Taylor, Steve Troake and all who are unwell and for those feeling the effects of the winter months, are lonely and the Covid virus still affecting many people. We continue to pray for all medical staff and care workers and thank them for their commitment to looking after patients.

Happy Birthday to all with birthdays in March/April and for anyone who will be celebrating special occasions.

continued on page 12

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Holy Communion
with Ashes
6.00pm
WITHLEIGH
Steph Gordon-
Jeffer and
Claire Curtis

6 MARCH

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Morning Worship

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Rackenford

LOXBARE

10.45am Morning Worship

OAKFORD

See Rackenford

RACKENFORD

10.45am Holy Communion

*Jane Wilson and
Claire Curtis*

STOODLEIGH

See Rackenford

TEMPLETON

See Rackenford

WASHFIELD

See Rackenford

WITHLEIGH

10.am Family Service

13 MARCH

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

See Loxbeare

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Prayer

LOXBARE

10.45am Holy Communion

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

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Worship

RACKENFORD

**9.30am Explore
with Claire Curtis**

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Prayer

TEMPLETON

10.45am Family Service

WASHFIELD

See Loxbeare

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Service of the Word

20 MARCH

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Family Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Holy Communion

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

LOXBARE

See Cruwys Morchard

OAKFORD

See Cruwys Morchard

RACKENFORD

See Cruwys Morchard

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Prayer

TEMPLETON

See Cruwys Morchard

WASHFIELD

3.00pm Evening Prayer

WITHLEIGH

10.45a. Service of the Word

27 MARCH

MOTHERING SUNDAY

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Service
with Steph Gordon-Jeffs

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Service
with Claire Curtis

LOXBARE

9.30am Breakfast in the
Village Hall followed by a
10.30am Service also in the
Village Hall.

OAKFORD

10.45am Service



27 MARCH

MOTHERING SUNDAY

10am Zoom Service

RACKENFORD

10.45am Holy Communion

*Georgie Bell
with Dave Edwards*

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Service

TEMPLETON

10.45am Service

WASHFIELD

10.45am Service

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Service





14 APRIL MAUNDY THURSDAY

Agape Meal 6.30pm at
Calverleigh Village Hall

PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE TO BOOK

15 APRIL GOOD FRIDAY

10.45am Loxbeare Easter Reflections with
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

12noon Templeton Easter Meditation with
Claire Curtis

10.00am Withleigh Village Hall Hot Cross Buns
followed by an informal lay-led service

3 APRIL

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Morning Worship

CRUWYS MORCHARD
10.45am Holy Communion
with Baptism

Steph Gordon-Jeffs
with *Dave Edwards*

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise

OAKFORD

See Stoodleigh

RACKENFORD

See Stoodleigh

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Holy Communion
Georgie Bell

TEMPLETON

10.45am Family Service

WASHFIELD

6.00pm Evening Prayer

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Family Service

10 APRIL PALM SUNDAY

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

See Washfield

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Family Service

LOXBEARE

See Washfield

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

9.30am Explore
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Prayer
with Claire Curtis

TEMPLETON

See Washfield

WASHFIELD

10.45am Holy Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs
with *Dave Edwards*

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Service of the Word

17 APRIL EASTER DAY

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Holy Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Easter Service

LOXBEARE

See Calverleigh

OAKFORD

10.45am Holy Communion
Ian Johnson

RACKENFORD

10.45am Easter Celebration

STOODLEIGH

3.00pm Easter Celebration

TEMPLETON

10.45am Easter Celebration
with Claire Curtis

WASHFIELD

See Calverleigh

WITHLEIGH

9.30am Easter Celebration

24 APRIL

9.30am Zoom Service

**OUR
MISSION
COMMUNITY
HOLY
COMMUNION
GROUP SERVICE**

is at
**10.45 am in
STOODLEIGH**
Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and *Claire Curtis*
With *Dave Edwards*

Everyone Welcome

PARISH ROUND-UP

OAKFORD

There will be Cream Teas and a Bring & Buy Stall on the 12 March and 9 April, 3.30-4.30pm. Money raised will be donated each month to support various chosen charities. If you would like to volunteer by helping to bake cakes or serve cream teas and would like to be on the rota, please contact Carol Radford on 01884 881480 or Jean 881400.

On 6 April there will be a Bingo evening, doors open at 7.00pm, eyes down at 7.30pm.

Forward dates: Sat 21 May at 5.00pm for 5.30pm start (weather permitting) Mystery Walk around Tiverton (1.5 miles/2hours to complete) The town you think you know! Look for clues to solve a murder and see the town in a new light. Pub visit on the way home. Please register your interest for the walk by emailing loxbeare.events@yahoo.com or call Wendy on 01884 881774.

Congratulations to our Queen on the wonderful achievement of 70years as Head of our Country and Commonwealth. She has given up much to faithfully fulfil her promise to serve the country and has often spoken of and shown her faith in God. We are grateful to have had her as Queen for so long and may God bless her and enable her to stay well to be able to enjoy the celebrations during the year. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee will be celebrated in the evening of Thursday 2 June with a BBQ, followed by the Lighting of the Beacon and on Sunday 5 June there will be a Big Jubilee Lunch. More details to follow.



It's snowdrop time again and daffodils are blooming (earlier than usual this year?) We're grateful for all these signs of the awakening spring and for new opportunities ahead as life slowly returns to some degree of normality after two years of Covid.

With this renewed energy comes an invitation from St Peter's – everyone is invited to consider supporting the church (our church) in any way possible.

No matter if a regular church goer or not. The impressive building, its glebe garden and graveyard, centrally positioned in the village, enhance the environment but require upkeep and care.

St Peter's has stood for centuries serving the people of Oakford parish for baptisms, weddings, and funerals. It is central to celebrations such as Easter and Christmas. Open every day, it is a quiet place to sit and Sunday services held at least twice a month offer fellowship and comfort.

There are many ways to help keep this wonderful asset alive in the community. Could you find an hour or two e.g. to garden, tidy up the graveyard & paths, paint the railings, arrange flowers, Hoover & dust, clean brass, write this column, or serve on the PCC? Do you have admin or IT skills? Or could you find time to do some fundraising for the bell tower restoration? A spare hour now and again would be a real help. To find out more contact Wendy or Dawn, the churchwardens, whose details are

on the reverse of the front cover. Thank you.

On 17 January the burial took place of Eric Heath-Coleman. The graveside service was conducted by Rev'd Claire Curtis. Eric and Jean (known to Eric and the rest of her family as Janet) were married in St Peter's Tiverton in 1974. They moved to Oakford 28 years ago. Eric was a familiar figure around the village where he liked to socialise with friends over a pint in The Red Lion. Eric liked to go fishing and Jean has happy memories of their fishing trips together. Our condolences go to his wife and the family at this sad time.

We also said good bye to Beryl Short on 20 January. A service in the church and internment with her husband at St Peter's was conducted by Rev'd Claire Curtis. Beryl and Jim married at Instow church in 1957 and moved to Hillsbrow with their twin boys, Colin and Stephen in 1961. Beryl joined the WI and began her hobby of beekeeping from which she used to make honey fudge to sell at local fetes. She also used to make her own ginger beer for the boys which they loved as it warmed you up as it went down - years later they discovered that what she'd been making was actually alcoholic! Beryl and Jim celebrated their Golden Wedding with a large party at Oakford Village Hall in October 2007 and had another 2 years together before Jim passed away in 2009. Now she will be reunited with him again and probably a very large number of dogs and cats. Our condolences go to the family at this sad time.

Our thoughts and sympathy are with Sarah whose husband, David Gliddon, has recently died. David's funeral service took place on 21 February at

continued overleaf →

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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.

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We look forward to meeting you soon!

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PARISH ROUND-UP

St Peter's with internment at his home in Oakford. David was well known locally as a very skilled woodturner. May they all rest in peace.

A Mothering Sunday Service will be held in church on 27 March. Everyone is welcome to come along.

The very popular and successful Easter Flower Trail will happen again this year throughout the Exe Valley Mission Community. Our church porch will be decorated from Palm Sunday reflecting an Easter theme. It was beautiful last year so don't miss it this year.

Easter Sunday – a service of Holy Communion will be led by Rev'd Ian Johnson at 10.45am on 17 April. Come and celebrate surrounded by lovely spring flowers.

Moving on to new beginnings in Culmstock is Oakford resident of 27 years Trisha Bailey. Trisha and her late husband, Karl, were good supporters of village events over the years. Trisha will no doubt be back quite often to visit the many friends she has in the parish. Good luck in your new home Trisha. Settling in to East Loosemoor is Clifford Williams. Welcome Clifford. We hope you will be happy here.

The Moorland Club
Unfortunately the January meeting had to be postponed due to ongoing concerns about Covid. This meeting entitled 'ARE YOU SITTING COMFORTABLY...' hosted by Sue Vigus will now take place on Thursday 17 March at 7.30pm in the village hall.

The AGM meeting on 21 April is daffodil night and will feature a brief talk by a representative of the charity Marie Curie (emblem daffodil) who will be

presented with a donation of £1000 – the profit from the Christmas Fair in November. Following this Jean will show members 5 simple but clever ways to display daffodils. Members are invited to bring along a small container and a few daffodils and foliage to experiment with their own display.

Advance notice – The Flower & Produce Show will be staged on August Bank Holiday Saturday. Also an exciting and new Autumn Fair is planned for 15 October and will replace the traditional Christmas Fair of recent years. The full year's programme will be available shortly and it promises a wide variety of events hopefully not to be interrupted by new variants of Covid. Enquiries about the club to Jennie Chappell 01398 351666.

'The Great Oakford Taste-Off' is on Friday 18 March in the village hall from 7pm. Bring your legendary sloe gins, a full-flavour alternative spirit or a non-alcoholic cordial. Enter the savoury cookery section with Hominy Pie – is yours the best ever? We'll be the judges of that! A fun filled evening with cheese and biscuits provided to soak up the alcohol. £3 per person entrance fee.

The Oakford Players return on 24, 25, 26 March with their long awaited production of 'The Vicar of Dibley'. The village hall is the venue and 7.30pm is the time. Come and enjoy a light supper and entertaining peep into village life. Tickets £15 per person from Dawn 01398 324035.

Quiz nights at The Red Lion will be on Sunday 20 March and 24 April at 8pm.

Qigong classes (gentle, standing exercises and meditation) are beginning in March on Tuesday mornings 11-12 noon in the village hall. Further details from Ollie Tubb labyrinthmindmovement@gmail.com

Celebrate the green shoots of spring and enjoy the season.

RACKENFORD

Christmas seems a long while ago now as we approach March.

However we need to mention the carol singers who called on December 15. It was such a joy lifting our spirits after so much worrying. Once again Rackenford Rascals led the singing and played their instruments, others joined in en route to sing and spread the word of Christmas celebrations. £125 was raised for the Devon Air Ambulance. Thank you to all who donated and to Rackenford Rascals.

Many thanks to the shop team for giving us all the opportunity to deliver and receive Christmas cards left in the shop. Such a benefit for so many.

We understand the Christmas Tree Trail was enjoyed and viewed by many.

Thank you to Little Angels for making such delightful angels to display in church. The tree was adorned with a variety of angels and beautiful lights.

Our Lay Led service was so enjoyable, thank you to all who attended and venturing out to share in the Christmas Eve Service and to celebrate this special time together. A wide variety of carols were sung heartily and various readings took place.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Prayers were given for all our community as we prepared to move forward and thanks given to all who contributed to this service and enabled it to take place at such difficult times.

Rackenford Rascals were in action again at our school during Santa Dennis' visit as he gave out presents to happy faced children. The entire school came into the playground where the Rascals played Christmas carols for everyone to sing along to and enjoy.

We have said goodbye to Annette who has moved to Exminster to be nearer her daughter. We wish her every happiness.

Annette has played a big part in our fund raising events for many years, mostly selling draw tickets wherever needed, bingos, harvest, cream teas, Christmas bring and buy and always willing and happy to help. We will miss you Annette and thank you for all your help.

We welcome Lucie to Rackenford and anyone else who has moved into the village or our area. We hope you will be happy amongst us.

Happy news from Richard and Charlotte as they announce their engagement. Many congratulations, so nice to have good news. We wish you every happiness as you plan your future together. We pray for all those preparing to marry in our church this year and hope all your plans bring you great pleasure as you look forward to your big day.

We hope to move forward this year with fund raising events. After all the restrictions we have had to accept it has not been easy, but best foot forward, we hope to proceed this year. Our prayers and thoughts are with the family of the late Lawrence (Larry)

Gardner who passed away in January. His funeral and internment will have taken place in our church on February 10. Several of us have such fond memories of Larry growing up at East Batsworthy with his parents and siblings for many years before moving on later in life to various locations.

However he was seen often driving his beloved tractor and chatting and waving to us all and well wrapped against the elements at times. He used to call at the Old Shop, Rackenford Club and friends.

We also remember Jim, Philippa and family on the death of Jim's father and will have also laid him to rest. We send love and prayers to you all at this difficult time.

To all those who are bereaved we remember in our prayers.

As these notes go to print we remember February 6 as our Queen recalls the sad passing of her father and the moment she became Queen. We pray for her majesty as she now approaches her 70th anniversary and give thanks for her life and dedication to duty.

Celebrations are planned throughout the country and we hope to enjoy our own village celebrations together and thank her for what she has given in abundance over the years and pray for her good health.

We also pray for all in our community who are unwell, receiving treatment or under the weather. Remembering Jacques, Joan, Olive, David, Christine and Richard and anyone who we haven't heard about.

Also congratulations to all who have reason to celebrate.

We must mention in this issue otherwise we will be so late.

On March 31 Fred and Joan Phillips will be celebrating their 60 Wedding Anniversary. A Diamond Anniversary is an amazing number of years and we send love and congratulations as you remember your wedding day at Cruwys Morchard all those years ago.

Have a lovely day whatever you are doing .

STOODLEIGH

Parish Church news.

Can any other parish compete with Stoodleigh's method for distributing the Today Magazine?



We cannot get towards Easter without reporting on Christmas! The coffee and wine morning in the church on 11th December was a great success raising over £600 for the church. It was lovely to see so many people and there were some generous donations. The mystery raffle seemed to amuse people and help raise a lot as well. So many thanks to everyone. The church itself was a picture of Christmas festivities with two Christmas trees (thank you John W and Paul), a crib, an archway into the tower (Penny) and wonderful flower arrangements organised by Phyllis and her helpers.

Unlike some, Stoodleigh went ahead and held the Carol Service on 23 December. The service was led by

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Jennifer who played the organ and there was a select choir of eleven who added much to the singing with soaring descants. The assembled congregation of about sixty were given an absolute treat by the Griffiths and Parker children's Nativity Play which got a deserving round of applause. The young readers excelled themselves as well. Altogether it was a wonderful start to Christmas.

And now, the days are lengthening and our thoughts turn towards spring and Easter. We have much planned for the church over the coming months. Some details may change so watch out for the community email and posters round the village.

We were very sorry to hear the sad news of Ian Fraser's death after a short spell in hospital. Ian and Jennifer moved to Stoodleigh in 2002 having lived since 1980 at Highfield, Long Drag, where Ian created a vineyard. Ian was one of the founder members of SWAG, the founder member of the garden club and a very enthusiastic member of the poetry group. Both Ian and Jennifer were members of St Margaret's PCC. Ian was a gentleman, highly principled and astute. He was kind, very interested in everyone and will be greatly missed.

Future dates:

- Sunday 13 March - lay led Morning Prayer at 10.45am
 - Sunday 20 March - lay led Morning Prayer at 10.45am
 - Sunday 27 March - Children's Service for Mothering Sunday at 10.45am
 - Sunday 3 April - Holy Communion with the Rev. Georgie Bell at 10.45am
- Please see centre pages for further services.

Tuesday 26 April - Coffee Morning at Sawyard Cottage: 10.30-12.00a.m.

Stoodleigh 100 club

Prize winners:

December 2021. 1st Lesley Ayre 2nd Mervyn Brice 3rd Kathleen Cheale 4th Richard Hill

Extra prizes to Annette Penwill, Penny Norman, Jennifer Ayre and Elain Morrison

January 2022. 1st Susan Fowler 2nd Sam Earl 3rd John Lang 4th Pam Smith

Stoodleigh Christmas Tree Event 2021. Thank you to the community for supporting the Christmas Tree event on 3 December which proved to be an evening of great fun. A total of £320 from donation boxes at the 'lighting up' and later at the Stoodleigh Inn was gratefully received by CHAT (Churches Housing Action Team) together with a fantastic amount of boxes and bags of food which were collected at the Parish Hall for their Food Bank.

Parish Hall News

Saturday 5 March Spring Breakfast, lunch and walk. We're starting the season with a spring in our step at the Parish Hall. After joining us for breakfast, you will be taken on an organised walk straight out onto lanes, tracks and paths through local fields and woodland. There will be some rough uphill walking so sturdy footwear is essential and it may be muddy! The walk will be just less than 5.5 miles and there will be some stops along the way to provide great views of local countryside. Those not wishing to walk are also invited to take part and can book in for breakfast and/or lunch, take a local stroll or pop in for coffee mid-morning. Lunch is available for walkers and non-walkers but please book

tickets beforehand to help us with catering. To book or for more details, please ring Geraldine on 351391

Saturday 16 April Easter Market and Coffee Morning. We're 'eggcited' to be looking forward to the return of this regular Hall event this year. The Hall will be open between 10.00 and 12.00 noon hosting local traders and makers with their amazing goods on offer with competitions and refreshments to enjoy. See the link to the website below.

First Saturday of the month. Coffee at the Hall. Come for a cuppa, share news and catch up with friends and neighbours. Take a break from your chores or drop in on your way in/out of the village. Browse the book shelves. Coffee/tea/hot chocolate/biscuits - just £1!

Stoodleigh Family Dog Show makes a return this year. Provisional date 6 August. It's not too early to start that puppy training.

Parish Website
<https://www.middevonparish.co.uk/stoodleigh/events-calendar/>

TEMPLETON

Introduction

We do like to talk about the weather. Old farmers almanacs say that if March comes in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb. March is so unpredictable; we never know for certain if we are going to get a flock or a pride. Hopefully, by April, the fields will be full of lambs enjoying the sunshine, wouldn't ewe know it. But watch out for lions - you herd it here first.

continued overleaf →




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PARISH ROUND-UP

Maintaining St Margaret's Church and the Churchyard

You may be aware that St Margaret's churchyard has been extended. The ground was prepared for hedging plants to go along the new fence and, on a sunny Saturday morning in early February, volunteers gathered to plant 300 Beech saplings.

It was lovely to see everyone and a big thank you to all those who took part. Decorating and repairs to the interior of the church will be carried out in Spring when the weather will hopefully be a little warmer.



One of the hedge planting work teams on a well-earned break.

Church Events

Sunday services

Sunday services for March and April are published in the centre pages of this magazine. The lay-led Sunday services in March at St Margaret's Church, Templeton will be on 13 March at 10.45 (Family Service), and 27 March at 10.45 (Mothering Sunday Service). If there is not a Sunday service at Templeton at a weekend, there should be a group or cluster service at one of the other parishes. If you or your family have any favourite hymns that you'd like to sing at one of the services, please let Reg (01884 860246) or William (01884 251513) know.

Knit and Natter

The very popular Knit and Natter takes place on the last Wednesday of each month between 10.30 am and 12 noon.

Bring any knitting, sewing or repair work or just come along and have a good old chat over a cuppa and biscuits. The next dates for Knit and Natter are Wednesday 30th March and Wednesday 27th April.

Safari Supper: Saturday 14 May

Please make sure to put Saturday 14 May in your diary - Templeton Safari Supper is a social event not to be missed. Different courses of a meal are eaten at different people's homes. In this way, the cooking is shared, it's a great way to meet up with neighbours and after two years of restrictions, we can go in. If you would like to be a guest (or host) for the supper please contact Lynda (01884 881318), Ginah (01884 253552) or Bindy (01884 860655). Minimum contribution £10.00 per guest. Funds in aid of St Margaret's Church.

Templeton Tractor Run, Templeton Village Hall: Sunday 24 April.

Templeton Tractor Run is a must-see - it has everything! This is a fund-raising event when tractors, old and new, are invited to take part. The owners drive their tractors along a planned local route and it really is quite a sight. Bacon rolls will be on sale at Templeton Village Hall before the Tractor Run. Upon their triumphant return, there will be a pasty and a pint for the tractor owner. Please contact Reg for more information - 01884 860246. It costs £10.00 per tractor owner to take part (which includes the pasty and pint). There will also be a draw. Funds raised will go to the Devon Air Ambulance and St Margaret's Church, Templeton. Many thanks to Roland and Reg for organising this amazing event.

Templeton Village Hall and Social Club - Update

Club nights are held on Monday and Saturday evenings. Club membership is £2 a year and the drinks are very reasonably priced. If you would like to know more about some of the past events in Templeton, please visit Templeton Village Hall's Facebook Page. The hall has two table tennis tables, a pool table, darts and skittles, so why not come along and enjoy a game - either on a club night, or you might prefer to use the hall at a time that suits you better. If you would like to book the village hall for games, a birthday party, meeting, or any other event, please contact Bindy 01884 860655.

Future Dates for your diary: Jubilee Weekend: Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June There will be celebrations across the country between Thursday 2 June and Sunday 5 June to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Please keep this weekend free as we hope to light a Beacon in Templeton on the Thursday, hold a Jubilee Church Service and a 'Big Jubilee Lunch' in Templeton on the Sunday! Plans have not yet been finalised but as soon as they are, we shall let you know!

With deepest sympathy

Sadly, after a long illness, Michael Childs passed away on 2nd February. He was 90. Our deepest sympathies to Jill and family. Michael was a vital and much-loved member of the Templeton community that he did so much for. Michael was one of the Founding Fathers of Templeton Village Hall. He was instrumental to its building, he served on the first village hall committee and was a regular at the social club. Michael was also involved



Moorhayes Meat

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PARISH ROUND-UP

in church events at St Margaret's. Michael had a big heart, a wonderful sense of humour and always had a twinkle in his eye. He will be deeply missed.

Farewell and good luck

Farewell and good luck to Pat and Tony, who left Dart Cottage last month and are now in New Zealand waiting for the building of their beautiful new home to be completed.

Thoughts and Prayers

Our thoughts are also with all those who are unwell, who have been in hospital, awaiting or recovering from surgery, or who are having a tough time at the moment. We hope that you will soon feel better.

Church Flowers and Cleaning Rota for March and April

Lent (begins 2 March)

Bindy Linden No Flowers

27 Feb – 6 March

Liz Walker No Flowers

13 March – 20 March

Julie Dent No Flowers

27 March – 3 April

Lynda Newnes Flowers

10 April – 17 April

Easter Sunday 17 April

Phillida Strong Flowers and cleaning

14 April – 1 May

WASHFIELD

*Lord, when we are wrong make us
willing to change....and when we are
right, make us easy to live with!
Amen*

A Happy Springtime to you all! it is so good to see snowdrops out in the gardens and hedgerows and primroses

trying hard to appear. New life is appearing and the churches are as busy as ever too. It is good to visit our neighbouring parishes for Holy Communion and 'Cluster' Services with Steph and Claire each month.

Here in Washfield we are only managing one Lay led Service a month, having lost five leaders in the last year or so, with only two remaining to provide Evening Prayer at 3.00 pm in the winter and 6.00 pm in Summer, with visitors from other parishes are very welcome when they join us. If anyone would like to train as a Lay Leader please let Steph know - we need you!

Family Services on special occasions started again on December 19 for a Celebration before Christmas, when Andrew and Sue Herniman were with us to lead. The children decorated the Christmas Tree (socially distanced!), Christmas carols were sung and a wonderful Christmas story told. Chocolate biscuits were taken to eat at home! We were very thankful to have had this celebration as the Carol Service on Christmas Eve was cancelled due to increasing risks of Covid 19, a big disappointment to everyone. However, the Christmas Day Service of Holy Communion at Cruwys Morchard went ahead, with all restrictions, and was a great occasion and a blessing to all.

Services on the phone or on 'zoom' are held every Sunday at 10 am for those unable to travel and are much appreciated by large numbers.

We are hoping for lots of children to come and enjoy Christingle on February 20 - as near to Candlemas as we could manage.

Please look in the centre pages and Steph's notes for all Easter events. The Egg rolling and decorating followed by coffee and stalls in the Hall will make a welcome return. Look for posters! Lent will be marked as usual with Services and quiet times.

We are all feeling the loss of a dear friend, Mary Ross, whose Funeral took place on February 4. Mary was a faithful member of our congregation and enjoyed all village events. It has been a privilege and a great pleasure to have had her friendship over the years. We miss her smiling presence and we send our love and kind thoughts to all her family.

We look forward to Mothering Sunday on March 27 for another important celebration in the church's calendar.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who are unwell, recovering from falls and who are anxious and finding life difficult at this time. The church is here to help if there is anything we can do practically. Please ask.

An important update on the defibrillator at the hall. The original one gave up and, ironically, couldn't be shocked back into life! Thanks to the generosity of two local charities (The Edward Blagdon's charity and Sir John and Lady Amory's Charitable Trust) plus monies from our County Councillor (Richard Chesterton's) Locality Budget funds, we were able to purchase a new one. It lives in a cabinet on one of the hall's road facing walls and is accessible to ALL. The code to access it if needed is C12345. Using it needs no formal training as it talks to you, leading you through the actions needed to help someone whose heart has stopped (and won't let you shock

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PARISH ROUND-UP

anyone in error). The hall plans to organise some 'Save a Life' training soon so look out for details of this.

The Memorial hall's more immediate plans include its Annual General Meeting which is to be held on **MONDAY 14 MARCH, 7.30pm** for an 8pm start. All are welcome to come along to this and to partake in the light refreshments on offer. If you would like to know more about the Hall committee's work and may consider getting involved, you will be most welcome. New trustees/volunteers/interested parties are always welcome.

Don't forget the traditional Easter children's 'Egg decorating and rolling' activities. All children meet in the church porch on Saturday 16th April at 10am with your decorated eggs. After the judging of age ranges, we will move on to the rolling eggstravaganza on the slope opposite the hall and finally on to the PCC's Coffee morning in the hall. This will have coffees, teas, hot cross buns and all the usual stalls including plants, cakes, preserves etc plus a draw. Please come and support this community event and help swell the church's funds, after what has been a barren fund raising year for the PCC.

Don't forget that teatime@thehall is held on the second Tuesday of each month and all age groups are welcome to pop in for tea, cakes, chatter and support. We are really going to miss the presence of Mary Ross at teatime, Lunch Club and many other groups she loved to attend. What an amazing lady, she will leave a big hole in village life.

We welcome our new neighbours at Worth House and hope you will be very happy living in our lovely, friendly village (we're biased!) We hope to meet you soon.

We wish all those with special celebrations and birthdays our sincere wishes and, if you are not well, having treatment or awaiting operations, we wish you many get well wishes for a speedy recovery.

QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2-5 JUNE. Idea sharing and preparations are underway to celebrate this momentous occasion in style in Washfield. We already know that there will be a village tea party in the hall and a 'Songs of Praise' service in the church over the extended bank holiday weekend plus many other events for all the family. Final, comprehensive details will be laid out in the next Today magazine plus posters put up around the village and posts put on the parish website middevonparish.co.uk and FB page (Humans of Washfield and Lower Washfield)

WITHLEIGH

Our churchyard is now adorned with snowdrops and crocuses, and the daffodils will soon be making their appearance. This makes us feel that Spring is just around the corner!

We welcome Pamela to The Old Rectory and we hope to see you at future events in the village.

Our Carol Service in December was very well attended. Stephen's Powerpoint ran throughout the service, certainly different to the services to which we have been accustomed, and very thought provoking. Thank you, Stephen and Janet, and to all who took part.

Rev. Ian Johnson officiated at our Christmas Eve service of Holy Communion, and our grateful thanks go to him. As ever, it was so good to see-in Christmas morning during the course of this act of worship.

It was a great shame that we had to cancel our Late Christmas Meal. Keeping everyone as safe as possible was our first priority. But we look forward to seeing you all at our Community Lunch on Thursday 24 March. 12.30 for 1pm. Tickets from Christine Luxton 257571.

Our Plough Sunday Service was very well attended and, again, our thanks to all who took part in the service.

At the beginning of February, we were pleased to welcome Laura from Hospiscare to our service. She talked about the work of Hospiscare, and related some of the feedback received from families of those who had received care. The PCC had already agreed that Hospiscare would be the charity which we financially support this year, and, boosted by a retiring collection, a cheque for £300 was presented to Laura after the service. Our traditional Mothering Sunday service on 27 March will begin at 10.45am, led by Paul and Elizabeth.

Please note that 10.45am will be our normal service time from the beginning of March unless advertised otherwise.

On Thursday 7 April we are holding an Easter Bingo. Eyes down 7.30pm.

A couple of days later, Saturday 9 April, we have a Beetle Drive for all the family to enjoy, a mini Easter Egg for each completed Beetle, 7.30pm start.

continued overleaf ➔

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PARISH ROUND UP

At the time of writing, we are planning our usual informal Good Friday Service from 10 – 11.30am in the Village Hall. The tradition of beginning with the serving of tea / coffee and hot-cross buns will be maintained!

On Easter Sunday, we are planning an Easter Celebration service at 9.30am. See the centre pages for details of our other services at St Catherine's.

At the time of writing we are still awaiting the architect's Quinquennial Inspection report for St Catherine's. Maybe no news is good news?

It was good to see so many people at an Open Meeting to discuss how we at Withleigh will celebrate our Queen's Platinum Jubilee at the beginning of June. Having discussed loads of ideas we came up with a program in which, hopefully, there is something for everyone to enjoy over the extended weekend.

We plan to start the event with a Bonfire and BBQ on Thursday 2 June.

On Friday 3 June we have been kindly invited to Netherdale for a Coffee Morning.

Saturday evening in the Village Hall will be the Jubilee Celebration Party, with a Pudding competition for everyone to judge!

Sunday 5 June will begin with Songs of Praise in Church, followed by a Jubilee Tea.

For all you green-fingered people, any age, young or slightly older, there is to be a competition to grow 'A Jubilee Display in a bucket', (no larger than a three gallon bucket) to be brought to the Tea on Sunday for judging.

Look out for more details on each of these events in the next magazine.

If anyone would like to come along to our next planning meeting on Monday 28 March, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, you would be more than welcome.

Congratulations to anyone 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.

Forthcoming Events:

Thursday 24 March – Community Lunch, 12.30 for 1pm in the Village Hall.

Sunday 27 March – Mothering Sunday service at 10.30am.

Thursday 7 April – Easter Bingo, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Saturday 9 April – Beetle Drive, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Good Friday 15 April – Informal service, 10-11.30am in the Village Hall.

Flower Rota:

March 6 – April 10 - LENT (Please remove flowers)

April 17 – EASTER

April 24 – Margaret Gale



Time to get walking again!

At this time of year we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Devon

<https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/dev> on has hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (the custodian of the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Devon (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

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