

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2022

Price £1.00

A TIME FOR EVERYTHING

There are some things that go very deep. They are deeply entrenched in my psyche. Having spent so much of my life in education I know that there is no greater feeling than the last day of the summer term, with the promise of freedom ahead. And there is no feeling like it as September approaches and you sense that you are set to move on a path from light and freedom to dark and winter – and the cold!

But at least this year we have definitely had a summer! The sort of summer I remember from my childhood. Long hot days, meals outside, sun peeking through the curtains and brilliant blue skies.

I was reminded of the summer of 1976 – the year I took my A Levels. I don't remember much about the actual exams, but when they had finished we had a wonderful time; Wimbledon (standing on centre court, sweltering hot, but well worth it to scream for Nastase!), picking hundreds of strawberries for the whole school to have for supper, going to the Open Air Theatre in Regent's Park where the actor who was playing Othello left black hand prints on everything he touched, and sunbathing for hours with my friends smothered

in butter pinched from the school dining room! Ah! Those were the days!

This year I have sampled some of those delights (no butter just factor 30!) and some new ones, one of which has been the sublime experience sitting on top of the water in a paddling pool and floating around on a king sized inflatable donut! Perfect!

All of this has made me realise how important it is to have seasons for things. As the wisdom writers of Ecclesiastes put it, 'For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.' (Ecclesiastes 3:1)



As summer draws to a close and September approaches there are a number of things to be thankful for: a successful Holiday Club – the first time in three years; the many couples who have married

and the many children (and an adult) who have been baptised. This has been a time to love and to dance.

Sadly, we have also lost some much-loved people. So, this has also been a time to mourn. However, as we look forward, we can see a time to build up and heal.

Claire our Curate is to be ordained priest in September. Do come to our 10.45 am service at Holy Cross, Cruwys Morchard, on Sunday 25th September as Claire celebrates Holy Communion for the first time.

In October the Exe Valley Jubilee Choir starts again, preparing material for our special Mission Community Advent Carol Service on Advent Sunday, 27 November. If you would like to be part of this, then do please contact Claire on 07873 575276 for further details. New members are very welcome.

Enjoy the new and changing season, and may God bless you and those you love.

Steph

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FROM STEPH

The Jubilee Choir

Sarah Milne has kindly agreed to be Choir Master again, so the choir will be singing on Advent Sunday, 27 November, in St Peter's Oakford at 10.45am.

The first rehearsal will be in St Peter's Oakford on Thursday 6 October at 7.30pm.

Everyone is welcome to join the choir so please come along.

Please contact Claire Curtis on 07873 575276 for further details.



Claire's Afternoon Tea

Come along to Bradleigh House Templeton on Monday 26 September for Afternoon Tea and Cake 3.00pm - 5.30pm

Book via The Church Office 01884 250417. Transport available.



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PARISH ROUND-UP

NATURE NOTES

I must say the bindweed is flourishing in the time of drought, and other greenery like trees and shrubs have done incredibly well to provide oases across our Devon landscape. The cows in their parched pasture seem to look longingly at our relatively green garden but it has not had much more water than their brown, exposed meadows.

I was once asked to clear the beds of a garden of bindweed, so I asked the advice of a very experienced professional gardener. She looked at me with some puzzlement and said I should just cultivate the bindweed out. This was not a welcome answer for the modern World where convenience, minimum cost and instant solutions are demanded. I cannot say I was keen either, but I am proud to say I did a proper job and found it quite rewarding to chase the parsnip coloured roots back along to their origin. Google says the roots can last for four decades but I was not to know that at the time.

Such enthusiasm doesn't now extend to our own garden and the trumpet shaped flowers threading within the garden boundaries gleam white in the evening dusk as we contentedly enjoy the remains of these lovely days.

Thanks to similar inattention and being away, the blackbirds did an amazing job over a few days in stripping gooseberry and currant bushes using holes or gaps in the netting in a way that still remains a mystery. Presumably they now expect me to trim

their hedge so that they can comfortably look forward to next year.

Farmers must see gardeners' battles as very minor but no doubt they too know when nature has again edged things out of their control.

There may be much gloom in Britain but the welcome return of the County and the flower/ produce shows provide a great confidence boost and a reminder of what we can achieve.

I would also urge you to refer to another Oasis for calm and remember there is an importance of being idle {especially for those used to hard work}, or as one gardener put it 'whatever the garden enjoy the weather.'



Thomas More

Our weekly
Coffee Morning
via Zoom

has been suspended for August

We will still be meeting on the second Wednesday each month in person.

14th September at
St Peter's Tiverton
10am-11.30am

Check out Steph's weekly update or the website.

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Any time between 10am and 4.30pm.

Bring all your friends!

There will be a collection for this amazing charity which supports churches all over Devon and has helped St Mary's in the past.

CHILDREN'S PAGE

All At Sea – Exe Valley Holiday Cub

We were so fortunate to have our holiday Club this year at Bradleigh House, Templeton with thanks to Claire and Andrew Curtis for their generosity in allowing us to use their facilities. A very big thank you to them.

I would like to say thank you to all the team old and new who helped in any way to make Holiday club a happy and enjoyable experience and we were joined by Dave Edwards who led us in our singing, the children amazed us all by learning the songs and actions so quickly.

Steph, with her amazing hats and decorated dog collars, told the story of Jonah, with part one on Tuesday leaving us with a cliff hanger ready for the second part on Wednesday.

Holiday Club was very different this year with children with different activities, they took part in forest Activities, this included building shelters and creating a big fish at the stream, from natural resources found in the forest, experimenting by making boats and changing their sails as we thought about Jonah when he made the decision to go on the boat.

Swimming was by far the favourite activity and great fun was had by all the children thank you to Grace and Darcy our lifeguards and to Megan for supervising the children so well, and spending four hours in the pool on Wednesday, without them the children would not have been able to swim.

Thank you to Natasha for organising the team games, the children enjoyed a variety of team challenges from fishing with bean bags, team puzzle making and seeing which team could fill their bucket the quickest using sponges! Great fun had by all.

Once again lego was a big hit, especially with it being so hot, was an opportunity to have quiet time and to reflect on the story of Jonah and on all the fun activities.

Children were able to take part in crafts in the barn, which included making bracelets, collages and paper plate fish with a flap to find Jonah praying inside.

We all learnt so much, not just the children. We got to know each other and make new friends during the week. Lunchtimes were times for getting together to chat over lunch. And in the afternoons children were able to take part in crafts, which included making bracelets, collages and big fish plates.

We were blessed by goos weather and we all had a wonderful time, we look forward to planning next year's Holiday Club and seeing all the children again for more fun.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

CALVERLEIGH

August is the month for exam results and we hope that those of you who have been awaiting results have gained what you need for the next step of your education. At this time as well, we wish all those children who are starting school, or are moving up from Primary to Secondary, or onto further education a good start to the school year and that staff and children alike have had a relaxed, happy and safe Summer break.

Our thanks go to Jackie Herniman for her kind donation of material for new curtains in the belfry. The old ones had been there for a great many years and were looking the worse for wear. The new curtains were expertly made by Bet Bowden. Thank you Bet, they do look very nice and it are much appreciated. Thank you too to Mandy Cotter who assisted Bet with the hanging of the curtains.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Alison Mallett in May and her funeral was held at St. Mary's on 16 June. Alison and her late husband Tony lived in Lurley and were regular worshippers with us and also supporters of village and church events. Alison was part of a music group and a few years ago arranged a concert in church. Members of the group played music at the funeral and also at her home afterwards. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the family.

The much anticipated Fun Day was held on 25 June. It had been on the cards to happen for the past two years but because of the different restrictions over that time it was put on hold until

the confidence was there to proceed. In the morning there was a car boot/tabletop sale. The weather was good to begin with but unfortunately the sky clouded over and the rain arrived so there was a mad dash to help a stall holder move goods indoors. There were competitions to take part in and hopefully win some goodies. A draw was held through the day and continued in the evening where there was also a painting of Calverleigh church to be won, which had been donated by a local artist. A display of photos showing old Calverleigh and some of its' residents were well received. Bacon or sausage baps were on sale along with hot drinks and squash. In the evening there were more fun and games for all ages to join in with along with some Old Time dancing and party favourites such as musical chairs. Thank you Aubrey for your fun games and all the hard work put in to arrange this day. A request was made for more of the same in the not too distant future. The money raised from this event went towards church funds.

On Sunday July 3 an Open air service was held in the churchyard. The weather was good and the service was led by Natasha. During the service the congregation listened to two pieces of music 'Turn, Turn, Turn' by The Byrds and also 'Ten Thousand Reasons', both songs allowing a time of reflection amid birdsong and amongst nature at its best in such wonderful surroundings. This was followed by refreshments.

The annual Potato Competition was held in July with the weigh-in carried out at Calverleigh village hall. Our thanks go to Gillian, Mary, Tim and Louise for organising and hosting the

evening once again. Gillian has said that the first Potato Competition was held in 1982 so congratulations on 40 years of encouraging experts and newbies young and not so young to have a go. A bring and share supper was followed by the weigh-in and this year's prize winning growers are:

Men - Richard Wood 7lbs 4ozs, Kipper Haywood 6lbs 9ozs, Geoffrey Thomas and Charles Pugsley both with a weight of 6lbs 4ozs.

Ladies - Brenda Tucker 11lbs 2ozs, Lorna Thomas 7lbs 7ozs, Pat Clark 6lbs. Children - Freddy 5lbs 3ozs, Wren 3lbs 10ozs, Evie and Seb 3lbs.

Well done everyone and our thanks go to all who supported in any way. A total of £650 was raised with £100 going to Devon Air Ambulance and £550 to church funds.

It was lovely to welcome Rev'd Claire Curtis to the service of Morning Praise on 17 July. Claire gave a talk which included speaking about her Ukrainian guests and their experiences so far of living in rural Devon. Thank you Claire, you gave a good insight into what it is like for them to live in a foreign land.

On Friday 29 July the funeral service of Stephen Troake was held at St. Mary's. Over the years Steve had been a good friend to many and was a talented metalworker who also had a great enthusiasm for renovating cars and trucks. The service was also relayed to the village hall to cater for the many friends who joined family and villagers to give Steve a good send-off. This began by taking Steve on one last drive, on the back of a red truck that had been renovated by him and the owner, into Tiverton followed by a convoy of

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PARISH ROUND-UP

classic cars and motorbikes. A flower stand, made by Steve, had been donated to St. Mary's and was decorated for the day along with flowers placed around the church by friends of the family. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sue, Jamie, Hayley and families at this time.

Our congratulations go to Aubrey and Julie who celebrated 40 years of marriage at the end of July. Best wishes also go to anyone else who has had a birthday, wedding anniversary, birth or wedding. Please let us know if you would like to mention a special occasion.

Our best wishes also go to those known to us who have been very unwell recently, to anyone who has been affected by the ongoing Coronavirus outbreak, those who are waiting for or receiving treatment, those who are recovering from an accident or any other medical condition. Our prayers are with you all.

Events Coming Up

This years' Harvest Supper will be on Saturday 17 September which will again be a Bring and Share supper with, hopefully, a guest speaker. The evening will begin at 7.30pm. More details will be available on posters nearer the time. A service of Harvest Thanksgiving will be the following morning at 10.45am on Sunday 18.

A Songs of Praise Service will be held on Sunday 2 October at 10.45am. A sheet will be available in church so you can choose your favourite hymn and we will do our best to include all choices.

Halloween Bingo will take place on Friday 28 October 2022 at Calverleigh Village Hall. Doors will open at 6:30pm,

Eyes down at 7pm. This will be a fun event in aid of Calverleigh Church, all welcome. Please phone Maureen or Paul to confirm 01884 258770 or 07967 989724.

Mowing Rota

22 Aug - 3 Sep: Mr C Durnan
5 - 17 Sep: Mr A Hancock
19 Sep - 1 Oct: The Webber Family
3 - 15 Oct: Mr D White
17 - 29 Oct: Mr A Goldsworthy

Cleaning Rota

29 Aug - 10 Sep: Mrs A Webber
12 - 24 Sep: Mrs M Furneaux
26 Sep - 8 Oct: Mrs R Tapp
10 - 22 Oct: Mrs J Goldsworthy
24 Oct - 5 Nov: Miss J Herniman

Flower Rota

4 - 11 Sep: Mrs A Webber
18 - 25 Sep: Mrs L Thomas
2 - 9 Oct: Mrs D Hopper
16 - 23 Oct: Ms L Carrey
30 Oct - 6 Nov: Mrs M Radford

Do you have anything to share in the magazine or website (for short notice events or messages)? Please send your photos, news, birthdays, anniversaries, stories or anything else to Dave Burton by calling 01884 561499 or by email: calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org. We also have a Facebook page, so please like and follow us: facebook.com/calverleighchurch.

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

CRUWYS MORCHARD

DEFIBRILLATOR PHONE BOX

I am pleased to inform you that the defibrillator and cabinet has now been installed in the phone box outside The Cruwys Arms. However, it is not yet operational as it needs to be registered and then the ambulance service tells us it is registered with them. It has been too hot for the painting of the phone box to be completed so hopefully that can be done within the next few weeks together with the defibrillator sign being put up.

The electrician inspected Way Village chapel yesterday and once we know everything is OK for the defibrillator to be connected, I will order another one.

Cruwys Morchard and Puddington Gardeners met in Puddington Hall on the 6 July. We discussed the importance of biodiversity in our gardens especially in relation to the alarming decline of insects. It is easy to welcome in the attractive wildlife whilst feeling indifferent or hostile to earwigs, flies, spiders, slugs and snails etc. that is their food source as well as occupying an essential niche in the survival of all life in their own right. At the same time they often frustrate gardeners as we attempt to produce vegetables and flowers. How to achieve a balance was the topic for the evening and that was before we got onto deer, rabbits and pigeons! Coping with drought was on every mind.

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Electrical safety is part of this; and, within this, the safety of portable equipment - items with a 13A plug which can be picked up and moved around.

The standard requirement is for annual testing - usually referred to as PAT (Portable Appliance Tests)

Chris Whitehead, who carries out tests for Stoodleigh Church, is prepared to carry out these tests for any church in the Mission Community which does not already have their own arrangements.

Contact details on page 2.

PARISH ROUND-UP

Later in August we will be doing our annual tour of members' gardens and this will be an opportunity to see what plants and varieties of fruit and vegetables have coped well and what methods to combat it have worked best. Our next meeting will be in Pennymoor (the Cruwys Arms) on Wednesday, 7 September and we will be bringing 'tasters' i.e. samples of the produce we have grown to compare flavours and consider which varieties we might want to grow next year. By then both Parishes will have had their flower and produce shows so good luck to all those people who have bravely put their efforts on display.

Cruwys Morchard and Puddington Gardeners Come and join local gardeners at our monthly meetings where we talk through gardening issues, problems, successes and failures in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. New gardeners and experienced veterans are equally welcome. We aim to share 'know how', skills and often, surplus plants and seeds. We invite the occasional speaker and visit public and private gardens. Activities and topics are jointly agreed. We now alternate the venue between Puddington Village Hall and The Cruwys Arms, Pennymoor and we have changed our name from 'Cruwys Arms Gardeners' because we want to make it plain that anyone can come along regardless of where they live. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month; September in Pennymoor, October in Puddington and so on, from 8.00 pm onwards, usually finishing at 9.00pm There is no fee. For more information contact clarepenney25@gmail.com 01884 860023

Our Beautiful Churchyard.

Churchyards were once managed in a very similar way to the farmed grassland that surrounded them. The last century had seen a dramatic change in farming practices and much of the biodiversity in the farmed landscape has been lost as a result. Often the way churchyards have been managed has remained unchanged for centuries so, with very limited use of herbicides and pesticides, some are now a precious refuge for both our flora and fauna. Cruwys Morchard churchyard is an excellent example of such a churchyard and it has recently been recognised as such by "Caring for God's Acre" (www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk) as one of their "churchyards to inspire". In a recent survey over eighty plant species were identified. In June Stephen Powles took ten or more interested souls to look at "Gods own acre" looking for the natural plants and grasses, it was lovely to watch so many people enjoying our Church Yard. They had not realised that the large area without any head stones was full of graves, the grass has now had its summer cut, so the graves are clear to see. The yard will be cut again in October, ready for the winter and spring flowers to grow.

Cruwys Morchard Young Farmers Club. Cruwys Morchard YFC have been busy with competing at the Mid Devon Show with craft cookery and stock. Congratulations goes to Gracie Rice for winning the National Junior Public Speaking Competition. Ross and Luke Parkhouse winning the pairs shearing competition at NSA event. The club held an under 18 disco in August which was a success. We are planning a presentation night on September 10.

Members are participating in Basic Milking during August to gain their skills for life.

Yoga in the parish hall on Thursday mornings. For more information ring Hilary on; 01363 866245.

Parish Fete in the Parish Hall, was held on Saturday 9 July, it was a lovely sunny day, with lots of fun games, an excellent BBQ, and Ice Creams, both of which were a sell out!

Holiday Club, was a very successful two days 9t/10t August (the hottest two days this year) with over 40 children, run at Rev'd Claire Curtis' house in Templeton. Great fun was had in the pool and running in the woods.

Forthcoming events

Breakfast Sunday 16 September
Breakfast run by the Ladies Committee jointly with the Flower show in the Parish Hall.

Harvest Festival 2022 weekend 24 /25 September. There will be a short service in the Church on Saturday 24 with gifts of non perishable foods to be brought for CHAT followed by sports and free tea for all in the Parish Hall. There is a Group Service in Cruwys Morchard Church at 10.45am on Sunday 25 September. This will be Rev'd Claire's first celebration of Holy Communion followed by drinks and nibbles at the back of the church.

Christmas Fayre in the Parish Hall. Saturday 12 November.

Cleaning and flower rota
September 5 /12 – Marilyn Hill
September 19 - Decorators for Harvest
September 26 /October 3 - Cindy Trick



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PARISH ROUND-UP

October 10 /17 - Sarah Cruwys
 October 26/2 November – Sonia Notley and Claire Miller
 November 7/14 - Sue and Pauline Guscott

Congregational Church in North Street. Services are now at 4.30pm weekly, except on the 3rd Sunday when they join Way Village at 2.30pm.

We would like to welcome all the newcomers to this Parish and look forward to meeting you at our future events.

Congratulation to Emma and Jimmy on their marriage in a marquee at the home of Stephen and Sue Guscott (Emma's parents)

Our love and payers go to Mole Hogan after the recent tragic and fatal accident of her husband Ken. He will be sadly missed.

This will be the last time I compile this report for the Today Magazine as we are moving to Berkshire in the near future. Wringsland House goes on the market next week. During the 26 years of living in Cruwys Morchard we have made many friends. Thank you to everyone who have made us so welcome and frequently helped us in many ways. During our time here Roland has been Treasurer for the Church, as well as raising large sums of money to repair, firstly the Screen, then the rehanging of the Bells and the installation of the heating, mostly from the Lottery and other public funds.

LOXBEARE

Our love, thoughts, prayers and sympathy are with Sue Troake, Jamie, Hayley & Family on the sad loss of Steve on July 6. The funeral service at Calverleigh Church/Hall was a celebration of Steve's Life and was taken by Rev'd Claire Curtis with interment in Calverleigh Churchyard. The many who attended showed the respect and high regard held for Steve.

Steve was born and brought up at Worlington, a dairy and sheep farm. His father bought him an old bike which he did up so beginning a lifetime passion for restoring old vehicles. He belonged to the classic car and bike clubs and took some of his restored vehicles to many shows etc.

He had various jobs and married Sue in 1971, coming to live in Loxbeare. They had 2 children Jamie and Hayley, 3 Grandchildren and 1 Great Granddaughter. He set up his own business with Sue at Leigh Mill – "Troakes Mowers", being very talented in all things mechanical and was very creative in many ways. Nothing was too much trouble for Steve, always willing to help others, mending and solving many problems. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

We also remember and send our sympathy to anyone else who has lost loved ones recently.

On July 3 we held a BBQ followed by an informal service in the village hall. Thank you to all involved.

There will be a PCC meeting in the Church at 7pm on October 3.

Please see centre pages for service dates and times. Our Harvest service will be on the 18 September at 10.45am to be led by Georgie Bell followed by a bring and share lunch in the Hall. Do come and join us as we give thanks to God for another harvest and remember those who work hard to produce the food we need. The Harvest Supper will be on Monday 19 September, 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Contact Carol on 01884 881480 for more details.

We pray for Bob Berry that he will have a quick recovery and healing of 2 broken bones in his hand after a fall. We also pray for all who are not well, waiting for operations or treatment.

Happy Birthday to all with birthdays in September/October and those celebrating special occasions.

We pray for our children and young people. Those that will be starting school, others having left primary school and facing the challenges of high school. For the older young people, hope you received the grades you need and move onto college education, universities or finding employment.

The cream teas will be on September 10 and October 8 in the village hall, 3pm-4.30pm.

We trust that everyone is coping with the hot weather but we do pray for our farmers and growers in these uncertain times, the lack of rain causing lack of feed and water for the animals, many already feeding some of the winter rations and having to transport water. We pray that there will soon be enough rain to cause grass and crops to recover.

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4 SEPTEMBER

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Morning Worship

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Prayer

LOXBEARE

See Rackenford

OAKFORD

See Rackenford

RACKENFORD

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

STOODLEIGH

See Rackenford

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

See Rackenford

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Family Service

11 SEPTEMBER

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

See Loxbeare

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Loxbeare

LOXBEARE

10.45am Holy Communion
Ian Johnson

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

9.30am Explore
*with Baptism
Steph Gordon-Jeffs
with Claire Curtis
and Dave Edwards*

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

TEMPLETON

10.45am Harvest Festival

WASHFIELD

3.00pm Harvest Thanksgiving

WITHLEIGH

3.00pm Harvest Festival

18 SEPTEMBER

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Harvest Thanksgiving

CRUWYS MORCHARD

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

LOXBEARE

10.45am Harvest Festival
with Georgie Bell

OAKFORD

6.00pm Harvest Festival
with Claire Curtis

RACKENFORD

10.45am Morning Prayer

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

TEMPLETON

See Cruwys Morchard

WASHFIELD

6.00pm Evening Prayer

WITHLEIGH

See Cruwys Morchard

24 SEPTEMBER

CRUWYS MORCHARD

2.30pm Harvest Thanksgiving

FOR WITH
GOD
ALL THINGS
ARE
POSSIBLE

25 SEPTEMBER

9.30am Zoom Service

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR
OUR MISSION
COMMUNITY GROUP
SERVICE**

at

**10.45 am in
CRUWYS MORCHARD**

**THIS WILL BE
CLAIRE'S FIRST
CELEBRATION OF
HOLY COMMUNION**

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

Everyone welcome

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.



2 OCTOBER

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Songs of Praise

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Stoodleigh

LOXBEARE

6.30pm Evening Prayer

OAKFORD

See Stoodleigh

RACKENFORD

See Oakford

STOODLEIGH

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

TEMPLETON

See Stoodleigh

WASHFIELD

See Stoodleigh

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Family Service

9 OCTOBER

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

**10.45am Holy Communion with Baptism
Steph Gordon-Jeffs, Claire Curtis with Dave Edwards**

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Prayer

LOXBEARE

See Calverleigh

OAKFORD

See Calverleigh

RACKENFORD

9.30am Explore
Claire Curtis and Dave Edwards

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

See Calverleigh

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Morning Worship

16 OCTOBER

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Family Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Templeton

LOXBEARE

See Templeton

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

6.30pm Harvest Thanksgiving

STOODLEIGH

See Templeton

TEMPLETON

**10.45am Holy Communion
Claire Curtis and Dave Edwards**

WASHFIELD

10.45am Morning Prayer

WITHLEIGH

See Templeton

23 OCTOBER

9.30am Zoom Service

OUR MISSION COMMUNITY HOLY COMMUNION GROUP SERVICE

is at
10.45 am in LOXBEARE

Claire Curtis with Dave Edwards

Everyone Welcome

30 OCTOBER

WITHLEIGH

9.30am
Poems, Prayers and Praise
in village hall

As I have loved you, love one another.

JOHN 13:34

30 OCTOBER

OUR MISSION COMMUNITY 5TH SUNDAY GUEST SPEAKER SERVICE
is at
10.45 am in CRUWYS MORCHARD

**Steph Gordon-Jeffs and Guest Speakers
Claire Curtis and Dave Edwards**

Everyone welcome

PARISH ROUND-UP

OAKFORD

We have celebrated the Queens Jubilee, enjoyed Wimbledon and strawberries and cream. Now we are in that quiet time when summer slides into autumn.

Gardens are looking full of colour, if a bit dry (hope there is not going to be a hosepipe ban).

The scorching weather in July assured that plenty of good hay was made to add to the silage stored for winter feed and as I write this in early August the combine has already started working, harvesting a field of barley as you come into Oakford.

Some folk will be braving travel chaos and traveling overseas for their holidays while others opt to have a staycation.

The village is full of the sound of children enjoying their school holidays in the fine weather. It is lovely to hear their laughter bursting through the quiet. Village life goes gently on.

July saw the wedding of Laura Llewelyn and Filippo Buti at St Peter's Church. The church looked and smelled like a beautiful summer garden, decorated with many large vases of mixed flowers. We send our blessings for their future together.

Two teams of bell ringers visited St Peter's in July to ring quarter peals on Oakford's challenging old bells. Their comments were 'beautiful sounding bells but difficult to ring'.

Fund raising for the refurbishment of the tower and bells continues, any

donations will be very gratefully received.

Birthday wishes go belatedly to Brenda Burrows who made the big 80 on 12 August and to Ivy Collins and Bun Burrows who will celebrate in October. We send greetings to all in the parish who have upcoming birthdays.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery go to Tracey Holmes after her hip operation.

Our thoughts and prayers go to Brenda and her family on their recent very sad loss.

Also to anyone in the parish who is poorly or recovering from illness.

THE MOORLAND CLUB

We enjoyed our annual BBQ, hosted by Jennie and Paul in July.

The Moorland Club has recently been awarded a certificate of recognition from the Marie Curie Charity for the £1000 the club raised at last year's Christmas Fayre. Many thanks to all who supported the event. It is amazing that such a small group manages to raise approximately this amount every year for various charities.

Oakford Flower and Produce Show.

Flowers, fragrance and flavour filled Oakford Village Hall on 13 August when the annual Oakford and District Flower Show was staged by members of The Moorland Club.

Despite the unusually high temperatures and drought the quality and variety of entries was amazing. Friendly competition was fierce and the local community came together to enjoy the colourful spectacle and to tuck into a delicious tea baked and served by club members. Thank you to

the team of organisers, ably led by Chris Holdom, and to the exhibitors and visitors for a wonderful show.

Prize Winners. Justin Cooper (Cut Flowers), Laura Parkman (Produce and Floral Art), Debra Morgan (Cookery), Sean Mayer (Mens Cookery), Wendy Vigus (Preserves), Anne Boldry (Handicraft), Julie Cridland (Photography), Jean Marcus and Sue Vigus jointly (Pot Plants). Sue was also the Moorland Club member with most points scored in the show.



Future meetings

22 September – 7.00pm - at the village hall, an open evening (non members entry £2)

Popular antiques and valuations with Charles Lanning of Bonhams Antiques. Bring along your antique items and time permitting Charles will be able to give valuations at £5 per item

13 October - 7.30pm Set up for the Autumn Fayre

15 October - The Autumn Fayre in the village hall. 10.30am - 1.30pm

Proceeds will go to local childrens charities.

QUIZ DATES at The Red Lion at 8.00pm
25 September and 23 October
Come along for a fun night out.

PARISH COUNCIL

We now have a very smart and functional new notice board in the

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Baby & Toddler GROUP

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

Call 01884 855357 to book your place.



We look forward to meeting you soon!



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PARISH ROUND-UP

centre of the village. Also a new gate at the entrance of the Community area.

OAKFORD VILLAGE HALL

AGM 21 September 7.00pm with drinks and nibbles. Do come along with your ideas for future events.

Looking to the future the hall has provided a venue for many Oakford events and activities since it moved to its current site in 1984, but is now in need of a revamp, both internally and externally to make sure it continues to serve residents into the future. The hall committee are putting together a bid to Awards For All. To do this we need your help! Please complete and return the enclosed questionnaire. There are collection boxes in the telephone box and village hall. Thank you in advance. David Bannister Chairman.

THE PYNCOMBE OAKFORD EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

If you left school this summer and are undertaking further studies or training this September, Oakford's own educational charity can help you with a grant of £150 towards your costs. You must have lived in Oakford Parish for at least one year to qualify. We also need details of your course. Please contact Sue Llewellyn on 351338 or sue.llewellyn@hotmail.com Dawn Williams on 324035 or dawnannwilliams1@gmail.com

RACKENFORD

Our Cream teas and fete held in the church on July 16 for the first time was very successful and worked well. The weather was perfect for people to either enjoy teas inside in the shade or enjoy

the warmth outside with family and friends.

Thank you to everyone who donated bric-a-brac, cakes, books and draw prizes for the stalls.

Thanks also to all who made delicious scones and cakes to enjoy with their cuppa.

We were grateful to all the helpers who set up and manned stalls and of course to all of you who came to support us from the village and other areas as well as holiday makers.

With your purchases and donations, over £700 was raised for our church funds.

The Explore service in July saw the children re-enacting the story of the Good Samaritan.

They dressed up and played their parts with great enthusiasm. The man injured by robbers, the priest and the Levite walking past on the other side, and the Samaritan who takes him to an Inn to be looked after. The adults were thoroughly entertained and the church learned about looking after others. We also drew around our hands and wrote prayers.

Thank you to Claire and Lynsey who organised the service, to Mary for narrating the story and to the families and children.

All welcome, please come and enjoy the Explore service on 2nd Sundays of the month.

SPONSORED WALK

Talking of raising funds. Look out your walking boots and join us for our annual Rackenford Sponsored Walk in aid of church funds. Last year we climbed 7 Tors of Dartmoor.

This year we are heading to Exmoor on Saturday October 1 for a walk of 8 miles.

Dogs welcome but leads will be required for fields with livestock. We will leave the village at 9.30am prompt, meeting by The Stag. Bring a packed lunch and appropriate walking footwear. Sponsor forms will be available nearer the time. More details from Liz Paxton on 07831869565 if you need them. Once again many thanks to Liz for organizing this.

HARVEST

We are hoping to hold a Harvest Supper gathering in Rackenford Club on Wednesday October 19 now that Covid restrictions have been lifted. Many thanks to Rackenford Club for helping us with this and more detail to follow.

CHRISTMAS

Christmas may seem a long way off and something we may not want to think about just yet as we continue to enjoy the lovely summer months. However we hope we have a get together in the Church with Mince Pies, Cuppa, stalls etc.

Again more details to come.

It's comforting to have a Defibrillator in our village which has been in situ for quite some time should it be needed. A refresher morning was held recently for anyone wishing to attend to learn how to use it or just to remind ourselves of the procedure.

Our very best wishes and congratulations to Hugh and Katie on their wedding at Poughill in July. We hope you had a very happy day and send our blessings to you both.

Our prayers to all who are not well, awaiting treatment, operations or feeling lonely or depressed and of course those who are bereaved.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

We continue to remember Jacques and also although outside of our Parish, Mary (related to Joy and Russell) and Mary and Derek.

We may not have heard about people who are not well so please forgive us if you have not been mentioned, and let us know if you know of someone who would like to be included.

Our thanks always to our team of volunteers who continue to run our shop and provide us with papers daily.

If anyone is moving out of Rackenford or in we hope your move goes according to plan and you will be happy in your new homes.

To all those who have received or are anxiously awaiting exam results, we hope you have passed what you were hoping for. Whatever the result of your hard work we wish you all the very best as you move forward to new schools, colleges, universities or starting school and maybe for the first time. Hope you have all enjoyed your lovely long summer holidays.

Faith and Mike held the blessing of their marriage at our church on August 6. We hope you had a very happy day and our prayers for you both as you continue your married life. Glorious weather for your special day.

STOODLEIGH

JENNIFER ROWLANDSON

We were very sad to hear that Jennifer Rowlandson lost her fight with cancer and died on the 28 August. She was so stoic throughout her illness. Jennifer was full of life, full of energy and always showed a genuine interest

in others. She was a stalwart within the village, organising and doing things to enrich our community. She was the church organist, sometime church secretary and tower captain where she looked after the church bells and the team of bell ringers, training new recruits with patience and kindness. Jennifer was responsible for the renovation of the bells a few years ago. This was a very significant project in terms of time, effort and fund raising. Jennifer was always ready to help in other churches in the Exe Valley, either playing the organ or ringing the bells. She enjoyed walking and her walking adventures were truly inspirational. She walked the South West Coastal Path and explored Exmoor, leading guided walks and completing some marathon day hikes. She was always very patient with those of us who were lagging behind on the local walks! Jennifer was a 'one off' and will be greatly missed by her family and friends in Stoodleigh. See page 19.

CHURCH NEWS

We are now looking forward to a very busy few months starting with the Dog Show which we run with the Parish Hall. Then we have the great joy of both a wedding on Sat 13 August and a baptism on the 14.

In September we will be running another charity stall in South Molton and then an afternoon tea on 17 September at Stoodleigh Barton by kind permission of Willie and Jeannie Knowles. Please come along and enjoy this new venture.

Our Harvest Festival is on 2 October when we will be joined by many others from neighbouring parishes.

Finally, don't forget we have an activities area at the back of the church for children of all ages.

Flower Rota:

27 Aug and 3Sept	Christine Palfrey
10 and 17 Sept	Yvonne Lang
24 Sept	Penny Norman
1 Oct	Harvest Festival preparation

PARISH HALL

Saturday 3 September Coffee at the Hall 10.30am to 12 noon. Pop in for a chat with neighbours and friends.

Coffee/tea/hot chocolate/biscuits – just £1

Saturday 29 October Autumn Market and Coffee Morning 10am to 12 noon.

Date for your diary.

Community News

Keep up to date via the following:

Stoodleigh Parish Website	https://www.middevonparish.co.uk/stoodleigh/
Stoodleigh Community email	stoodleighweb@gmail.com
Stoodleigh 100 club	

Winners:

May: Iris Wotton, Chris Whitehead, Alastair Morison, Janet Russell
 June: Phil Talbot, Jane Foster, Felicity Green, Lesley Thwaites
 July: Di Honors, Lesley Ayre, Phil Turner, Pat Pennington
 Not too late to join...contact Christine Palfrey at Knight Wood.

Resident news

Welcome back to Stoodleigh to Chris (Stoodleigh Landscapes) and Lizzie (Lantic Gallery) Hill who have moved into Meadowland to build their new home.

continued overleaf ➔





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PARISH ROUND-UP

AND FINALLY...International cricket victory!

On Thursday 21 July, Stoodleigh Cricket Club hosted Dutch side VRA ZAMI in the 7 and final game of their Devon Tour. It was a fantastic afternoon and the ground had been prepared superbly to set up an enthralling game of cricket played in the highest of spirits with both teams determined to take the win! The match was well supported by the village which added a great sense of community and warmth. Just what the club wants to promote.

VRA won the toss and elected to bat in a 40:40 over game. The scoreboard slowly ticked along with some tight bowling and fielding by the hosts. It wasn't until the drinks in the 28th over that Stoodleigh finally got a wicket. Some strong batting then got the scoreboard moving along nicely which in turn brought about some more wickets. VRA ended their innings on 201 for 5. After a scrumptious cricket tea, Stoodleigh began the task of chasing the score.

Things started well with a strong opening partnership and quick scoring to all areas of the field. VRA were soaking up the atmosphere and relishing the spectacular views the ground has to offer and started taking wickets. The top order fell in quite quick succession despite the positive start and at 60 for 4 from 11 overs, the game was nicely poised for a close finish. Stoodleigh's captain steadied the ship with Man of the Match Dan Elliott. The required run rate was being achieved but VRA kept digging in and broke the partnership with some smart catches. This created a tense finish, but Stoodleigh remained calm and saw the game over in the 39th over.

It was a real joy and privilege to host such a sociable team who were highly complimentary of the afternoon and the surroundings. After presentations, a well earned pint was enjoyed at the Stoodleigh Inn.

To join the cricket club, go to www.stoodleigh.play-cricket.com

TEMPLETON



After the long, hot and busy summer days here in Templeton, September is a time of seasonal change and often, new beginnings; perhaps, the start of a new school year or a new routine to get used to. Good luck if you are starting something new or different, and remember that autumn is proof that change can be beautiful.

Church and Churchyard - update

The Archdeacon has surveyed the site, the paperwork is being completed and we hope that the St Margaret's Churchyard extension will soon be consecrated.

The copper beech, planted on 12 June to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee as part of the Queen's Green Canopy Initiative, is looking stunning. Thank you to everyone who tended it during the dry weather. A handsome wooden bench has been ordered and will be placed near the tree for those who would like a moment of quiet contemplation in the churchyard. Templeton PCC would like to thank

Templeton Parish Council for their generous financial contributions towards the costs of the tree, the commemorative slate plaque and the wooden bench.

A big thank you to Chris Newnes who has built a beautiful corner cabinet in the Vestry. Thank you, Chris, for your wonderful craftsmanship and thanks too to Lynda and Ginah for sprucing up the Vestry.

Sunday Services

Sunday services at St Margaret's Church are usually held twice a month and the dates of the lay-led, Group, Holy Communion and Cluster Sunday Services can be found in the centre pages of this magazine. Please do come and join the services at St Margaret's Church, and stay on for coffee and biscuits afterwards. If you or your family like to sing, please feel free to suggest some of your favourite hymns to be played and we will do our best. Please let Reg or William know on 01884 860246 or 251513.

Harvest Supper and Harvest Festival – September 10th and 11th 2022

The Harvest Festival is a great tradition, particularly in farming communities such as ours. It is celebrated on, or close to, the Sunday of the Harvest Moon; the time of the year when the crops have been successfully gathered from the fields. It dates back to ancient Britain when the entire community relied on local crops for food, and would give thanks to God and the farmers for a bountiful harvest.

A Harvest Moon is the name given to the full moon closest to the autumn equinox, which this year will fall on 10 September 2022 in the UK. The name Harvest Moon dates back to a time long




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PARISH ROUND-UP

before electricity, when farmers depended on the Moon's light to harvest their crops late into the night. These days of course, they can still be out there tractoring at all hours – that much has never changed.

Please do come and join our community Sunday Harvest Festival service at St Margaret's Church on September 11 at 10.45am the day after the Harvest Moon. Please bring any tinned, packaged or freshly harvested produce during the week before.

If you leave any donated food in the church porch, it will all be put on display throughout the church at the Harvest Festival Service. We will then donate all the food to the Churches Housing Action Trust (CHAT) in Tiverton as usual. They are always very grateful for the contributions, particularly during these hard times.

Harvest Supper will be held on the evening before the Harvest Festival at Templeton Village Hall on Saturday 10 September at 7pm for 7.30pm – please come along and enjoy a selection of hot and cold dishes, vegetarian options, desserts and cheeses. The bar will be open from 7pm. Tickets will be £8 for adults and £4 for children under 14 years, available from Lynda 01884 881318, Ginah 01884 253552, William 01884 251513, Reg 01884 860246 or Bindy 01884 860655. The money raised will help support much-needed funds to maintain the church building and the churchyard.

Thoughts, prayers and deepest sympathies.

Our thoughts, prayers and deepest sympathies are with Margaret Reed of Starraton Farm and all the family for the sad loss of Lenard Reed who passed

away on 12 June, aged 84. Lenard's funeral was held at St Margaret's Church on July 7. The church was filled with family, friends, and neighbours. Lenard was brought up at Coombe Farm, Templeton Bridge, before moving to Starraton Farm. Lenard was fondly remembered as a kind, honest man with strong principles, who loved farming, peace and quiet, and his family and grandchildren. He will be sadly missed by all.

Our thoughts, prayers and deepest sympathies are with the Wren family for the sad loss of Derek Wren who lived at Higher North Coombe, with his daughter Selena and grandson Alex. Derek passed away on June 28 aged 89. Derek's funeral was held at St Margaret's Church on August 1. The moving family tributes reflected the strong bonds between Derek and all his family. Derek, Sibell, Grant, Adrian, Corin and Selena moved to Templeton Bridge from Essex about 40 years ago, as they loved this valley so much. In his earlier career, Derek was a heating engineer, who worked with Formula 1 which particularly suited his love of cars. He then changed his career to become a baker. Derek was fondly remembered as a warm and gentle man who will be very much missed.

Happy Birthday Ted!

On Saturday June 25, Ted Layton celebrated his 90th birthday. Ted and his dear wife, Gracie lived at Linneridge Moor Farm, Templeton Bridge, for many years before moving to Abbotsham. Over the last few years Ted has lived in Tiverton, but never lost his strong bond with Templeton, nor they with him. It was wonderful that Ted was able to share his special day at Templeton Village Hall with many good friends and neighbours. Ted has asked

the Today Magazine to circulate a message from him: -

"A special big thank you to everyone for putting on a wonderful afternoon tea for me at Templeton Village Hall to celebrate my 90th birthday, to all of you who did the organising, the beautiful food, the music, Matthew's special cake, and also for all my birthday cards and presents - a day to remember! Thank you, Ted"

By the time you receive this Today Issue, Templeton will have held its Annual Summer Fete and Grand Auction. There is now an increasing number of events being held at the village hall. Don't forget that the fixed barbecue is there for you to make use of any time (providing there is no booking on that day), before the evenings close in, and the days get cooler. If anyone is interested in setting up a regular group activity at the hall, such as yoga, fitness, table tennis, or skittles for example, there is an opportunity to receive a grant of up to £200 to get the activity going. For more information about this, please email templetonvh@gmail.com

The Bonfire and Fireworks on Saturday November 5th at the Village Hall is a must for all the family! There is always an excellent firework display and a bonfire. Hot food and drinks will be on sale and the bar will be open. Gates will open from 6.30pm. More information to follow.

Defibrillator for Templeton

A couple of months ago it was suggested that Templeton could consider having an automated external defibrillator (AED) in the village. Having received advice from experts in defibrillation as well as additional advice from others who had purchased



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PARISH ROUND-UP

a defibrillator, it was agreed that Templeton Village Hall would purchase the iPad SP1 fully automatic AED with a heated External Defibsafe2 Cabinet, along with a free basic life support training kit. Many thanks to the Parish Council for offering to share the cost of the defibrillator with Templeton Village Hall.

The priority, however, is for everyone in the village to have the opportunity to receive training in basic life support, as well as in the use of the AED. Matthew has agreed to arrange with his colleague, Lee. Training courses and dates will be organised. The courses will last about two and a half hours, with a maximum of 20 people for each course.

The cost of the training is £10 per person. Templeton Village Hall will pay for the training, to encourage as many people as possible to attend the courses. If you are interested in receiving the training and haven't already put your name down, please email templetonvh@gmail.com or phone 01884 860655, so that dates can be arranged for courses, which will probably be held in the evening.

Best wishes

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

Flowers and Cleaning Rota – September / October

Julie Dent	28 Aug – 4 Sept
Teresa Pancherz	11 Sept– 18 Sept
Phillida Strong	25 Sept – 2 Oct
Gloria Woollacott	9 Oct – 16 Oct
Sue Coffin	23 Oct – 30 Oct

WASHFIELD

In the current heatwave: Don't you think it's ironic that, in autumn and winter, we try to keep our homes as warm as they were in summer, when we complained about the heat!

Welcome to more news from the Church and the Village!

July 10 saw the Baptism, followed by Holy Communion, at St. Mary's, of Connie Elizabeth Jackson, who was surrounded at this very happy event by

her family and friends from far and wide. The church was full and the singing was rousing! Connie, in a beautiful party dress took it all in her stride! Steph included all the many children present in the proceedings and Connie was welcomed into the church as the fourth generation of her family and we hope that she will always feel part of us.

On July 31 the focus was on help and understanding given to the families of those in prison by the charity 'Prison Advice and Care Trust'. Camilla Albery, Washfield resident and PCC member, gave an inspiring talk on her work for the Trust, helping families with the problems, emotional and practical, with which they are faced when someone in their family is in prison. Camilla, who is dedicated to her job, gave a vivid picture of her work and gave us all a new insight into how families can be cared for with understanding and a listening ear, making an impact on how they survive difficult and traumatic times. It is good to know that the Churches as a whole are behind this Charity.

May we remind you of the Devon Historic Churches Day on September 10? You can do a 'ride or stride' sponsored visit to as many churches as possible if you are fit and well! - or you can come and have coffee, tea and cake any time between 10am and 4.30 pm, see the Harvest decorations and listen to music and chat! (See the box elsewhere in the Magazine) We need to support this amazing charity, which looks after all the churches in Devon, as they have generously contributed to our appeals in the past.

Harvest Thanksgiving is on September 11 at 3pm followed by a 'Bring and Share' Tea in the Hall. This is such an important Festival especially in the country, when we can thank God for his goodness and the farmers for all their hard work. It would be appreciated if those doing the decorating could do it as early as possible on Saturday morning - or on Friday- in preparation for the Open Day, please. If you have no produce; CHAT is desperate for food etc. and it will be delivered to them.

Have a good Autumn!

On Saturday 18 June a good number of cars left the hall for the Social Club's Annual Car Treasure Hunt. The hunt took the participants far and wide to parts of Mid Devon they hadn't visited

for quite a time! The quiz was very much enjoyed by all and, once again, the victors were the 4 ladies whose ages total as many days as there are in a year (we all know who they are and they are much respected and admired in the village). Well done to them for their determination and voracity in taking part annually (and winning!) The cream tea was much enjoyed too. Thanks to Tony and Ann and all those who helped to put this event on.

The Social Club's next planned event is a Photographic Competition. Everyone is invited to submit up to 3 photographs (6x8) illustrating life in Washfield taken since January 1st 2020. Entries should be submitted by October 3rd 2022 (entry forms are in the box outside the hall) and later there will be a display of all photographs in the Village Hall.

They hope to produce a calendar of the winning photographs. There will be a special award for children's entries. Awards will be announced at the Annual Pumpkin evening at the end of October.

Don't forget that teatime@thehall is held, as always, on the second Tuesday of each month between 3-5pm. All age groups are welcome to pop in for tea, cakes, chatter and support.

We send happy congratulations to Jack and Sarah who were married at the beginning of July. Much happiness for your future life in Washfield.

Also, welcome wishes are sent to Jane Eyre who has come to live in the village, we hope you will be happy here.

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

Church Flower Rota

Sept 4 and 11	Mrs S Balment
Sept 18 and 25	Angela Bolt
Oct 2 and 9	Mrs Ellis
Oct 16 and 23	Mrs Moore
Oct 30 and Nov 6	Mrs May

WITHLEIGH

The English weather, whatever it may be, is always a talking point, usually because of its unpredictability! It seems, though, we are going to have

PARISH ROUND-UP

to get used to over-seasonal summer weather. With the record temperatures recently, it has not been only the plants that have been wilting! Oh for some 'proper' rain to quench the thirst of our fields and gardens! After those extreme temperatures, many are now looking forward to the cooler days of autumn, with its "mists and mellow fruitfulness".

St Catherine's worship team met at the end of June to plan our services through to the end of the year. A further meeting was due to take place on the 17 August.

The Village Hall was full with family and friends to celebrate Daphne's 75th birthday. Donations instead of presents raised an amazing £373.00 for Devon Freewheelers. A volunteer from Freewheelers managed to drop in to tell us briefly about their work.

Our Summer Fête, held at the Village Hall on 16 July, was a great success. Some people were content to sit under sun shades in the car park enjoying the sunshine, whilst others appreciated the coolness of the village hall, thanks to the air-conditioning. Those in the kitchen were kept busy, selling bacon baps, salad baps, and salads. The stalls and sideshows were also well supported, and our thanks to everyone who helped in so many ways to make this event such a success, raising a truly amazing £1,601. Well done, everybody!

The Group Service on 24 July was held in St Catherine's, and this was well attended.

Our thanks to Susie for taking our fifth Sunday informal service on 31 July, in the Village Hall, on the theme of kindness. The service was followed by coffee, biscuits and fellowship. This informal service will, in future, be known as "Poems, prayer and praise".

The first Village Hall AGM we had managed to put in our diaries for three years took place on the 4 August. However things have still been happening in and around the hall - a new kitchen has been fitted, and David has done a brilliant job keeping everything trimmed and tidy around the outside. We also now have four new Trustees as Sara found herself being the only remaining trustee! Joining Sara are Kevin, Rodney, Richard and Nigel. Thank you all for taking on the role. A special thank you to David who has

stood down as trustee, but puts in many hours keeping both our Churchyard, Village Hall and surrounding area looking so good. At the AGM we welcomed Margaret onto the committee and thank you to Rachael for taking on the role of Secretary. Duncan remains as Chairman and Booking Secretary, and Brenda as Treasurer. We would like to thank all of the committee members for their hard work and to everyone who has helped in any way in the running and upkeep of our hall. Thank you one and all.

Our Harvest Festival service will be on Sunday 11 September at 3pm in church, followed by tea in the Village Hall. As there will be a wedding in church on the day before, harvest produce can be brought into church on the Sunday instead of the usual Saturday. The Harvest Supper will be the following evening (Monday 12), 7.00 for 7.30pm, in the Village Hall, £10 per person. Please book your place by phoning either Christine 01884 257571 or Brenda 01884 252431. Proceeds from the auction of produce will, this year, go to Hospiscare, whose representative at the supper will give a short talk on their work.

Our next Community Lunch is on Tuesday 11 October, 12.30 for 1pm. The cost of the two course lunch with tea or coffee will be £6 per person, with a charity draw for The Bristol Children's Hospital. To book your Lunch please, also, call either Christine 01884 257571 or Brenda 01884 252431.

On Saturday 12 November several of our local community are opening their homes and welcoming guests for a Safari Supper. Various people have offered Starters or Main courses. We will conclude the evening in the Village Hall for Desserts and Coffee. Also in the hall we will have a running slide show of the photos taken by Stephen Powles of our Platinum Jubilee celebrations. More details will follow in the next magazine.

The Women of Withleigh (the WOWs) met a lot of new people to the area at the jubilee and village fete weekends. We do hope that as we move into autumn that as many ladies as possible will come and join us at our monthly meetings, second Thursday of every month. For social activities, Christmas meal and interesting talks, please contact Susie on 01884 258492.

Congratulations to Richard and Becky on the birth of their daughter Sophie Alice, a sister for Annabel, a granddaughter for Brenda and Nigel, and a great-granddaughter for Sylvia. Congratulations to Amy on the birth of her daughter, Rivah Frances, another grandchild to Kevin and Trudi. Love and best wishes to you all.

Congratulations and best wishes for the future to Daniel and Meghan, recently married in Tiverton.

We think of all those known to us who are starting school, those moving to a new school or furthering their careers at College and University. We send our good wishes to them for these big steps in their lives.

We send our sympathy to Kevin, Sharon and Andrew and families on the death of their mother, Frances. Although living in Tiverton, Frances and Gerald supported Withleigh events together, and Frances continued after Gerald's death. She was President of Withleigh Women's Institute for many years and loved by all the members. The W.I. disbanded this year. Frances always helped at the Village Hall Bingos, and people will miss her welcoming them. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the family.

As ever, 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:

Saturday 10 September – Wedding of Will and Jessica.

Sunday 11 September – Harvest Festival in church at 3pm, followed by tea in the Village Hall.

Monday 12 September – Harvest Supper in the Village Hall.

Tuesday 11 October – Community Lunch in the Village Hall, 12.30 for 1pm.

Saturday 12 November – Safari Supper, details to follow.

Flower Rota:

September 4	Daphne Chown
September 10/11	Wedding/Harvest
September 18	Janet Sellick
September 25, October 2, 9	- Shirley Cruwys
October 16, 23, 30	Rachael Pugsley
November 6	Christine Luxton

A TRIBUTE

JENNIFER ROWLANDSON

A Tribute from Mark Heritage - Branch Chair North East Devon Bell Ringers

I am sorry to inform you that Jennifer Rowlandson who was the Tower Captain at Stoodleigh for many years has sadly lost her battle against cancer. We were informed today that she passed away a few days ago.

For those who knew Jennifer, she was a very much hands on individual with a 'will do' attitude and I recall one particular act of kindness (amongst the many others) when on a wet and blustery evening she had prepared the tower for us in advance of a QP attempt. The heater had been on all day dying out the sodden ropes and sallies, the kettle and brew kit was set up just in case we felt the need and she stayed in the vicinity just in case we needed anything further from her. That was Jennifer to a tee: a kind, considerate and thoughtful lady. Jennifer was an individual with great character and we will all miss her.

I hope Stoodleigh Church doesn't forget to clean their gutters out....more often than not, we would find Jennifer aloft a ladder doing just that!

Jennifer was instrumental in getting the bells back ringing in Stoodleigh too, not that will surprise anyone.

Her initial campaign in raising the needed funds and alerting everyone to the plight read as follows: 'Many Devon ringers will recall the difficulty in ringing the bells of Stoodleigh Church. The bells were officially deemed un-ringable in July 2008 after they were inspected by Andrew Nicholson of Nicholson Engineering Bellhangers who pronounced that the frame and headstock were in a precarious condition and the bells dangerous to ring. They were last rung that month much to his horror! The 6 bells, tenor 9cwt are by Warner dated 1867; according to John Scott's book it is assumed that the frame was installed the same year too. The last recorded quarter peal on the bells was in 2004, and the one and only peal was a year later in 2005. Both were rung for the Guild by local ringers. An appeal fund has now been opened and the process started of trying to raise £55,000 for a new frame and fittings to get the bells back into full use. The sum required is enormous for a small village to raise and various charitable trusts and grant giving bodies are being approached. Donations will be very gratefully received and should be sent to Jennifer Rowlandson who is acting as project coordinator.

Needless to say, Jennifer did get the bell back in ringing order which again is a testament to her grit and determination to achieve.

May she rest in eternal peace and on behalf of the entire Branch, we send all her friends and family our sincere condolences.





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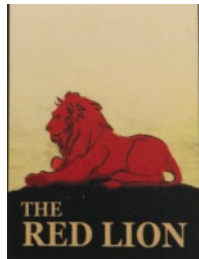
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