



TODAY

The Parish
Magazine
for the
Exe Valley
Mission
Community

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2022

Price £1.00

JESUS, A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

There are times when I am very pleased that I am a grown up. I don't have to eat things I don't like. I can cut the crusts off my toast. I don't have to do cross country. I don't have to do gymnastics in aertex shirt and navy-blue knickers. (It wasn't the gymnastics I objected to; it was the outfit!) AND I don't have to play any game which involves being blindfolded, spun around and then left flailing, arms outstretched, trying to find something, anything! It's a relief to be a grown up!

There was something that made me feel deeply anxious about such childhood games. I really couldn't understand why anyone would think they were fun! I really disliked the feeling of being lost, not knowing where I was, thrust into a dark world and being unable to see.

As we come to the month of November we too are being thrust into a darker world. It's not just the change of the hour. There is so much uncertainty and upheaval in our nation and in the world. I feel like my 6-year-old self, arms outstretched trying to get my bearings. And I know that many others feel anxious and uncertain about what lies ahead.

So, what can be done?

Firstly, I am so grateful to be in our Mission Community – a family of nine churches, based in the heart of every village community. Our Mission Community gives me a sense of rootedness and belonging – and I hope it does for you too!

It is our job and our calling to love our communities and one another. We are thinking of ways that we can offer warm spaces and hot food and company for those who need it. Do please think of those who might like to come to our monthly soup lunches and invite them along. We can provide transport. Or just come. Everyone is very welcome. Please see page 3 for details of our monthly lunches and a special Christmas meal.



One of the things that might lift your spirits is to sing. Our Exe Valley choir has already started to practice for a special Advent Carol Service on Sunday 27

November at Oakford. Come and listen to the choir, sing some Advent carols, and join in with this special event. And then come again at Christmas to our many Christmas Services throughout the Mission Community.

The best bit about playing those childhood games was when they were over! You could take off the blindfold, pretend it had all been OK, and then watch with relief as some other poor soul was blindfolded and spun around. I can remember so clearly when the blindfold came off my anxiety dropped because the ordeal was over and I could see! It was such a relief not to be floundering around.

And of course, that is what the message of Advent and Christmas is really about. The Bible says we are like people floundering around in the dark, trying to get our bearings, trying to see what's happening and work out what life is all about. And then along comes Jesus, a light in the darkness, bringing hope, bringing joy, bringing peace, bringing love.

*May the light of Jesus
Christ shine on us all.
Steph*

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Monday 5 December 2022

THE EXE VALLEY MISSION COMMUNITY
Calverleigh, Cruwys
Morchard, Loxbeare,
Oakford, Rackenford,
Stoodleigh, Templeton,
Washfield and Witleigh
www.exevalleychurches.org

RECTOR

Rev'd Stephanie Gordon-Jeffs
The Rectory, Witleigh,
Tiverton, EX16 8JQ
Tel: 01884 250417
Email : Steph@
exevalleymissioncommunity.org
NOT TUESDAYS PLEASE

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Stephen Hirst
C/O The Rectory
Tel: 01884 250417
Email: office@
exevalleymissioncommunity.org

CURATE

Rev'd Claire Curtis
07873 575276
Email: Claire@
exevalleymissioncommunity.org

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Dawn Williams
Post Farm
Dulverton
TA22 9RU
01398 324035
today@exevalleychurches.org

ADVERTISEMENTS

Dawn Williams
As above - using email address
today@exevalleychurches.org

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CHURCHWARDEN CONTACT DETAILS

CALVERLEIGH
Aubrey Goldsworthy 01884 255248
thegoldsworthys@yahoo.co.uk
Jackie Herniman 01884 255814
jmherniman@gmail.com

CRUWYS MORCHARD
Diana Vincent 01363 860227
vindrv@hotmail.com
Sarah Cruwys 01884 860287
wagscruwys@live.com

LOXBEARE
Jean Heard 01884 881400
jeanm.heard@googlemail.com

OAKFORD
Wendy Boynton 01398 351383
mboynton@btinternet.com
Dawn Williams 01398 324035
dawnannwilliams1@gmail.com

RACKENFORD
Mary Cann 01884 881696
mary_cann@outlook.com

STOODLEIGH
Penny Norman 01398 351602
p.norman58@outlook.com
Chris Whitehead 01398 351317
chriscoalole@gmail.com

TEMPLETON
William Withers 01884 253030
william@williamwithers.co.uk
Reg Coffin 01884 860246
sueandreg.coffin@fhsinternet.com

WASHFIELD
Jeanne Jones 01884 254306
jeannejones007@gmail.com
Richard Scholes 01398 351528
mail@richardscholes.com

WITHLEIGH
Brenda Tucker 01884 252431
tucks@btconnect.com
Stephen Roche 01884 33665
stephen_roche187@hotmail.com

From Wednesday 2nd March
The Exe Valley Bus Trips will be up and running!
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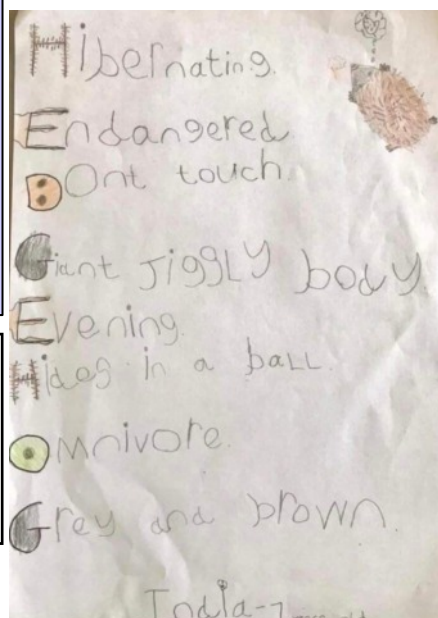


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OAKFORD'S OWN INDIA WITH HER BLUE PETER BADGE FOR HER WORK WITH HEDGEHOGS

FROM STEPH

The Exe Valley Choir

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

All rehearsals start at 7.30pm and the dates are:

- 13 October - Stoodleigh
- 20 October - Cruwys Morchard
- 3 November - Washfield
- 10 November - Rackenford
- 17 November - Oakford
- 24 November - Withleigh



Sunday 27 November 10.45am Advent Service at St Peter's Oakford
Followed by Mince pies and Mulled wine

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

Please contact Claire Curtis on 07873 575276 for further details.

SOUP LUNCHES AND A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MEAL

Come and join us for our Soup Lunch 12.30pm-2.30pm on Monday 28 November - Tattie Amory is our host.
Transport is available.



We are also having a Special Christmas Lunch at Withleigh Village Hall on Monday 12 December 12.30pm-2.30pm.



Everyone is welcome. Please come along to either or both and bring a friend. Transport is available.

Please contact the church office to book a place and transport.



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PARISH ROUND-UP

NATURE NOTES

The varied landscape of Britain never ceases to amaze me. You only have to travel a relatively small distance into neighbouring counties to find very different colours of soil, stone, greenery and topography.

Although the modern world increasingly relies on ever improving navigational aids, pathfinding in this rich tapestry can often be surprisingly easy on repeat visits, even for those with a rapidly fading short term memory.

The recognition of place is never more striking than when an unannounced scene appears on television and you know exactly where the camera is. This happened recently in the programme hosted by Paul Whitehouse and Bob Mortimer when they were captured standing in the upstream stretch of the Exe by Cove bridge - it must have been last summer so how was it kept secret? They were fishing for grilse which apparently is an Atlantic salmon that had spent its first year at sea before returning to their native river to spawn for the first time.

I was quite surprised to learn how long these young fish spend their vulnerable years in the river prior to their incredible expedition, so presumably the birthplace is carefully selected. Although we know much about their adult journeys and reasons, I still think the full detail of how they navigate and manage to do it is something of a mystery.

I have only experienced salmon leaping once {in North Wales}, when spending

time by the higher reaches of the river Conwy. This river has many waterfalls but when we arrived, these and the river were relatively quiet. However an experienced fisherman informed us to wait for the rainfall and then return. It being Wales we did not have long to wait, although even then there is a significant time lapse before the waters reach the falls.

Of all the daunting tasks! The falls are as tall as a block of flats, and the spate would knock any off their feet if they foolhardily took a shower. The amount of water is clearly necessary for the salmon's ascent, but it is hard not to think when you catch the leap in the air it represents a mark of failure. More likely, what looks like a leap of faith at totally the wrong time is just part of their life's journey and ultimately ends in success

Thomas More



Join us for our
Coffee Morning
via Zoom

This takes place on the
4th Wednesday of the
month at 10.30am.

Join us when you can and
leave when you have to!

On the second Wednesday
each month we meet in
person.

9 November & 14 December at
Tiverton Golf Club
10.00am-11.30am
Check out Steph's weekly
update or the website.



Tearfund's *Big Quiz Night*

On Saturday 19 November, churches, families and groups around the land will unite for an epic evening of poverty-beating, community building fun and you are invited to Templeton Village Hall at 7.00pm. Teams of up to 6. Bring & Share Supper and licensed bar
Contact Jean Heard 01884 881400 or
the Church Office 01884 250417



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married life together, at
Cruwys Morchard Village Hall
on Saturday 4 February 2023*

10.30am - 2.00pm



PARISH ROUND-UP

A Cycle Ride - Chris Whitehead

September 10th was Devon Historic Churches Trust Day. Each year people are encouraged to visit their local churches in a "Ride and Stride", walking or cycling from one to another.

I decided that I would try to cycle round the nine churches in the Exe Valley. (Some of you will know that I have an electric bike, which I use to get to and from Tiverton).

I set off from Stoodleigh at quarter past ten, going down Hangman's and up to Oakford; then on to Rackenford crossing the link road at Two Gates Cross (not for the faint-hearted!). A short stop for refreshments, and a chat outside the shop to two cyclists on holiday.

Then down the B3137, turning off to Cruwys Morhard; back on the B road and a nice easy run down to the turn off for Templeton. I hadn't noticed the 'Ford' sign on the map, so I had wet feet going up the hill.

After Templeton I carried on up the hill and turned onto the road to Calverleigh Cross. Then down to Withleigh, arriving in time to see the bride and groom coming out of church.

Back up to Calverleigh Cross and on to Calverleigh Church. By now I'd used up more than half the battery capacity, so I was glad that the roads were less steep and I could turn off the motor some of the time.

Through Lurley, under the link road and up to Loxbeare; then back past Kensington Court and Cotleigh to Washfield where I was entertained with tea and cake.

Finally back to St Margaret's, where I found flowers being arranged for the Sunday service. By the time I got home, it was four o'clock; I'd done 32 miles; the bike battery was 90% empty, and so was I. A lovely ride and I would be happy to do it again (just not immediately).



CALVERLEIGH

The nights are drawing in, the leaves are changing their colour and there is a definite chill in the air both morning and evening. Many of us will be putting your gardens to rest for the winter but it has been lovely to see bedding plants still giving a good show of colour until the frosts appear.

On 14 August there were four Baptisms and a Blessing of Thanksgiving, along with Holy Communion and Holiday Club as part of the service at Calverleigh which was led by Rev'd Steph Gordon-Jeffs. We were pleased to welcome the families and supporters of Torin, brothers Louis and Henry who were baptised and Russell who was blessed. Torin's mum Megan was also baptised during the service. The church was full to overflowing but the churchwardens did well to have most people seated with a few having to stand, but what a lovely occasion it was and how pleasing to be a part of this celebration.

The annual Produce Show took place on 27 August and was this year organised by Maureen and Paul Furneaux who did a grand job. This year's theme for entries was Platinum Jubilee inspired. Our thanks go to them for all their hard work as well as to all contributors, judges, stewards and those attending to view the amazing talent of those taking part. Congratulations to all, young and not so young, who entered the different categories and were rosette winners. Best in Show went to Rita and overall points winner was Brian.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Thank you to all who helped including helpers, judges, stewards and scorers. Whether you were one of our talented competitors, you helped in setting up, packing away, working in the kitchen, providing refreshments, donating draw prizes or just coming along to support the event - Thank you all. We're already looking forward to next year! A total of £400 was raised for Calverleigh Church.

It was with sadness that we heard of the passing of Graham Webber on 12 August. A service of celebration for the life of Graham was held on 31 August followed by burial in the churchyard and was led by Rev'd Claire Curtis. The church was full of his family, friends and neighbours. Daughter Sam spoke of his life, love of sport which included horse racing, cricket and more but the love of his family was uppermost. Many of us will remember Graham growing up and playing a full part in village life. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Paula, Sam, Marcus, Myrtle and all his family and friends.

Another loss was Geneth Burnett of Loxbeare who passed away at home on 7 September. Although living within the Calverleigh parish. Our thoughts and prayers are with Geneth's husband Tony and children Simon, Mandy, Andrew, Judy and Wendy. A funeral service was held in Barnstaple on 3 October.

On Saturday 3 September, after postponement from earlier in the summer due to the happy couple contracting Covid-19, the marriage of Philip and Joanne finally happened. They were very grateful that the service

was able to be rearranged. The service was conducted by Rev'd Andrew Blyth, the bridegroom's brother. Philip's parents have a long connection with Calverleigh as Ken was a Rector in the Exe Valley Group during the 1970's and has also taken services here at Calverleigh during his retirement. It was a lovely day and our best wishes go to Mr and Mrs Blyth for a long and happy marriage.

A service of Celebration was held for the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who passed away on 8 September. Included in the service held on 19 September and led by Julie was one of the Queen's favourite hymns 'The Lord's My Shepherd'. The hymn 'Tears and Celebration' by Katherine Jenkins was played during a time of reflection. The service at times was quite moving as we all sat with our own thoughts of our wonderful long reigning Queen and her faithfulness to God, our nation, the Commonwealth and her people. A book of condolence was available in church during the 10 days of mourning. We continue to pray for the Royal family at this time and look forward to the Coronation of King Charles III.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service took place on 2 October, later than normal due to the special service held for our late Queen. The church was decorated with a large amount of fresh fruit and vegetables and flower displays. A speaker from CHAT gave a thought-provoking insight into the work provided by the charity and the staggering number of meals that have been handed out in the past year. Holly was thanked for giving her time to come and speak to us and donations of tinned and dried foods along with various toiletries were brought along to

the service and delivered to CHAT the following day. The fresh produce was taken to The Salvation Army to be used for those in need. Our thanks go to all who prepared the church for the service and it looked beautiful as it always does at this time of year.

Baptisms were once again celebrated on 9 October where the family, friends and supporters of Aaron and Elijah, many of whom travelled from far and wide (including guests from Portugal and Wales), were welcomed to St. Mary's. As well as the baptisms it was also a Cluster Group service with Holy Communion led by Steph. The two well-behaved boys are related and were born a day apart - sharing a ward for a short time. Music for the service was provided by Dave and Levon. Thank you to all who had a part in the service and our best wishes are with both families.

A fully automatic defibrillator in a heated cabinet has been purchased by the Calverleigh Village Hall Committee, assisted by generous donations from Vicky nee Bowden (sorry Vicky, we don't know your surname) and the family of the late David Burnett who farmed at Loxbeare for many years. The defibrillator has been installed at the Village Hall in a prominent position and is registered with the Ambulance Service as ready for use.

Best wishes also go to anyone else who is having a significant 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

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PARISH ROUND-UP

affected by the ongoing Covid 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

A 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.

Our Autumn Fayre is on Saturday 19 November from 10.30am - 2pm. More information will be available closer to the time.

Calverleigh and Loxbeare carol singers. We will be joining together to travel around the villages on 20 Dec meeting at Loxbeare Church at 6.30pm and on 22 Dec meeting at Calverleigh village hall at 6.30pm. If you enjoy singing carols and would like to join us for this seasonal tradition please contact Julie on 01884 255248 for more information.

Free training in using the aforementioned defibrillator and basic life support will be provided at the Village Hall, during evening sessions in November, date tbc. Anyone not already on the list for the training, please email jackiekingdom@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01884 256977.

Cleaning Rota

24 Oct - 5 Nov: Miss J Herniman
 7 - 19 Nov: Miss S Goldsworthy
 21 Nov - 3 Dec: Mrs S Greenslade
 5 - 17 Dec: Mrs A Webber
 19 Dec - 7 Jan: Mrs J Goldsworthy

Flower Rota
 30 Oct - 6 Nov: Mrs M Radford
 13 - 20 Nov: Mrs R Tapp
 27 Nov - 4 Dec: Mrs S Greenslade
 11 - 18 Dec: Mrs M Furneaux
 8 - 15 Jan: Mrs N Burton (TBC)

Do you have anything to share in the magazine or website (for short notice events or messages)? Please send your news, birthdays, anniversaries, photos, 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: www.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.

helped provide the tea, which was very much enjoyed by all. Thank you to all who brought gifts for CHAT. They were very grateful for the donations which are in great demand at the moment. CHAT also have boxes in the supermarkets so that donations can be made at any time.

On Sunday 25 September we were very pleased to have the Reverend Claire Curtis with us to minister Holy Communion following her ordination. It was lovely to be joined by Claire's family and members from all over the Mission Community to celebrate this wonderful occasion with her.

It was with deep sadness that we heard that Jenni Edmonds has passed away, for many years Jenni took a leading part in the Church Ladies committee, organising and helping with many of our fundraising and church activities, we send our prayers and condolences to David and all her family.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are unwell at this time and also to those who have suffered a bereavement.

We wish Kharris and Jake Davison a long and happy marriage following their wedding in church in September.

Sonia Notley has for many years dedicated her time to putting together the notes for this column of the Today magazine ensuring that all parts of the parish are included and keeping everyone informed, for which we give our grateful thanks. Sonia has now passed this over to Ali Vincent.

Christmas Craft Fayre- Saturday 12 November 10.30am to 1.30pm at the Parish Hall

CRUWYS MORCHARD

Autumn has arrived with all the wonderful colours of nature. Hopefully the children will have settled into their new schools or classes by now and will have a successful year.

Harvest Festival was held on the last Saturday of September. The afternoon began with our Harvest Festival service in church, thank you to all those who decorated the church. Diana and Cindy were assisted during the service by Oscar and Nicholas telling the jokes. Fine weather meant that the sports were great fun for all, adults and children alike with all the usual races. Thank you to all who

UK law requires that organisations carry out safety audits on their premises and their equipment and the activities carried out.

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.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

There will be various craft stalls attending and we will also have a cake stall, Christmas Hamper raffle, children's tombola and refreshments which will include soup. Donations of food/drink items for the Hamper raffle, children's tombola and Cakes would be much appreciated. If anyone would like a stall please contact Val on 01363 866662

Christmas Carol service on Sunday 18 December, please see centre pages for details of our Christmas services. We will once again be collecting non-perishable goods for CHAT to distribute locally to those less well off. Your donations can be brought to the service or left at the church. We also hope to have Christingles this year and refreshments after the service.

Flower and Cleaning Rota

- Nov. 7/14 Sue and Pauline Guscott
- Nov. 21/28 Denyse Standen and Jo Hilton
- Dec. 5 Cindy Trick
- Dec. 12 Decorators for Christmas
- Dec. 19/26 Diana Vincent and Val Randerson
- Jan. 2/9 Cindy Trick

Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall

Thank you to everyone who attended our Afternoon Tea. This proved to be a very successful event and it is planned to be held again next year.

Our next event is our Annual Christmas Quiz on Saturday 3 December at the Parish Hall. Doors open at 7.00 pm, Quiz starting at 7.30 pm. There will be a bar and raffle. Teams of up to six people can be entered by contacting Diana Vincent - 01363 860227 by Wednesday 30 November - £5.00 per person to include supper.

On Friday 16 December, we are holding a Christmas Bingo at the Parish Hall, doors open at 7.00 pm - eyes down at 7.30 pm - PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME. Usual good prizes, plus prizes for children and a raffle.

Please do come along to these events, everyone is most welcome.

Please visit the parish website to see upcoming events, enquire about booking the parish hall or 200 Club Membership and so much more.

Please follow the link <https://www.cruwysmorchardparish.co.uk/home>

Congregational Churches News.

Keep warm and mix with others in our warm space opportunities.

Coffee Morning on Tuesdays in Nomansland chapel from 11.00am to - 12.30pm

Winter warmth on Thursdays in Pennymoor chapel 10.00am to 2.00pm
Lovely Lunches 1st Saturday of the month 12.00 to 2.00pm in Pennymoor, (December will be a Christmas event).

Christmas concert in Way Village chapel, date to be confirmed.

Check Facebook or Notice Board for advertising or call Ruth on 01363 530013
Nomansland Sunday services at 2.30pm*

Pennymoor Sunday services at 4.30*

*Except all join Way Village on 3rd Sunday 2.30pm. Refreshments always provided.

Cruwys Morchard Young Farmers Club
The YFC has been busy with the speaking competition starting again. Jess Kingdom is doing well in Brainstrust and Call My Bluff and being joined by Phoebe Kingdom and Oscar Gibbs going on to the County round.

We had members attend the Exe Valley Dinner and Dance. The club has held their presentation evening where awards have been handed out. The club ran a pop up burger bar at a local farm sale raising money for club funds.

Members are going to be doing some skills for life courses soon in sewing and woodwork.

Christmas Tree Festival

The YFC will hold this event with the Flower Show and Church Ladies Committee on Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 December at 3.00pm-8.00pm, where the church will be filled with a range of different types of Christmas trees and with refreshments being served at the hall during the same time.

Cruwys Morchard and Puddington Gardeners

The Gardening Group met in September with 'tasters' of the more unusual or successful crops they had grown through the year. Those most favoured were cannelloni beans, a lemon flavoured cucumber, waxy Maxine potato's and the unusual courgette 'Rosa Friuliana' with its firm flesh.

Sympathy was expressed for those Puddington gardeners who lost almost all their produce in the violent storm, where hail shredded leaves and removed or damaged fruit. We seem to have come off more lightly on the Pennymoor side of the storm.

The meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month alternating between Pennymoor and Puddington at 8.00pm.

For more information contact clarepenney@gmail.com



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PARISH ROUND-UP

LOXBEBARE

Although saddened by the death of Queen Elizabeth II, we feel very privileged as a nation that she has been our monarch for over 70 years. The Queen lived a remarkable life and was a great blessing to us all. She often acknowledged her faith and dependence on God. In her 2002 Christmas broadcast, she said 'I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad'. May we be inspired by her life, her faith and trust in God. We pray for King Charles III and all the Royal Family in their loss and may they too find God to be their peace and strength as they are led and guided by him.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving was postponed from 18 September to 2 October due to the special service remembering our Queen's life. The harvest offering and donations of £255 was given to Tear Fund. Thank you to all who gave produce, decorated the Church, led and took part in the service.

The Harvest Supper was held on Monday 3 October. Thank you to those who provided such a lovely Harvest Supper and auctioned the produce, which with the sale of the tickets, raised £370 which was given to CHAT. Thank you again for all who helped in any way over the weekend and Monday.

We are so thankful for the rain which has certainly revived the parched land and enabled the crops to recover. Autumn is upon us and soon the winter months but we are grateful for the beauty of each season and provisions that will be needed. We do indeed have much to thank God for.

A meeting of ideas 'Spirit of Loxbeare' will be held in the Hall at 7.00pm on the 23 November. Come along to discuss with the PCC and Steph your thoughts for Loxbeare into the future.

The Remembrance Service will be at 10.50 on 13 November as we remember the sacrifice, some with their lives, now and in years past to keep countries free. The offering will be given to the Royal British Legion.

20 November at 10.45am will be a Morning Praise Service.

11 December will be a Cluster Service with Holy Communion at 10.45am. This will be taken by Steph and will also incorporate our Carol Service.

On Christmas Eve at 6.00pm will be a Holy Communion Service taken by George Bell as we remember and give thanks to God for the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ our Lord.

We pray for all who are unwell, waiting for operations or treatments, and for those suffering the effects of Covid and other illnesses.

Happy Birthday to all those with birthdays in Nov/Dec and for those celebrating special occasions.

Events for Nov/Dec:
The Village Hall A.G.M will be on 15 November at 19.30.

Cream Tea will be on Sat 12 November 15.00-16.30. Enjoy a cup of tea, homemade cakes, and savories. Plus bring and buy.

Friday 2 December at 19.00, Festive Craft Evening and Canape workshop. Make your own Christmas table decoration or crackers. Enjoy some Canape sampling with the opportunity to prepare one or two to take home.. For

more details/to reserve your space (limited availability) please email loxbeareevents@tahoo.com.

Tues 6 Dec Christmas Bingo, doors open at 19.00, eyes down at 19.30. A fun evening. 10 chicken dinners to be won and other Christmas prizes. Bring your own refreshments.

The Big Cream Tea on Sat 10 December, 14.30-16.00. Enjoy a delicious cream tea and a spot of shopping.

Tear Fund Big Quiz on Sat 19 November at Templeton Village Hall. 7.00pm. Bring and Share Supper. For more details contact Jean Heard or the Church Office.

Loxbeare and Calverleigh carol singers We will be joining together to travel around the villages on 20 Dec meeting at Loxbeare Church at 6.30pm and on 22 Dec meeting at Calverleigh village hall at 6.30pm. If you enjoy singing carols and would like to join us for this seasonal tradition please contact Julie on 01884 255248 for more information.

OAKFORD

We are reaching the end of another year and at the time of writing this report we are experiencing beautiful autumn weather. The trees are beginning their colourful display and the newly trimmed hedges are perfuming the air.

Farmers are trying to get a final cut of silage to boost their stores of winter feed and village folk are filling their log stores and oil tanks in preparation for the colder days to come.

continued on page 12

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6 NOVEMBER

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Morning Worship

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Oakford

LOXBEARE

See Oakford

OAKFORD

10.45am Holy Communion

*Steph Gordon-Jeffs
with Dave Edwards*

RACKENFORD

See Oakford

STOODLEIGH

See Oakford

TEMPLETON

See Oakford

WASHFIELD

See Oakford

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Family Service

13 NOVEMBER

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.50am Remembrance Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

**10.50am Holy Communion
Remembrance Service**

Claire Curtis

LOXBEARE

10.50am Remembrance Service

OAKFORD

10.50am Remembrance Service

RACKENFORD

10.50am Remembrance Service

STOODLEIGH

10.50am Remembrance Service

TEMPLETON

10.50am Remembrance Service

WASHFIELD

**10.50am Holy Communion
Remembrance Service**

*Steph Gordon-Jeffs
with Dave Edwards*

WITHLEIGH

10.50am Remembrance Service

20 NOVEMBER

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Family Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Withleigh

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise

OAKFORD

See Withleigh

RACKENFORD

10.45am Morning Prayer

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

*Steph Gordon-Jeffs
with Dave Edwards*

TEMPLETON

See Withleigh

WASHFIELD

3.00pm Evening Prayer

WITHLEIGH

**10.45am Holy Communion
with Baptism**

Claire Curtis

**27 November
ADVENT SUNDAY**

9.30am Zoom Service

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Claire Curtis and
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.



4 DECEMBER

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

3.00pm Christingle Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Prayer

LOXBEARE

See Rackenford

OAKFORD

See Rackenford

RACKENFORD

10.45am Holy Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

STOODLEIGH

See Rackenford

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

10.45am Christingle Service

WITHLEIGH

4.00pm Christingle Service

11 DECEMBER

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

See Loxbeare

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Loxbeare

LOXBEARE

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

OAKFORD

See Loxbeare

RACKENFORD

9.30am Explore
Claire Curtis and Dave Edwards

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

TEMPLETON

See Loxbeare

WASHFIELD

See Loxbeare

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Morning Worship

18 DECEMBER

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

3.00pm Carol Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

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

LOXBEARE

See Cruwys Morchard or
Washfield

OAKFORD

6.00pm Carol Service
with Claire Curtis

RACKENFORD

See Cruwys Morchard or
Washfield

STOODLEIGH

6.00pm Carol Service

TEMPLETON

See Cruwys Morchard or
Washfield

WASHFIELD

10.45am Holy Communion
Claire Curtis and
Dave Edwards

WITHLEIGH

See Cruwys Morchard or
Washfield

21 DECEMBER

WITHLEIGH

6.30pm Carol Service

24 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS EVE

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.00pm Holy Communion
with Carols
Ian Johnson

LOXBEARE

6.30pm Holy Communion
with Carols
Georgie Bell

RACKENFORD

6.30pm Carol Service

TEMPLETON

6.00pm Carol Service
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

WASHFIELD

6.00pm Carol Service

WITHLEIGH

11.00pm Holy Communion
with Carols
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

★
For
unto
you is
born this
day in the
city of David
a saviour, which
is Christ the Lord.
Luke
2:11



25 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY

9.00am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.00am Holy Communion
with *Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

OAKFORD

9.30am Holy Communion
with Claire Curtis

RACKENFORD

9.30am Holy Communion
with Ian Johnson

STOODLEIGH

9.30am Holy Communion
with Georgie Bell

PARISH ROUND-UP

Another ending which will still be in everyone's thoughts is the end of the life of an amazing woman and the end of the reign of an extraordinary Monarch. Queen Elizabeth the second, the only monarch most of us have ever known. R.I.P your Majesty. Everyone has been touched by her death and hopefully the world can learn from her example of dignity and respect for all.

At St Peter's Church the St George flag was flown at 'half- mast' to mark the passing of the Queen. It was raised on 10 September until 1.00 pm on 11 September to recognize the proclamation of King Charles the third, then lowered again to 'half-mast' until the day after the Queen's funeral. The bells of St Peter's Church rang muffled peals to mark the passing of our late Queen Elizabeth. A Service of Remembrance was held in place of Harvest Festival, Rev. Claire Curtis presided and the church was filled with beautiful white flowers. Thank you to all the ladies for their arrangements.

A Remembrance Sunday Service will be held on 13 November at 10.50am starting at the War Memorial. Afterwards in church, members of the parish will share stories from their family members who fought in the war. There will be a collection for The British Legion.

Carols around the village tree on 16 Dec at 6.30pm. Mulled wine, mince pies and sausage rolls will be on offer.

Unfortunately our Carol Service last year was cancelled due to Covid concerns. This year we will be celebrating at 6.30pm on December 18 with Claire Curtis. Claire joins us again on Christmas Day at 9.30am. Please do come along to sing your favourite

Christmas carols and listen to the readings and poems. After the service stay and enjoy mince pies and mulled wine.

Thoughts and prayers go to everyone who is ill, in hospital or at home and to their loved ones who are worrying about them and caring for them.

Best wishes to all who celebrate birthdays or anniversaries in November and December.

Dates for your diaries.

The Moorland Club

10 November - An open meeting - A talk on wine followed by wine tasting 7.30pm in the village hall. Guests £2
8 December - Christmas Meal in the village hall. Time tbc

On Oct 15 the club held its Autumn Fayre which raised in excess of £1000 for The Calvert Trust Exmoor. Thanks go to all who supported the event and to all the club members who worked so hard to make it a success, an amazing achievement for such a small club.

Quiz at the Red Lion 8.00pm start.
20 November and 18 December

The Village Hall Committee with Oakford Players present

'The Treasure of Nobrains Atol'

A Murder Mystery with supper and a licensed bar at the village hall.
18 and 19 November 7.30pm. Tickets £15.00. Contact Dawn 01398 324034

A DISCO and Supper Evening to raise funds to enhance the village community area for use by all.

Friday 11 November in the Village Hall 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Licensed Bar.

Tickets available from John Phillips - 07583 146498.

The Exe Valley Choir, Songs for Advent will be held at St Peter's Church Oakford on 27 November at 10.45 am followed by mince pies and mulled wine. The Exe Valley Choirmaster is Sarah Milne with Andrew Herniman on the organ. See page 3 for details. Everyone welcome.

RACKENFORD

It was a real country scene seeing the beautiful bride walking to church with her mum. It was the wedding of Sammi and Harry which took place on August 20. We hope you all enjoyed a very special service supported by your families and friends in a beautifully decorated church. We pray you have a long and happy life together.

Our 9.30am Explore Service on September 11 was extra special as it included the baptism of three brothers Arthur, Herbie and Wilfred. It was a joy to be able to gather at the font with the family, young children and Godparents and participate in welcoming the boys into God's family. Arthur, Herbie and Wilfred were presented with Candles, Books and the Godparents received New Testament Bibles.

Refreshments and a chat concluded the service. We remember you all in our prayers.

Our deepest sympathy to Simon and Paula and family on the death of Simon's mum who lived with her husband at Loxbeare. You are all very much in our thoughts at this difficult time.

To anyone who is suffering a bereavement, are unwell, awaiting an operation or finding life hard especially

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PARISH ROUND-UP

in these challenging times we remember you in our prayers.

Who could have imagined when we were together celebrating our Queen's Jubilee of 70 years times would have changed so quickly when her death was announced on September 8 at her home in Balmoral that she loved so much. We give thanks for her long life, faith and dedication to duty. The nation paid their respects in many different ways.

Many changes ahead, not least getting used to singing God Save our King as Price Charles is now King Charles III.

We held our own service to Commemorate Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on September 18 where we welcomed a larger congregation to pay our respects together at this sad time. The service was Lay Led by Mary, Liz, and Helen with various readings and prayers and appropriate hymns. Refreshments were enjoyed after the service. A condolence book has been available to sign at any time of day in our church. This has recently been removed and will be forwarded to the archives in London along with books from other parishes in the Exe Valley. We really appreciate Glen putting our flags in position during this time.

Our most grateful thanks to the RAETT for your most generous gift of £1,100 to Rackenford Church which is very much appreciated. Mary and Ruth were delighted to attend the final and had a most enjoyable afternoon which included delicious refreshments and a warm welcome from everyone.

Ruth was presented with the cheque by John Dodds and thanked him on behalf of Rackenford PCC.

Many thanks to Liz for once again organizing our Church Sponsored Walk which took place on October 1, a circular walk from Wheddon Cross on some of the Coleridge Way, enjoying fantastic views from Lype Hill and the final steep ascent to Cutcombe (some taking the flatter route at this point). Ten people walked and two dogs accompanied us. We enjoyed a picnic together, good company and the weather was beautiful. Couldn't ask for more. We finished at The Rest and Be Thankful for a well earned cuppa. Many thanks to Tim for giving us a helping "hand" when required. Also thanks to Graham and Roy for providing the transport should we need help.

Special thanks to all of you who generously sponsored us, it wouldn't have happened without your support. We hope to have a final figure raised in the following issue.

As usual our Remembrance Service will be held at the War Memorial on November 13 at 10.50am prompt, where a wreath will be laid and prayers said for those who sacrificed their lives for us. A minutes silence will also be held. Sadly we are not able to ring our bells for a while as a problem has occurred and this is being investigated.

Like it or not Christmas is fast approaching and we are holding a Christmas Farye in our church on December 3 from 10am to 12noon.

Come and join us for a cuppa/mince pie and other refreshments and browse various stalls.

It would be lovely to have a get together just before Christmas and buy a few gifts maybe.

We are having a Lay Led Carol Service on Christmas Eve at 6.30pm and on

Christmas Day we have a Holy Communion Service at 9.30am led by Rev. Ian Johnson. We hope many of you will come with your families to celebrate and give thanks at this special time.

We will enjoy singing carols together and have the opportunity to wish each other a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Many of you will be looking forward to Father Christmas coming.

In case we don't see you, thank you for all the help and support we have received during the year and Happy Christmas to you and all in the Exe Valley .

Happy birthday and anniversaries to all who are celebrating.

STOODLEIGH

St Margaret's Church

We've had a very busy few months at St Margaret's, starting with Camilla and Tarun's wedding which was really lovely and then moving on to our Afternoon Tea and Harvest Festival.

The Afternoon Tea was a new idea, instead of a coffee morning. It was a lovely afternoon, kindly hosted by Jeannie and Will Knowles with an amazing array of cakes and scones with cream. Everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves and had a lovely time sitting in the gorgeous garden and having a good chat.

We also had a charity stall in South Molton market which managed to raise over £300 after some extra sales on the Sunday. Many thanks to everyone



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PARISH ROUND-UP

who contributed and helped to make the stall a success.

Next came the Harvest Festival, starting with the Harvest Supper which we held on Saturday night in another break with tradition. The children had their own skittles tournament and really showed the adults how to play well. We then had a magnificent meal with a wonderful array of salads to accompany the beef and ham which was kindly donated and then moved on to a choice of trifle or fresh fruit salad. The meal finished off with local cheeses accompanied by biscuits and chutney. Many, many thanks to all the people who made or donated food to make the meal such a success. The adult skittles rounded off the evening and provided quite a lot of entertainment!

On Sunday, we had a lovely Holy Communion service for the Harvest Festival lead by Steph the Vicar accompanied by Dave on the guitar and Sue on her violin. The church looked a picture with some wonderful flower displays; many thanks to Phyllis and her magnificent team for all their hard work in decorating the church. We also had some produce which had been left in the church porch by an anonymous donor...thank you whoever you are.

Looking forward, we have our Carol Service on 18 December with mince pies and other refreshments and the day before (17) we have our coffee morning and 'surprise' raffle in the church.

We're looking forward to seeing you all there. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone.

Flower rota

5 – 12 November
19 – 26 November
3 – 10 December

Phyllis Hill
Trish Fish
Pat Aplin

17 – 24 December

All people who are available for Christmas decorating. Date to be confirmed.

100 Club Results

August - 1 Sally Holland - 2 Linda Sharrock - 3 Malcolm Jones - 4 Jeannie Knowles

September - 1 Roland Chant - 2 Chris Whitehead - 3 Kim Grindston - 4 Heather Burneister

Stoodleigh Family Fun Dog Show August

Thanks everyone for making this event such a success. Our wonderful venue provided super shade keeping our dogs and visitors cool on a lovely sunny afternoon. The dogs and their owners had fun with the show classes; our visitors tucked into scrummy scones with cream and jam, tea, Pimms and beer and took advantage of delicious cakes from our awesome cake stall.

There were lots of lucky winners on the raffle, tombola and the competitions. The event was jointly organised by the Parish Hall and the Church and we couldn't have done this without the help of so many of you in the village who volunteered beforehand and on the day. Thanks to our hosts, Pat and Fred; our judge Jeannie; Roger, our commentator and our fabulous stallholders and sponsors. Thank you very much. It was a true community event where we welcomed visitors from near and far. We all enjoyed a brilliant afternoon having fun and raising funds.

Stoodleigh Cricket Club

Stoodleigh CC enjoyed a great summer of weather, fixtures and results. The league team finished runners up and have been promoted to division 2. The friendly team had a successful season

of evening cricket against local teams. The club hosted a touring team from Amsterdam which was a real honour and highlight of the summer which was supported fantastically well by the village. Thank you. The end of the season Club v Pub game rounded off a memorable summer with the Pub claiming the win in a good spirited game.

Stoodleigh CC wishes to thank everyone for their ongoing support, in particular Lizzie at The Stoodleigh Inn and we look forward to welcoming any new members. Contact Matt Shaw if interested.

jackdawscottage@hotmail.com

Coming Events

Stoodleigh Autumn Fair. Saturday 29 October from 11.00am to 2.00pm. Parish Hall. Come along to see what we have on offer. Stallholders showcasing a variety of local goods, craft and art, bring and buy cakes and books; competitions for children and adults including the annual pumpkin carving; community plant stall and much more as well as coffee and cakes, light lunches of soup and rolls plus try a glass of mulled cider.

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

Stoodleigh Parish Hall AGM Tuesday 15 November at 7.30p.m. Parish Hall. All Stoodleigh residents, users and hirers of the hall, please join us for this event. The Committee would love to hear your suggestions for the use of the Hall. If you would like to join in and help, that would be fabulous. Further info from Geraldine on 01398351391.

Community Christmas Tree Lighting Event.

Friday 2 December at 6.30pm
Following the success and support last

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PARISH ROUND-UP

year, the Christmas Tree will once again be positioned outside the Parish Hall and you are invited to join the Big Switch On and pop your decorations on the tree. Please come to enjoy the carol singing and refreshments afterwards. We will be collecting donations of food items for the foodbank for the Churches Housing Action Team for Christmas.

Hello and Goodbye!

Good luck to Kim and John as they moved from Finistere in October, temporarily, before returning to Stoodleigh in a few months time on completion of their barn conversion. We look forward to their return and welcome the new residents of Finistere. We hope you will enjoy living in Stoodleigh.

Welcome to Clare, Matt and family who have moved to Highfield and to Martin and Danielle to their site at Hucklby House. We hope you will be happy in your new homes.

Welcome to others who have moved into our village since the magazine went to print.

And finally

As in hundreds of other villages and towns across the United Kingdom, Stoodleigh marked the death of Queen Elizabeth and the accession of King Charles. The tenor bell of the Church tower was tolled ninety six times to mark the Queen's death.

The Accession Service was held at St Margaret's on Sunday 11 September. Parish Councillor Will Knowles made the Proclamation of King Charles 111 at 4pm outside St Margaret's West Door to a large gathering of Stoodleigh residents after which there was a Loyal Toast and singing of The National Anthem. There followed a wonderful peal of Church Bells by our Stoodleigh

Bellringers as everyone stood around chatting in the sunshine.

TEMPLETON

There is a natural transition from crunching leaves underfoot in Autumn to the bare trees of Winter. Shorter days, dark and starry nights and cold, crisp mornings are coming. Soon, we may be scraping the ice from our windscreens and checking the weather forecast for snow. The long hot summer will be a distant memory.

The weeks do seem to speed up, with a growing sense of anticipation, as we head towards Christmas. It is easy to become focussed on what is to come and forget to look up and enjoy the now. The beauty of living where we do is that we get to experience how Nature creates these changing seasons, each one different, yet no less beautiful. In these unsettling times, this change can give us cheer.

Church and churchyard - update
Work continues at St Margaret's Church, both inside and outside. The walls are being repaired and repainted with the right paint. The churchyard has been our main focus over the past year. Teams of people from the village helped to plant a beech hedge and a copper beech tree. The good news is that all their hard work has survived the long hot summer. A befitting bench has now been ordered so visitors can sit in quiet contemplation and enjoy the peace. The consecration of the churchyard is now planned for Thursday 1 December at 2.00pm by the Bishop of Crediton.

Templeton Village Hall - update

On Saturday 14 August, Templeton held its Summer Fete and Grand Auction. Once again, we were blessed with good weather, and everyone enjoyed the ice cream as well as cream teas, hot dogs and the bar. As always there were some great stalls including games, bric a brac, clothes, books, the Big T and lovely local produce while the little ones aptly made tractors. The auction is always entertaining and it really was so lovely to see everyone join in.

Of course, events such as these take months of planning and we couldn't do it without all the volunteers who worked so hard behind the scenes and on the big day. We are grateful to the auctioneer Terry Hamlin, who for many years has supported us with the Grand Auction which this year raised £417. This event raised £1500 in total, which will help support village funds. Thank you everyone for taking part and making it such a successful and fun day. Take a look at all the photos on Templeton Village Hall's Facebook Page.

We were, of course, deeply saddened by the passing of the Queen on Thursday 8 September, after 70 years of service to the country. Everyone held such respect and admiration for the Queen and the way that she committed herself to the service of the country. She was also a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Services were held to commemorate Queen Elizabeth in churches throughout the Exe Valley Mission Community. In Templeton, the church bells of St Margaret's tolled.

Despite this sad news, it was decided that the Harvest Festival weekend, planned for 10/11 September, would go ahead. A big thank you to everyone who





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PARISH ROUND-UP

came to Templeton's Harvest Supper on Saturday 10 September. As a mark of our respect, included in the evening event was a candlelit table set out to commemorate the Queen with a framed photograph and a book of condolences, for people to enter their thoughts.

The Harvest Supper was an amazing spread of hot and cold foods and delicious desserts. Many thanks to all those who cooked and contributed the delicious food and to those who worked in the kitchen and the bar on the night. Again, this is a team effort and we are very grateful for the support we receive in Templeton. Photos of the event are available on Templeton Village Hall's Facebook Page. The evening raised £474 which will help support the much-needed funds for the maintenance of, and repairs to, St Margaret's Church, Templeton.

Templeton's Harvest Festival Service
 Templeton's Harvest Festival Service was held at St Margaret's Church on Sunday 11 August. Included within the service were prayers and thoughts for the Queen and the royal family. The church looked lovely, filled with beautiful flower arrangements and generous food donations. All the donations of fresh, canned and packaged produce have been taken to the charity CHAT (Churches Housing Action Trust) in Tiverton. This is something we do every year and they always ask that we pass on their sincere thanks. They were particularly grateful at this time of even greater need, with the situation likely to become more difficult for many families through the winter. Thank you everyone for your generosity.

Future services

The centre pages in this magazine cover the many services that will be held over the next two months across the nine parishes in the Exe Valley. Many of the Templeton Church services will be lay-led, but the Cluster and Group services are usually led by Steph or Claire at different churches in the Exe Valley Mission Community on a rotating basis.

On Sunday 30 October at 6.00pm there will be an evensong at St Margaret's Church. Please do come along with your family.

On Sunday, 13 November at 10.50am, there will be a lay-led Remembrance Day Service at St Margaret's Church, commemorating the lives of so many people lost in our wars. There will be a two-minute silence at 11.00am to remember all those killed in conflicts across the world.

The Christmas Eve Carol Service will be on Friday, 24 December at 6.00pm, at St Margaret's Church. This uplifting and ever-popular Templeton Carol Service will be led by Steph, and is an opportunity to sing our favourite carols so put the date in your diary now!

Defibrillator and basic life support training

Since the purchase of the automated external defibrillator (AED) which is kept at the village hall, Matthew and his colleague Lee, have arranged for two groups of people to attend training courses during October in basic life support and in the use of the AED. If you are interested in attending a course and have not already signed up for one of these sessions, please get in touch with Bindy (01884 860655 or email templetonvh@gmail.com) as Matthew may be able to arrange an additional

training session with Lee if these sessions are full. The training would normally cost £10 per person but, as a community, we are totally committed to the defibrillator and so this training will instead be paid for by Templeton Village Hall. If we can save one life, it will have been worth it.

Firework and Bonfire night

By the time this issue of the Today Magazine reaches you, Bonfire Night will be almost upon us! This year the 5 November falls on Saturday so this will be extra special. The gates at Templeton Village Hall will be open from 6.30pm. Hot dogs and hot chocolate will be on sale in the hall. The bar will also be open from 6.30pm and the bonfire will be lit at about 7.30pm. The fireworks will follow once the bonfire has been lit. This year, there will be a guy competition so please bring your guy along with you, with your name on it and take it to the hall for judging. There is no theme as such for the guy but suggestions this year have included a naughty character or tyrant. Entry is £6 for adults and £3 for children aged 5 to 15.

Children's Christmas Party

We are very excited to announce that on Saturday 10 December at 3.00pm, we are expecting a visit by the big man in the red suit at Templeton Village Hall! This is a wonderful, annual family event organised by Tony Loosemore for the children of the village. If your child would like to join the party, please let Tony know beforehand so that he can cater for enough food for everyone (07510128683). There is no cost for this party. You just have to bring a wrapped and clearly named gift for your own child, and find a way to get it to Father Christmas's helpers so he can



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PARISH ROUND-UP

hand it out when the magical moment comes.

The Annual Christmas Bar Games (table tennis, pool, darts and skittles) These games will be held at Templeton Village Hall every Saturday evening in December from Saturday 3 December until the grand finals on Saturday 17 December. Please come and take part in these fun events. There is still plenty of time to practice on club nights - Mondays and Saturdays. However, with the nights closing in, perhaps you and your family and friends would like to use the village hall for a game of table tennis, skittles, darts or pool on other days of the week apart from club nights. Templeton Village Hall is a community asset. Just phone 01884 860655 or email templetonvh@gmail.com to see if it is available on the date you have in mind, and we can arrange for someone to open up the hall for you.

Templeton Garden Club

The Templeton Garden Club has been running for a year now and has doubled in size. We are an eclectic bunch with various skills but we all agree that "one never stops learning"! We meet up each month to share ideas, enjoy each other's gardens and have coffee 'n' cake. We close down from October until February/March. If anyone is interested in joining us then please contact Ginah Palmer on 01884 253552.

Football World Cup

The FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ will be played from 20 November to the 18 December and some of the games will be shown live at Templeton Village Hall. Please contact Mark Stone at templetonvh@gmail.com for further details.

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

Church Flowers and Cleaning Rota for November and December

Remembrance Sunday
6th Nov – 13th Nov Belinda Lindon
Advent
27th Nov Sue Coffin
20th – 27th Nov Teresa Pancherz
Cleaning only
4th Dec - 11th Dec Ginah Palmer
No flowers first week
18th Dec - 25th Dec

loss was felt at the passing of our faithful, dedicated and Christian Queen. There was a Service of Commemoration held the day before the Royal Funeral, when we sang the hymns chosen by the Queen for her own funeral and also sang 'God Save the King' for the first time for some. We pray for him in his momentous task ahead and give thanks for the Queen's wonderful example and devotion to her people.

Due to a regrettable lapse of memory by your correspondent the Church Fete was missed from the last Magazine and so all the people who worked so hard to make this event so successful after a three year gap were not thanked properly - at least not in print! For this lapse; apologies!

Although many folk were still away or at family events we still had a good crowd who spent freely on the laden stalls and other attractions and a respectable sum of over £800 was raised for the church, after expences were paid. Most of all it was so good to be back in the Old Rectory Garden enjoying the sunshine after the showers, and getting back to normal after such a long time of not being able to socialize.

It was good to welcome the Roberts family from Ireland, who came over especially for the event, which Patrick opened with great good humour. All the family helped and Tony's crooked bike was very popular! The 'Tea Ladies' worked very hard. Grateful thanks to them and to all those who contributed to the stalls, ran the stalls and sideshows and all who spent generously, to make this a happy day for Washfield.

With September came Harvest Festival and the church was filled with flowers and with food for CHAT, as vegetables

WASHFIELD

*Fear not November's challenge bold,
we've books and friends
and hearts that never grow cold.
These make amends,
Bless us Lord, this Christmas, with
quietness of mind:
Teach us to be patient and always to
be kind.*

Welcome again to news of the Church and the Village.

The most momentous event has been the death of Queen Elizabeth II and her passing has gripped us all. Our flag has flown at half mast and later at full mast for the Accession to the throne of King Charles III. A Book of Remembrance was placed in the church porch and was signed by many. This has now gone to be preserved for posterity. The church bell was tolled at the statutory times. A great feeling of

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PARISH ROUND-UP

and fruit had suffered from the drought so were not so plentiful. This important Festival of the Church was kept up at St. Mary's as always, and this year the emphasis was on the harvest of our gardens. Mr. Maurice Balment gave an inspiring talk on why looking after his garden and producing home-grown food is so important to him. His garden keeps him occupied all through the Seasons and gives him a rewarding purpose in life. He was given a rousing round of applause!

A 'Bring and Share' Tea followed in the Hall with time to eat cream teas and cakes and to catch up with each other for a chat, with the tea ladies again supplying copious supplies of tea.

An Open Day on the Saturday before Harvest took place in aid of the Devon Historic Churches Trust so that the church was decorated and music played. A few came for coffee and cake, but a good crowd came in the afternoon to hear a fascinating talk on the history of the church by Dr. Oliver Nicholson, whose knowledge of the monuments and of people of the past is encyclopaedic. We all learned a great deal and many questions were answered, before more tea and home made cakes, made by Allison, were consumed. A cheque for £58 was sent to DHCT.

We offer our warm congratulations to Claire who was ordained Priest at The Church of the Holy Cross, Crediton, on 25 September and celebrated her first Holy Communion at Cruys Morchard the next day. It was good to see all her family there with her. We also thank Steph for guiding her through her Curacy so wisely.

Washfield church is hoping to start a toddler's and young children's group on the third Sunday of February next year. Claire is very experienced with young children and to start this new initiative will be leading the first meeting. A short enjoyable event with a story, activity, prayer and of course, drinks and biscuits, once a month, lasting about 30 or 40 minutes at 9.30 am - the time chosen by some of the parents who are interested. We have lots of young children in the Parish and we hope to introduce them to our community. We hope all ages will come and support them so they realize we are a church family. Please look for details in the next magazine. We are very

grateful to Steph, Claire and Dawn for their willingness to get this going. The children are our future.

You will see all the arrangements for Christmas in the centre pages and in Steph's message. Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and please come to the Christingle Service if you can.

With Christmas in mind, the Social Club is organising a children's Christmas Party for the families/children of members of the Social Club on Saturday 3 December between 5.30-7.30pm. There will be a Christmas disco with hopefully a visit from Santa. Don't worry if you are not a member of the Social Club as you can join for just £5 per year and take advantage of ALL the club is organising during the year.

Any queries regarding the party please contact Carly on 07971 569552 or ask at the Social Club (every Tuesday evening)

Look out too, for the Christmas tree at the hall and details of any events under it.

Don't forget that teatime@thehall is held, as always, on the second Tuesday of each month between 2.30-4.30pm. All age groups are welcome to pop in for tea, cakes, chatter and support.

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
 Nov. 6 Mrs May
 Nov. 13/20 Mrs Taylor-Ross
 Nov. 27/Dec. 4 Linda Carey
 Dec. 11/Dec. 18 Mrs Tobey
 Dec. 25/Jan. 1 Mrs French
 Jan. 8/15 Mrs Jones

WITHLEIGH

Along with the rest of the nation, and beyond, we have been mourning the death of Queen Elizabeth the Second, and our thoughts and prayers remain with the Royal Family at this sad time. A remarkable reign has now come to an end, a reign that has been all that many have witnessed. Now we have to adjust

to "God save the King", Charles the Third.

Our Church was full for Frances' funeral service on 18 August, before she was interred in our Churchyard, reuniting her with Gerald and Shaun. Our thoughts and prayers are with Kevin, Sharon, Andrew and families and the late Shaun's family.

Our Annual Garden and Produce Show on 20 August was a successful event, although some entries were down, probably due to the heat wave.

Our thanks to those who worked so hard behind the scenes making sure everything ran smoothly, to the judges, and all exhibitors.

The winners of the Trophies were;
 Vegetable classes - Henry
 Flower classes - Daphne
 Domestic classes - Brenda
 Children's classes - Jasper, runner-up (who received a runners-up certificate)
 Daniel,
 Best in Show - Jean.
 The winner of guess the weight of the potatoes was Stephen P.

At our Family Service on 4 September, we celebrated Stephen and Janet's Ruby Wedding, giving thanks for their marriage, and asking God's blessing on them. The hymns sung were those Stephen and Janet had at their wedding. Thank you, Brenda, for playing the organ for the occasion. Stephen and Janet had asked for donations to Devon Air Ambulance, rather than presents, £530 being raised.

Congratulations and best wishes for the future to Will and Jessica, married in St Catherine's on 10 September.

We held a short reflective service on Sunday 11 September, remembering the Queen's long life and her service to our country and beyond. Our minds then focused on the future, and whilst Janet quietly played "Abide with me" prayers were said for King Charles and members of the Royal Family. We then had a few moments of quiet personal reflection, all of which was very much appreciated by our church family.

Our Harvest Festival then followed, beginning with a harvest greeting. Our thanks to Stephen, for putting together the power point presentation, and for his talk on "The miracle is in the sharing", giving us all "food" for thought!

PARISH ROUND-UP

Thank you to all those who took part in the service. A buffet tea was then enjoyed in the Village Hall.

On the Monday evening our Harvest Supper was well attended. After the meal, Sarah, head of public fundraising for Hospiscare, gave a very interesting talk on their work. Our thanks to Henry who auctioned the harvest produce which raised £340 for Hospiscare

Our Christmas Bingo will take place on Thursday 1 December, Eyes Down 7.30pm.

A Safari Supper is taking place in and around Withleigh on Saturday 12th November. This involves travelling around to various people's homes, enjoying a three course meal on the way. You will need to be with your host for your starter course at 6.30pm, where you will also be offered a welcome drink. The main meal at your second venue will be accompanied with a glass of wine. We will then all meet up in the Village Hall for our Desserts and Coffee. As we enjoy our coffees there will be a running slide show of the photos taken by Stephen Powles of our Platinum Jubilee celebrations. We will need to know numbers well in advance, as it will take careful planning to fit everyone in at each course. Before the event we will be in touch to let you know where to go for your starter and main courses. Tickets are £20 each and will be limited to the number we can accommodate. Please call Christine on 01884 257571 or Brenda 01884 252431.

Our Christmas Fayre will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 3 December, and will run from 10.30am to 3.30pm. There will be various craft and seasonal

stalls, cakes, produce, two raffles (one taking place in the morning and one in the afternoon), cake draw, and hamper draw. Donations of cakes and draw prizes will be gratefully received. Refreshments will be served during the course of the day, including light lunches.

Our Carol Service will be held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 21 December, and gifts of non-perishable items will be collected under the Christmas tree at the beginning of the service. The gifts will then be passed on to C.H.A.T in Tiverton. Following the service, mulled wine / orange juice and mince pies / shortbread will be served.

We welcome the new occupants to Rowans and hope you are settling in. We look forward to seeing you all at future events in the village, and it was good to be able to welcome Rosemary at our Family Service at the beginning of October.

We also wish Mark and Sue well, having moved from Rowans to their new home in Tiverton, but we know we shall still see you in Withleigh tending your animals.

The WOW (Women of Withleigh) continue to meet every second Thursday of the month for talks, social time, crafts, outings etc. All are welcome, please contact Susie on 01884 258492 for information.

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.

Being the last magazine before Christmas, we would like to wish you all a Joyous Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Forthcoming Events:

- Thursday 3 November - Monthly Bingo 7 for 7.30pm.
- Sunday 6 November – Songs of Praise 10.45am.
- Saturday 12 November – Safari Supper, details above.
- Sunday 13 November – Remembrance service 10.50am.
- Thursday 1 December - Christmas Bingo 7 for 7.30pm.
- Saturday 3 December – Christmas Fayre 10.30am – 3.30pm.
- Sunday 4 December – Christingle service 4pm.
- Wednesday 21 December – Carol Service 6.30pm.
- Saturday 24 December – Holy Communion 11pm.

Flower Rota:

- November 6, 13, 20 - Christine Luxton
- November 27, December 4, 11 - Betty Kitchen
- December 18, 25 - CHRISTMAS
- January 1, 8, 2023 - Margaret Gale





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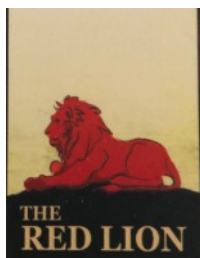
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