



TODAY

The Parish Magazine for the Exe Valley Mission Community

MARCH / APRIL 2023

Price £1.00

'LOOK! REALLY LOOK!'

We've just come back from Italy. I know how fortunate we are. I have not forgotten looking out from our bedroom window as we went into lockdown wondering if we would ever be able to go away, leave the country, or fly on a plane again.

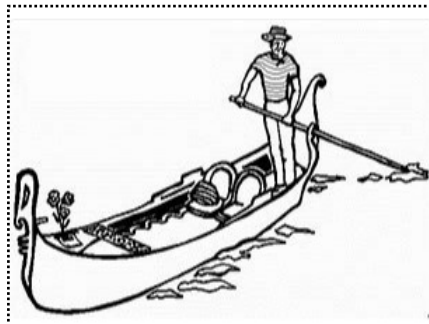
So, I really appreciate the chance to do these things once more. And we were good. We decided to try not to answer emails, or do a bit of work 'on the side' (I can imagine Robert punting down the Grand Canal in a Gondola, singing away, wearing a striped top and a straw hat for a bit of extra cash!), or watch the news or do any of the things that we usually do. We just wanted to get away from it all! And so we did!

We immersed ourselves in the wonderful architecture of Venice, the beauty and vibrancy of Padua, sat in the icy sunshine, poured over artwork ancient and modern, and savoured the coffee and pastries on offer – and of course more than the occasional Aperol Spritz!

But strange to say, although we have spent a week away, life, as we all know, just keeps on going, relentlessly churning out all sorts of stuff and throwing it at us, joys

and thrills, disappointments and fears, disasters and triumphs.

We have come back to devastating and sobering news. The terrible earthquakes in Syria and Turkey; the continuing war in Ukraine; the economic uncertainties of so many countries, including our own; the appalling abuse of power in many institutions, especially the Met; the continuing injustices within the church; and all the stuff that goes on and never ever makes the news headlines...the list is endless.



The truth is that I haven't really got away from it all – I've just 'parked it over there' (which is an extraordinary luxury in itself) and chosen not to look!

Actually, that it not entirely true either. I had chosen not to keep abreast with the latest things coming through on my phone, but

getting away meant that I did have the chance to look, to really look. I sat with a modern sculpture in the Guggenheim. It was a perfect gold ball, reminiscent of a globe, but was deeply flawed, so much so that it exposed its inner ugliness. I sat with it a long time praying for our beautiful but broken world. Some of the artwork in Padua brought me to tears, especially the frescoes by Giusto De'Menabuoi in the Cathedral's Baptistry.

Within it's walls every detail spoke of God's love and his hope for the world, right where we are, all around us.

As Spring unfolds may we be able to look, really look at the things around us, and see God, see his hope and his love and his plan for salvation.

With love and prayers for springtime hope and sunshine warmth in our lives.

Steph

Please look at the website for any updates.

Copy Deadline for May / June 2023 issue

Monday 11 April 2023

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

Advertisements are accepted and included in good faith - but the Exe Valley Mission Community accepts no responsibility for the performance or non-performance of the Advertisers

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
vindr@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

YOUR ADVERT HERE

From Wednesday 2nd March
The Exe Valley Bus Trips will be up and running!
Contact:
Diana Hopper 01884 259781
Jenny Pack 01884 562277

Celebrating 40 years of service 1977-2017

EXE VALLEY MARKET AND COMMUNITY BUS



Scheduled route runs every Tuesday and Friday between Oakford and Tiverton via Stoodleigh, Washfield, Lurley, Loxbeare and Calverleigh
Affordable fares: Free to Senior Bus Pass holders.

For more details or to book a seat ring 01884 881351 or 01398 351694
www.exevalleymarketbus.btck.co.uk

AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE HIRE
CONTACT JENNIE CHAPPELL
01398 351666

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS ALWAYS NEEDED

Does your community group need funding?
See page 19 for information from Batsworthy Cross Community Benefit Fund

Sydenhams

GARDENS & LANDSCAPES

Landscaping and Garden Design

Contract Grass Cutting
Lawn tractor / Lawn mowing

Border design and planting

07971 531163
andrew.sydenham@gmail.com

FROM STEPH

'STEPH ON A STICK'

The experiment to take Steph's talk to our churches has begun.

Throughout our community we are blessed with church members who enjoy and do a fantastic job of leading a service, but like myself, find it is not in their remit to plan and deliver a talk.

These are early days but my goal is:- A memory stick in the back of a 40inch TV and two presses on the remote will be all that is required to bring Steph's message to each of our churches. The first service at Loxbeare was very well received by all. We welcomed a visitor who could not believe how advanced we were in the Exe Valley. It was a wonderful service with the talk given by the Rector, on screen. Thank you Carol and Jean for your support.

Our next trial 'Steph on a Stick' will be at Withleigh on 5 March. Stephen Roche



Worship Retreat Day at Mill House

with Steph and Claire and Dave Edwards

on Saturday 25th March 10.00am-3.00pm

Also with Dave Edwards on 17th June & 30th September 10am-3pm

Cost £22.00 to include a light lunch and cake.- Pay on the day

Come and join us for a special day of unhurried worship, prayer and fellowship in the beautiful setting of Mill House near Westleigh Tiverton EX16 7ES

For more information please contact the church office 01884 250417

Come and join us for our Exe Valley Lunches 12.30pm-2.30pm



Thursday 9th March at Bradleigh House, Templeton

Wednesday 22nd March at Calverleigh Court

Thursday 6th April Agape Meal 6.30pm at Washfield (see centre pages)

Thursday 20th April at Oakford Village Hall



Transport available, please contact the church office 01884 250417 or

Claire on 07873 575276 to book your place.



**Steve Rolfe Oil Tank
Installation Specialists**

A family run business with over 30 years experience of providing professional oil tank installations, covering Devon and Somerset.

*Plastic - Single skin and banded

*Steel - Single skin and banded

*Fuel dispensing tanks

For more information

T: 01398 351471

M: 07894 080143

fionarolfe@live.co.uk



www.steverolfeoiltankinstallationspecialists.com



Mike Ackland Motors

For All Your Motoring Needs

Car & Motorcycle MOT

Repairs, Servicing, Diagnostics

Tyres, Tracking and most other things to all makes.

Forward House, Loxbeare Cross,

Tiverton. 01884 881370

mikeacklandmotors@btinternet.com

www.mikeacklandmotors.co.uk

PARISH ROUND-UP

NATURE NOTES

There is much talk in the village about Winter dragging on too long. You cannot help thinking this is a bit unfair and perhaps more a reflection of the mood - as in 'now is the Winter of our discontent'.

Although no-ones' favourite season, there is much to be said for the chance to turn off for a while and recharge the batteries.

The amazement of childhood when first discovering some animals hibernate has shown no signs of abating. When I think of animals as disparate as tortoises and bears undertaking this option it is tempting to believe we all could do it. Then again would this not deny us so much?

What can compare with the moment you take the blackcurrants out of the freezer and then allow them to defrost? The same smell that covered you when you picked them, spreads right across the kitchen and the ghosts of summers past or those to come is very real in that Winter moment. The yearly arrival of clear starlit nights and the stillness of the valley cloaked in a hoar frost do not invoke feelings of vulnerability but a feeling of home.

In fact it is the resourcefulness of all nature [with or without man's ability to preserve food] to get through periods of harsh weather and food scarcity that needs to be both celebrated and admired. It is probably the humble, likeable and half blind mole that exemplifies this. They bite and subject worms to toxins in their food stores and then come to consume them whilst still

alive at a later date. [I am sure they lose their caches just like squirrels judging from the state of the lawn]

This year, Winter and the cost of living crisis have contrived to make the once routine weekly visit to man's food stores very demanding even without the blatant profiteering that is simple to avoid. I used to laugh at the war time generations that saw fit to continue to store tins in wardrobes rather than clothes deep into the last century, only to find it is yet again a good idea. I am a huge fan of Italian tinned tomatoes because I now see it as a good attempt to capture the sunlight, goodness and taste. My teacher taught me to describe tomatoes as fruit, but I can assure her those pale orange and perfectly formed things from Holland are vegetables.

Certainly it is hard to get through the dark months without the joy of citrus fruits in season or the taste of apples that shine through our ciders, [although there are some that manage to make ciders with no taste of apples at all]

I think we owe it to Nature's bounty to consume less and wisely irrespective of the season so saving the planet, taste buds and sanity.

Thomas More

Join us for our
Coffee Mornings
in person

These takes place on
the 2nd Wednesday of
the month at 10.00am

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

The next one is on
8th April at
Tiverton Golf Club
Future venues around
Tiverton and the Exe Valley

Check out Steph's weekly
update or the website.



East Devon and West Somerset Country Link

Would you like to join a friendly social group with similar interests to you. We organize group events, walks, meals out, skittles, quizzes to name a few.

If interested contact Christine on 07948 484821 or
Email on Flowercottage53@gmail.com

Nature Notes

A message from Thomas More

I am writing because I would be grateful if someone could take on the responsibility for the nature notes. In my time I have contributed some 50 articles and feel it is probably high time a fresh voice was heard. I have enjoyed the chance to contribute to the Today magazine and find it gets better and better so would be grateful if all who help know we rely on the publication and value their work. Please contact Dawn.



FROM STEPH

The Exe Valley Choir

Sarah Milne has kindly agreed to be our Choir Conductor again and Tim Hugill to play the organ, so the choir will be singing at Pentecost, Sunday 28th May in Holy Cross Church, Cruwys Morchard at 10.45am



All rehearsals are on a Thursday and start at 7.30pm

- 20 April - Stoodleigh
- 27 April - Withleigh
- 5 May - Templeton
- 11 May - Oakford
- 18 May - Rackenford
- 25 May - Calverleigh



Sunday 28 May 10.45am Pentecost at Holy Cross Church, Cruwys Morchard
 Everyone is welcome to join the choir so please come along.
 Please contact Claire Curtis on 07873 575276 for further details.

**ANDREW BEANE - Our 5th Sunday Guest Speaker at
 Cruwys Morchard 30th April 10.45am**

Andrew has been Archdeacon of Exeter since September 2019.
 He was ordained in 2003 and has held incumbancies at Horsham St Faith and Aylsham until his appointment as Archdeacon.

GSH **G S HAYDON & SON**
 Carpentry & Joinery
 Established and family run since 1926
 Undertaking all aspects of carpentry and joinery

windows-doors-stairs-interiors-kitchens
 conservatories-refurbishments

T : 01769 572134
 W : www.gshaydon.co.uk
 E : info@gshaydon.co.uk
 A : Pathfields Business Park, South Molton

DEEPALLER FARM B&B
 LOXBEARE, TIVERTON, EX16 8BX

Very accessible and yet private B&B - only 10 mins from Tiverton.
 En-suite & private bathrooms.
 See our website for details and reviews.
 e-mail: deepallerfarmbandb@hotmail.com
www.deepallerfarmbandb.com
 Mike & Sheila Watson
 01884 881410

Exe Valley Osteopathy
 Sam Mildren & Lauren Mildren
 Conveniently located in Tiverton & Dulverton
 07902831602
www.exevalleyosteopathy.co.uk

JSP-Electronics
 Digital Engineering for everyone

Computer Repairs and Upgrades
 TV and Satellite Installation
 TV Sales and Repairs
 Networking and CCTV
 Contact Jamie (ex Stoneman TV)
 01884 243997 or 07999909130
www.jsp-electronics.co.uk

PARISH ROUND-UP

CALVERLEIGH

With snowdrops making a lovely show and daffodils emerging from the ground there are signs of springtime all around, along with the lengthening evenings.

That said, we return to events of last year. On 16 December the ashes of Martin Pincombe were interred in the churchyard. Our condolences go to his family and friends and to anyone else who is mourning the loss of a loved one.

Saturday 17 December saw the wedding of Harry and Violet. The church was already decorated for Christmas for which we thank all who did their bit and with the bride and grooms own added touch to the décor with lanterns and candles this made for an atmospheric service as the sun was setting. We wish the happy couple a lifetime of happiness as they begin their journey of married life.

Our congratulations go to Mark and Victoria as well who have also started married life together. Our very best wishes to you both.

On 18 December we held our Carol Service in the afternoon. The service was led by Jackie. Traditional carols were sung interspersed with familiar Bible readings retelling the story of the first Christmas and we were delighted that a number of children came forward during the service to sing 'Away in a manger' to the congregation. Our thanks go to all who did readings or took part in any other way.

Christmas Day saw a large congregation come together to celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ with carols and Holy Communion. Rev'd Steph re-told the Christmas story with a lively and comical tale which was based on the names of chocolate bars. Very clever and amusing. Thank you, Steph for your words and the confectionary.

Loxbeare and Calverleigh carol singers went out on two evenings around both villages. 10 people turned out on both nights including a babe in arms, well in a pram to be truthful, along with some who were joining us for the very first time. We are grateful to Jean, Myrtle and family who put on supper for the singers on the Tuesday or Thursday. Very welcome after a night of singing. Money raised from donations went to CHAT and Hospice Care. Our thanks go to Sue and Aubrey for arranging the evenings after a break because of Covid. A total of £485.00 was raised and divided between the two charities. Unfortunately we were unable to get to all the usual homes but hopefully we can get to everyone next year.

A good donation of produce and toiletries were collected for CHAT during the Christmas period and delivered to the CHAT office when it opened in the new year. Thank you to all who gave in any way. All contributions were gratefully received.

January saw a new time for our Family Service which began at 9.30am. Although a little unsure as to how many would be there for the earlier start, we were pleasantly surprised at the turn out and pray that numbers will grow even more over time. Rev'd Steph led

the service and Dave Edwards played his guitar for the hymns/songs. Children attending participated before and during the service.

The funeral of Michelle Goldsworthy took place on 19 January followed by burial in the churchyard. Our thoughts and prayers are with Michelle's family at this time.

Future events

Please see articles in the centre of the magazine for Easter services, activities and events.

The Annual Day of Prayer which entails 12 hours of continuous prayer, split into half hour time slots will take place this year on Saturday 13 May. Those taking part can pray wherever they feel comfortable. If you do not already do so and would like to take part information will be in church closer to the time or speak to Aubrey or Jackie. Prayer sheets will be handed out before the day.

We will be holding a Coffee Morning at Calverleigh Village Hall on Saturday 3 June 2023 in aid of FORCE Cancer Support in memory of Graham Webber. Details to follow in next magazine.

Cleaning Rota

6 - 18 March: Mrs A Balsdon
20 March - 1 April: Mrs S Greenslade
3 - 15 April: Mrs A Webber
17 - 29 April: Mrs J Goldsworthy
1 - 13 May: Mrs M Furneaux

Mowing Rota

17 - 29 April: Mr A Goldsworthy
1 - 13 May: Mr C Durnan
15 - 27 May: The Webber Family

local ... convenient ... friendly
YOUR COMMUNITY SHOP AT RACKENFORD

POST OFFICE

For all your grocery and household needs - including speciality bread, local honey and home baked cakes and biscuits.

Post Office (Tues & Thurs am),
Cash ATM, Prescription Service.

Open daily (check for hours)
01884 881740

Visit soon.



- Experienced, friendly, local RIBA chartered architectural practice based in Pennymoor, Tiverton, working across the South West.
- Specialising in the adaptation of listed buildings, residential extensions, renovations and low energy design new builds.
- Call Luke McAdam for a chat about your project and how we might be able to help:

01392 459777 - mail@hmad.co.uk - www.hmad.co.uk

PARISH ROUND-UP

Do you have anything to share in the magazine or website (for last minute events or messages)? Please send your family notices, 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.

CRUWYS MORCHARD

Spring is here!

As we welcome back that old familiar friend, Spring, we say a hearty and warm welcome to all those that have recently moved into Cruwys Morchard. Hello, we look forward to our paths crossing. Whilst we also bid a fond farewell to those that are leaving.

Church of the Holy Cross

The Marriage Preparation Day held on Saturday 4 February at the Parish Hall looked so welcoming thanks to Claire's touch. We hope that the couples enjoyed their day with Claire, Steph and Robert, and received lots of useful information as they prepare for their weddings.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are unwell at this time and

with everyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one. We send our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of Irene Lancelles and Edith Murphy.

Flower and Cleaning Rota
 Feb 27/Mar 6 Lorna Warren (no flowers, Lent)
 Mar 13/20 Carol Chisholm and Jackie Mitchell (no flowers, Lent)
 Mar 27 Lorna Warren (no flowers, Lent)
 April 3 Decorators for Easter
 April 10 & 17 Cindy Trick
 Apr 24 & May 1 Carol Chisholm and Jackie Mitchell
 May 8/15 Diana Vincent and Val Randerson

Thank you to all who help with the cleaning, flowers, mowing and for other jobs that need doing in the church and churchyard throughout the year. Please contact Cindy if you have any problems with the cleaning and flower rota.

For up coming services in our church please see the central pages of this magazine.

Oscar Gibbs
 WOW thank you to all the Pennymoor residents who donated to CHAT in November. I am blown away by the generosity shown and I was very excited to drop off the donations. In total I collected over 200 donations which included personal care and cleaning products, packets of rice and pasta, assorted tins, soup and pot noodles. I would like finish by thanking you for your kindness.
 Many thanks Oscar Gibbs
 Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall

Many thanks to everyone who braved the extremely cold evening to attend our Christmas Bingo. This proved to be a popular event and £170 was raised for the Parish Hall's funds.

The Parish Hall's Annual General Meeting is going to be held on Tuesday 14 March 2023 at 8.00 pm at the Parish Hall. All welcome to attend.

Cruwys Morchard YFC
 In January we took part in the Performing Arts competition and came third. We then re-ran the performance at the Parish Hall in February. The group round of Junior Member of the Year was also held in January, where Jessica Kingdom came first and Gracie Rice came second. Jess will now go on to represent Exe Valley group at county level.

The club raised £239.80 with the Christmas Tree Festival. The RABI tractor run raised in the region of £650 for the charity. Our club bingo raised about £600 and thank you to all who supported us. We have another bingo on the 25 March.

Many of us have taken part in a lambing course, which has been really enjoyable and we've learnt a lot. Our thanks to Jonathan Woods Vets for hosting this course. We are now planing to do skills for life in hedge laying, sheep show preparation and lamb stock judging in the next couple of months. We are holding a club social skittles event in March, advisory v members.

We have our monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall at 7.30pm.

Ray Westcott & Sons

Traditional West Country Thatchers

Over **35** years experience. NO job too **SMALL**

Estimates given **FREE**



Tel : 01884 255368

Mobile : 07990 951809

Or : 07788 293580

F. BALMENT

& Sons Ltd. EST. 1930

BUILDERS CONTRACTORS

DECORATORS

STONE AND BRICK WALLING

PATIO'S - PAVING

'Davia', Washfield, Tiverton.

Tel: 01884 256094

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.

PARISH ROUND-UP

Cruwys Morchard and Puddington Gardeners

We had our first meeting of the year in The Cruwys Arms on the 1st February. We voted last year to pay an annual subscription in order to have money for speakers and events. Members will have free admission to talks, assuming there is money in the kitty, but all non members will still be welcome, paying a small admission fee where appropriate.

We have already lined up a speaker for April; one of the Dartmoor Rangers will be coming to talk on the Dartmoor Peat Restoration project in Puddington Village Hall, Wednesday 5 at 8.00 pm. An understanding of the importance of peat in helping to combat climate change is relevant to us all and the withdrawal of peat products from sale is due to go ahead next year. On Wednesday 3 May we have a visit to Ashmoor Nurseries where Jenny will demonstrate the art of assembling hanging baskets. There are 5 places left so if anyone would like to join us let me know (no fee). Where we have no speaker we will be meeting in the Cruwys Arms so this is the venue for Wednesday March 1 where the main topic will be 'sowing and planting'.

Congregational Churches

We look forward to seeing you at our warm space opportunities:

Coffee Morning, Tuesdays at Nomansland chapel from 11am to 12.30pm.

Lovely Lunches, first Saturday of the month 12noon to 2pm in Pennymoor chapel.

Sunday services

2.30pm Nomansland chapel *

4.30pm Pennymoor chapel *

* Except for 3rd Sunday of the month, all join Way Village chapel 2.30pm.

Please check Facebook or Notice Board for advertising. Alternatively contact Ruth on 01363 530013.

Magazine Contact

If you would like something included in the Cruwys Morchard parish round-up please contact Ali Vincent on 07801 480806 or alisonpvincent@hotmail.co.uk

pony to re-enact Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey. Easter Sunday on the 9th will be Holy Communion Service with Steph at 9.30am. The APCM will be held after the service at 9.30am on 16 April.

There will be PCC meeting on 28 March at 7.30.

We continue to pray for Stephen and all who are unwell or recovering from covid, flu, cold viruses etc. Trust everyone will soon be feeling better.

LOXBEARE

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

Christmas seems so long ago now but we thank all who prepared services, took part, decorated the Church, or helped in any way over the Christmas season to bring joy and blessing to others as we celebrated Jesus' birth. For those who went carol singing, provided supper and those who gave donations. Thank you.

Also thanks to Sue and helpers for organising the party on Jan 14. An enjoyable and fun evening.

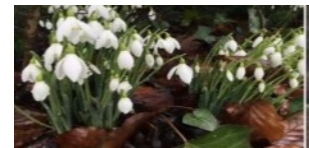
Our services for March/April start with Coffee, cake and chat on the 5 March at 10.45am. The 12 will be a Cluster Service also at 10.45am. Mothering Sunday on 19 begins with a breakfast in the Hall from 9.30am, followed by a service also in the hall. Do come and join us.

Palm Sunday on 2 April at 10.45 will, weather permitting, include a procession with hopefully a donkey or

Happy birthday to all who have birthdays in March/April and anyone celebrating special occasions.

On 11 March we will be having a soup lunch, instead of cream tea, 12.30-2.30 in the Village Hall, and then on 8 April we will be back to cream tea 3-4.30pm. Donations for both events for charity. April 3 will be Bingo in the Village Hall, doors open at 7pm, for eyes down at 7.30pm.

Looking forward to May, celebrating King Charles III Coronation. Details are not finalised yet, but we are planning to have a flower and craft festival in the Church which will be open during the day on 6,7 and 8. Decorating will be on Friday 5. There will be a meeting to decide on details on 13 April in the Church at 7.30. Everyone welcome. There is being planned a concert on Saturday 6 at 7pm. There will also be another meeting on 27 April in the Hall to finalise celebrations.



little angels early years provider
Daycare Nursery From 3 months to 12 years
 Rackenford, Tiverton, EX16 8DT 01884 881272
 Email:- nicola@littleangelschildcare.org.uk
 Website:- www.littleangelschildcare.org.uk

STUART HAGLEY LTD
BUILDING
 New builds, extensions, conversions and alterations
 Please call Stuart on 01884 881487 or 07926 291 442 for a quote

G P Stuckey
General Builder
 Ashley Park Farm, Seven Crosses, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 5NW
 Tel: 01884 258481
 Mobile: 07434 616399
 Extensions, Roofing, Plastering, Painting, Patios and Drives, Plumbing, Stone Walls, Listed Building Works, Lime Plaster Cob

Raynham Property Maintenance
 Bathroom Installations & Property Repairs
Darren Webb
 Mobile: 07790 733472
 Tel: 01884 798619
 Washfield, Tiverton

CLEAN SWEEP
CHIMNEY AND FLUE CLEANING
KEVIN JONES
 TRELAWNEY STATION ROAD WILLAND EX15 2PR
 Email kevin@sw33p.com 01884 821297
 Website www.sw33p.com 07773618524
 BRUSH AND VACUUM SERVICE. CLEAN FRIENDLY RELIABLE

RoseTime Flowers
 43 Bampton Street, Tiverton, EX16 6AH
 Tim Nichols
 Tel: 01884 561763
 Unique affordable floral designs for all occasions
 www.rosetimeflowers.co.uk

PARISH ROUND-UP

OAKFORD

By the time we receive our magazines hopefully the worst of the gloomy times will have past.

January and February brought grey days with endless heavy rain, cold winds and then snow and icy roads. We have had to cope with giant ever expanding, untended potholes (I am beginning to wonder if there is a road maintenance department in Devon!), missing parcels and strikes along with colds and 'flu and other nasty illness.

But March is here:

The reservoirs are almost full (due to all that rain). Maybe we can drive or take the village bus to nearby towns to shop instead of shopping on line thus doing away with the stress of missing deliveries.

The birds are beginning to sing and very soon there will be new lambs out in the fields to make us smile. Buds and bulbs and snowdrops are appearing in gardens and hedgerows everywhere. Unfortunately we do still have to dodge the potholes. Please everyone keep reporting them to Devon County Council.

St Peter's Oakford news.

Fund raising for the bell tower is still ongoing. There is a lot of interest in the bells throughout the community. Oakford is lucky to have a peal of eight bells which are able to produce a splendid sound for weddings and special occasions as well as calling villagers to church services.

Here are a few interesting facts about the bells of St Peter's Church.

The oldest part of St Peter's Church is the 15th century tower. In 1549 during the reign of the child King Edward VI, the 'Protector Somerset' ordered that the bells in all churches of Devon and Cornwall be taken down and the clappers confiscated.

However, Churches were soon allowed to buy back their bells and by 1553 when Mary came to the throne, the silenced bells were ringing again.

Unfortunately this was not the case in Oakford as at the time St Peter's was reported as the only church in the county with no bells. 1577 and William Hyll Spurway gave £3 to help buy a bell.

200 years later in 1760 it was recorded in an inventory of the church that the tower had 5 bells. In 1813 James Parkin jnr became Oakford's new Rector and he remained so for the rest of his life. It was the Reverend Parkin who generously presented to Oakford the peal of 8 bells that still ring in St Peter's Church today. They were said to be among the best sounding bells in Devon and many ringers came from across the county wanting to try them.

Dates for your Diary

Charity Dog Walk

Sunday 12 March 10am Oakford Village Hall. To help the Haemophilia Society.

£10 each - to include a sausage sandwich and a hot drink

Extra family members - £5, children under 12 - free

The aim is to circumnavigate the globe between 17 February and 17 April (World

Haemophiliac Day). Your miles walked will be added to the total to help us reach our goal. If you don't have a dog come along anyway.

To book your place contact debra@haemophilia.org.uk or Carla at bob.bancroft@live.co.uk

The Red Lion Quiz

19 March 8.00pm

16 April 8.00pm

Moorland Club

9 March 7.30pm AGM and presentation of Charity cheque

13 April 7.30pm Easter themed evening tbc.

11 May 7.30pm A talk by Sean Mayer, an open meeting

Title - Shackleton the Antarctic explorer

Guests - £2. All welcome

Plans are being made for events in the village to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles.

Look out for more information on the village notice boards and around the village, in due course.

Community Freezer - ready made meals are available for anyone in Oakford who needs one. They are in a freezer at Bluehayes Contact Sid - 07799 417453 or Julia - 01398 351682

We send our deepest sympathy to Sam and the family and friends of Georgina who has passed away. She will be sadly missed. We have also heard that Jackie Mead, a long time resident of Oakford and great friend of St Peter's has passed away. Jackie was Chairperson on Oakford Parish Council for many years and we send our deepest sympathy to Roger and family.

Ian Curtis
Painter & Decorator

Interior
 Exterior
 Tiling
 Wallpapering
 Minor repairs
 Free estimates
 No VAT

Friendly & efficient local service

Contact Ian on
 07821 349314 (mobile)

EXTERNAL CLEANING
 with excellence and integrity

Clean, restore and protect:

DRIVEWAYS PATIOS
 ROOFS RENDER
 GUTTERS PVC

DEVON
 SURFACE CARE

Call us on: 01884 370073
www.devonsurfacecare.co.uk

FOUR SEASONS
 PROFESSIONAL TREE SERVICES

All Aspects of Tree Surgery
 Stump Removal
 Crown Lifting Crown Reduction
 Grounds Maintenance Grass Cutting
 Hedge Cutting All types of Fencing
 Wood Chip Seasoned Logs
 General Garden Maintenance Turfing
 Fully Insured Private & Commercial Customers
 Free Quotations
www.fourseasons-treeservices.com
 Oliver Vernon
info@fourseasons-treeservices.com
 01884 563021/07766168162

City & Guilds
NPTC

5 MARCH

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Morning Worship

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Prayer

LOXBEARE

10.45am Coffe, cake and chat

OAKFORD

See Rackenford

RACKENFORD

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

STOODLEIGH

See Rackenford

TEMPLETON

No Service

WASHFIELD

3.00pm Evening Prayer

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Family Service

12 MARCH

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

See Loxbeare

CRUWYS MORCHARD

No Service

LOXBEARE

10.45am Holy Communion
*Claire Curtis
with Dave Edwards*

OAKFORD

No Service

RACKENFORD

9.15am Explore
*Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and Dave Edwards*

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

TEMPLETON

10.45am Family Service

WASHFIELD

See Loxbeare

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Morning Worship

19 MARCH

MOTHERING SUNDAY

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

9.30am Family Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

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

LOXBEARE

9.30am Breakfast followed by
Service in the hall

OAKFORD

10.45am Service of the Word
Claire Curtis

RACKENFORD

10.45am Family Service

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Family Service

TEMPLETON

See Cruwys Morchard

WASHFIELD

10.45am Family Service

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Sunday Special

PLEASE REMEMBER
THAT YOU ARE
WELCOME TO JOIN ANY
SERVICE IN ANY
CHURCH IN THE EXE
VALLEY MISSION
COMMUNITY ON A
SUNDAY



Baptism and Confirmation

We have had 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.

26 MARCH

9.30am Zoom Service

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
OUR MISSION
COMMUNITY
HOLY COMMUNION
GROUP SERVICE

at

10.45am in
WASHFIELD

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

Everyone welcome

**2 APRIL
PALM SUNDAY**

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Morning Worship

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Prayer

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise with
donkey procession

OAKFORD

See Stoodleigh

RACKENFORD

See Stoodleigh

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Holy Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs
with Dave Edwards

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

10.45am Morning Prayer

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Family Service



**6 APRIL
MAUNDY THURSDAY**

Agape Meal 6.30pm
at Washfield Village Hall

Please contact the church office to
book

**7 APRIL
GOOD FRIDAY**

10.45am Cruwys Morchard
Easter Reflections
Claire Curtis

10.45am Rackenford
Easter Reflections
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

10.00am Withleigh Village Hall
Hot Cross Buns and Reflections

**9 APRIL
EASTER SUNDAY**

LOXBEARE

9.30am Holy Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs and
Dave Edwards

RACKENFORD

10.45am Easter Praise

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Holy Communion
Claire Curtis

WASHFIELD

10.45am Holy Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs and
Dave Edwards

WITHLEIGH

9.30am Breakfast in the hall
followed by Holy Communion
Ian Johnson

16 APRIL

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

9.30am Family Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Templeton

LOXBEARE

9.30am Service of the Word
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Book of Common
Prayer

TEMPLETON

10.45am Holy Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and Dave Edwards

WASHFIELD

9.30am Sunday Club

WITHLEIGH

See Templeton

23 APRIL

9.30am Zoom Service

**OUR
MISSION
COMMUNITY
HOLY
COMMUNION
GROUP SERVICE**

is at
10.45am in
WITHLEIGH

Steph Gordon-Jeffs
Claire Curtis
with Dave Edwards

Everyone Welcome

30 APRIL

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

**WITH GUEST
SPEAKER
ARCHDEACON
ANDREW BEANE**

Steph Gordon-Jeffs
Claire Curtis and Dave
Edwards

Everyone welcome

30 APRIL

WITHLEIGH

9.30am Poems, Prayers and
Praise in Village Hall

PARISH ROUND-UP

Our thoughts, prayers and best wishes go to Donald, Mary, Brenda, Ken, Lesley, Jean and anyone in the parish who has been unwell in hospital or at home.

We said goodbye to Jean at Longmead who has left the village and is now very happy in her new home in Tiverton.

Best wishes to all who have birthdays or special anniversaries in March and April.

RACKENFORD

We sent sympathy regarding Margaret's death in the previous issue but apologies to Margaret's husband for a mistake in his name. Margaret's cremation was held at North Devon Crematorium on December 7 where family and friends gathered.

Our belated sympathy to John, daughters, grandchildren, sisters, family and friends on the death of Carol. Our deepest sympathy and prayers to you all at this difficult time

Rackenford school presented us with their nativity on December 7 which once again delighted all family and friends with their enthusiasm and wonderful scenery.

A wonderful story was told. Beautifully made programmes were designed by the children.

We continue to enjoy our Explore services taken by Claire, Steph and Dave. It is so encouraging to see the children becoming involved and taking part in various ways with crafts, taking

shoes off and drawing around their feet to explain a story, making items and of course enjoying drinks and biscuits.

Many thanks to Liz and Tim for all the work involved in providing, delivering and decorating our beautiful Christmas tree standing by the altar. Thank you to everyone who helped to decorate, provided foliage, flowers and all the little added touches that completed the Christmas scene, not forgetting the stable and figures we always place on the font for all to view.

Festive snow descended upon us prior to Christmas although pretty and enjoyed by the children it brought the usual issues, including a problem for the carol singers and some band members who felt it too slippery and dangerous to travel from door to door so decided to sing inside The Stag.

Our shop kindly provided us with a drop off and collect point for Christmas cards which is such a great benefit to many.

Our Lay Led service at Christmas Eve surpassed all expectations with a practically full church, enhanced by The Three Kings in fine voice and with Graham at the organ playing carols before, during and after the service. We left with a heart warming Christmassy feeling.

Mary (our church warden) received many thanks from the congregation as they left for such an enjoyable and lovely service. It was such a good feeling to have you with us.

Our Christmas Day H C Service with Rev'd Ian Johnson had a smaller congregation but was greatly enjoyed

by those who attended. Rev'd Ian began the service Blessing the Crib where the Christmas story began and marveled at the Nativity scene within and interested who made the contents and when? Of course several will remember it was Sylvia Crocker and Elsie Carter who did all the knitting and making but how many years ago is difficult to recall, wish we could remember. Hearty singing with Graham playing completed a beautiful Christmas morning service. The children at the service were delighted to tell us that Father Christmas had been to them. How exciting.

We now move forward to planning our fund raising for the year. We hope to serve Cream Teas etc in the church again in July, a Sponsored Walk hopefully September/ October. Dates yet to be confirmed.

If anyone has any new suggestions for fundraising, are willing to help, run a stall and maybe join the walk we would love to hear from you. The more the merrier.

On May 6 the Coronation of King Charles will take place. It has been announced that at a time to be confirmed (as far as we know) bells would be rung throughout the country to "Ring for The King ". We would love our bells to be rung for this momentous occasion but in order to do so we need your help. If you are or were a bell ringer and could spare a while to make this happen could you please give Liz a ring on 881331 and have a chat. Many thanks.

The Gardening Club will be holding the Spring Show in church on Saturday 8

DOIVE DESIGNS
Web Design, Development and Hosting

*Need a new website?
or do you simply need advice
about your current one?*

Give Dave a call on
07817 851856
or 01884 561499

www.doivedesigns.co.uk

Bickleigh on Exe C.E. Primary School

**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!



**HIGHFIELD
CERAMICS
SCHOOL**

Professionally Qualified Teacher
Adults and Children
Mixed Ability Classes
All Aspects of Claywork
Mornings and Evenings
Parties for Special Occasions
Mixed Groups
D of E Students
Call Rosie on:
01884 257123
www.ceramics.lu

PARISH ROUND-UP

April. Come along and enjoy this wonderful display of produce.

On Sunday 29 we held the "Mission Community 5th Sunday Service at 10.45am with guest speaker Andy Flannigan. Executive Director of Christians in Politics and also a Singer Songwriter and worship leader. Andy spoke passionately about faith, Christians and politics and his life in Devon.

Our church grass cut has now been completed throughout towards the end of January.

Some Christmas wreaths have been removed by loved ones but some still remain.

A little reminder. We have a varied selection of books for adults and children in church if you are looking for a good read.

We remember and pray for all we know of who are unwell, having operations, pending operations, receiving treatment. We send our prayers and best wishes to Ruth, Joan and Jacques and all who are feeling under the weather or depressed. We remember all those at war facing such terrible times and conditions and very uncertain futures.

To all who are celebrating wedding anniversaries, birthdays, etc we hope you have a very happy day. We have heard that Jacques and Roy have 80th birthdays looming. Have a good day.

As we go to print we are enjoying some beautifully dry, sunny and bright days which seems such a treat. Lots of

spring flowers in bloom, snowdrops, daffodils, camellias, and lots of shrubs budding. We hope this will brighten our days as the wonder of nature continues to cheer us with its presence. Not forgetting the many birds who continue to visit our gardens. Such a wide variety to enjoy watching.

STOODLEIGH

Report from St Margaret's

Our flag is finally flying over St Margaret's Church! A great team effort and many thanks to Paul and Jeannie who led the effort to raise the money. We also thank the Parish Council for their contribution and support.

It's been a busy few months here at the Church. We were lucky enough to have a service on both Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Christmas Day was very busy even though it was at 9.30a.m. It was really lovely to see so many new faces at St Margaret's.

We hosted the Group Service at the end of January which was a great success with Steph, Claire and Dave Edwards who also brought Charlotte with him to play her flute. It was a real treat and a wonderful service. Steph's sermon was amazing as it reminded us to look for God in the small things and not just when we have a huge problem.

We have also run the first of the BCP (Book of Common Prayer) services. We intend to hold this type of service every third Sunday of the month as we know

and appreciate that a lot of people miss the old style services. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Looking forward, we will be running an evening of Wine, Cheese and Skittles on 22 April. It's a new venture for the Church and we hope it will be well supported and great for everyone.

During the summer, we will be running the Dog Show with the Parish Hall Committee on Saturday 24 June, a change of date from the normal August, but we are hoping more people will be able to come, because they won't be on holiday.

We are also planning to run a couple of stalls in South Molton market to raise money for the church as well as running a few coffee mornings which are always popular.

Garden Club.

Stoodleigh Garden Club are just beginning their 2023 events with a visit to Snowdrop Valley on Sunday 19 February. This will be followed by Pottery – we will be making cane toppers at the end of February and trying our hand at Willow Weaving in March. If you are interested in joining us for any of our events, details of what to do and who to contact are on the Garden Club page of the Stoodleigh Parish Website.

A note from the Cricket Club

The Autumn and Winter months have given time for the ground to be rested and renovated for the new season. We have had Awards Nights over the past couple of months to recognise the achievements of the last year.



Kazz Hands
Nails That Get You Noticed

 www.facebook.com/kazzHands

karen@kazz-hands.co.uk 07810 807970

Based in Washfield

**BLACKERTON
CROSS GARAGE**
CARS, VANS & 4X4 SALES

SERVICE, REPAIRS,
WELDING, TYRES & EXHAUSTS
MOT Preparation

01398 341405

View our current vehicles for sale at:
www.blackertoncrossgarage.co.uk
sales@blackertoncrossgarage.co.uk

East Anstey EX16 9JT
On the B3227 between South Molton & Bampton



TOM PLUME FORESTRY
DRY SEASONED LOGS
DUMPY BAG £60
2 DUMPY BAGS £110
TRAILER LOAD £120
SAWN TIMBER
07966107055 OR
01884 881615

PARISH ROUND-UP

Bing Torrance won the Club League Bowler, Friendly Batter and Players' Player. Matt Shaw won League Batter. Harvey Wilder won League Fielder and Alex Russell won the Friendly Bowling Award.

The new season starts in May with the league team now playing in Division 2 of the West Somerset Cricket League. Pre-season games and training start in April. The friendly side season also kicks off in May.

We welcome the support of the village and locals and if you are interested in playing or want to know more about the club, please get in contact with Matt Shaw (secretary)
jackdawscottage@hotmail.com
Keep an eye open for some exciting fund raising events over the summer.

Parish Hall News

The Parish Hall welcomed a happy crowd for a soup and sandwich lunch on New Year's Eve just before we closed the old kitchen ready for the re-fit. We're delighted to report that the new kitchen is now installed, up and running and ready for sharing and hiring. It's an amazing improvement and provides much better catering facilities. If you're thinking about organising events or parties, we'd be pleased to welcome you. Please contact the treasurer, Janet, at rusianjan@btinternet.com for details and bookings.

The Committee would like to thank the regular kitchen users and members for their planning input, ideas and support and our kitchen fitter MRFIXIT (John) together with Twin Peaks Electrics and Tim'll Fixit it, the plumber - brilliant professionals.

Coming Events

Coffee, Walk and Lunch 4 March. Start and finish at the Parish Hall. Lunches will also be available for non walkers. Booking essential for catering purposes with the secretary Geraldine at geraldinetalbot@live.com or 351391.

Easter Fair: 8 April from 11.00am. to 1.30pm. at the Hall. Offering coffee and light lunches, local and visiting stallholders, community plant stall, competitions and more. Book your table to showcase and sell your goods. Please contact Geraldine as above for more details or to book.

Regular soup and sandwich and light lunches will be available at the Parish Hall during 2023, starting soon. Dates will be posted on the community email and Stoodleigh Parish website.

Date for your diary

Stoodleigh Family Fun Dog Show 24 June. Dog show classes available in due course, Pimms Tent, Teas, stalls, competitions and raffle. If you would like to be involved have ideas or would like to help, just contact Geraldine.

Stoodleigh 100 Club

Recent winners

November - Sheila Norman, Willie Knowles, Andrew Rigamonti, Di Honors
December - Shirley Cope, Heather Palfrey, Mandy Widdowson, Kay Bassano.

Extra prizes - Linda Sharrock, Jan Mills, Trevor Cope, Jennifer Ayre.

Church Flower Rota.

8 April - 15 Easter (everybody)
22 April - 29 Phyllis Hill

6 May
15 May
20 May - 27

Penny Norman
Angela Hill
Geraldine Talbot

TEMPLETON

Although March is the first month of Spring, it is also traditionally wet and blustery at this time of year. March 4 is a day that is also an instruction. More greenery and a bit less mud will be a welcome change as our country lanes, and possibly our gardens, start to come alive with the colours of Spring bulbs.

March brings breezes loud and shrill, Stirs the dancing daffodil. (Coleridge)
Now we know why they are dancing.

St Margaret's Church - upkeep and services

Work on St Margaret's Church and the churchyard continues. Last year, we had experts who worked on the interior of our church; stripping, plastering and repainting part of the rear wall. This exposed the beautiful stonework around the window frame. The PCC is planning more work to be carried out on the walls and stonework surrounding the window behind the altar.

On March 12 there will be a lay-led family service at 10.45am at St Margaret's Church. There will be services in March in other parishes, including a Holy Communion cluster service at Cruwys Morchard on 19 March, and a group Holy Communion service at Washfield on 26th March - both at 10.45am.

continued overleaf ➔

LOGS

L Adams Tree Services

All aspects of Tree Surgery
Stump Grinding | Hedge Trimming
Fencing | Garden Maintenance
Grass Cutting & Strimming
Landscaping | Logs

contact Lloyd Adams on

07809
613490

01884
32864

lloyd@ladamstreeservices.co.uk www.ladamstreeservices.co.uk

William Withers & Co

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Business & Tax Specialists

t 01884 253030
e info@williamwithers.co.uk
www.williamwithers.co.uk

Quayside House
5 Highland Terrace
Barrington Street
Tiverton
Devon EX16 6PT

PARISH ROUND-UP

On April 2 (Palm Sunday), at 10.45am there is a lay-led Morning Service at St Margaret's Church, Templeton.

There will be no Easter Sunday Service in Templeton, as there are Holy Communion services in Loxbeare, Stoodleigh, Witleigh and Washfield. Please check the centre pages of this issue for more details of the upcoming services.

On Sunday 16 April at 10.45am there will be a Holy Communion Cluster Service with Steph at St Margaret's Church, Templeton. This will be followed by Templeton's Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 11.45am which should be straight after the Service. We do hope that you can join the meeting and have your say about church services, the maintenance of St Margaret's Church and the churchyard. At this meeting, the churchwardens will be nominated and elected for serving next year. The PCC members and deanery representative will also be elected, and the electoral roll will be revised.

Events – past and future

Hornets – the Gentle Giants

On January 17 Stephen Powles gave his much-anticipated talk on 'Hornets – the Gentle Giants', at St Margaret's Church, which had been postponed in December due to the cold weather. It was very nice to indulge in festive mulled wine and mince pies in January before the talk began and it was well worth the wait. Stephen told us so much about these fascinating insects and shared his own hornet experiences which made for an informative and highly entertaining evening. His photography is wonderful and the methods he uses to capture photos of the hornets are amazing. We look

forward to welcoming Stephen back for another wildlife talk soon!

Come and join the Safari Supper

On Saturday March 11, there will be another Safari Supper in Templeton. This popular event is a supper where each course is eaten at different hosts' houses during the same evening, allowing people to move from house to house and meet up with different guests and hosts for each course. Initially, everyone will gather at St Margaret's Church at 6.30pm for a glass of Prosecco or soft drink and starters, before going on to other homes for the next two courses. You may choose to host either a main course or a dessert (usually about 6-8 guests per group) and be a guest for the other course, or you may prefer to be a guest for both courses. Do let us know if you're willing to be a host for one of the courses or if you'd like to take part as a guest for both courses so we can organise who goes where! Tickets are £10 each, and all proceeds will go to St Margaret's Church Repair Fund, Templeton. If you are interested or would like to know more, please contact Laurel 01884 250343, Bindy 01884 860655, or Lynda 01884 881318.

Templeton Trail - Sunday March 26

The popular annual Templeton Trail is a fun run organised by Exe Valley Rotary Club on Sunday March 26th 2023 with runners setting off from Templeton Village Hall. Individuals, families and fellow runners are all invited to take part and will hopefully help make this year's event bigger and better than ever with a choice between a 5km or 10km run. The event will be mainly off-road, using the attractive private (and otherwise inaccessible) woodland roads and tracks of the Cruwys

Morchard Estate. For more information or if you would like to register, please visit the Exe Valley Rotary Club's website page: <https://www.exevalleyrotary.org.uk/templeton-trail-april-2022/>

Templeton Tractor Run

Reg and Roland will be organising a Tractor Run for some time in April or May. This is a great fund-raising event when tractors, old and new, are invited to take part. The owners drive their tractors along a planned local route, often with lunch and refreshments served before or after the tractor run at Templeton Village Hall.

Events later in the year include:

Templeton Village Fete - August 12

More information to follow. This date will be upon us before we know it!

Soap Box Race – Saturday September 14

Back in the day, people would stand on a soapbox - a wooden crate originally used for the shipment of soap, or a raised platform to make an impromptu speech, often about a political subject. Today, the crates have evolved and modern soapbox racing is all about the aesthetic, speed and road-holding of a handcrafted vehicle. A Soap Box vehicle has to be built by hand, be motorless and ideally have four wheels. It can be made from anything - cardboard, wood, or polystyrene, for example. The course will be the path leading down to Reg and Sue's at Colston Barton Farm. More information to follow but why not start planning how to build your soap box now!

A Harvest Supper will be held at the end of September or beginning of October.





Steve Rolfe

Oil Fired Heating Services

Over 20 years experience of providing a quality service

* Service and maintenance of boilers, Aga's and Rayburns
from £65.00 + VAT

<p>* Installation of boilers and Central Heating systems</p> <p>* Oil tank replacements</p>	<p>* System Power Flushing</p> <p>* System updates and sealed system conversions</p>
---	--

Tel: 01398 351471

Mob: 07894080143



SaveX Services Ltd



Rob Vinnicombe

GENERATOR & OFF GRID SPECIALIST
SUPPLIERS OF AC POWER EVERYWHERE
SUPPLIER OF GENERATORS, CONTROL PANELS, SOLAR FOR OFF GRID.

MOB: 07770637924
 OFFICE: 01363 866992
 EMAIL: savexgenerators@aol.com

PARISH ROUND-UP

Regular Templeton Clubs

Yoga at Templeton Village Hall
 Yoga Club started here in January and is already very popular. Everyone is welcome. Yoga sessions are held at Templeton Village Hall every Thursday from 3.30pm to 5pm. Instructor Pat is based in Tiverton and is very experienced. Pat can accommodate all abilities and has already adapted the class so that those who find it tricky to get down and off the floor can be seated. If you would like to take part, why not come along to Templeton Village Hall on Thursdays. You will need comfortable clothes, a yoga mat if you have one or a thick towel or blanket. A bottle of water is also a good idea. The cost is £9 per session. If you'd like to know more, please email Laurel at joeandlaurel@ymail.com

Book Group

The Templeton Book Group meets on every 2nd Wednesday of each month at 3pm at Templeton Village Hall with coffee, tea and cake. Each member of the group selects their reading choices each year from a wide range of books available from Tiverton Library. Please contact Julie on 01884 233507 if you would like to know more. The next dates for the book group are Wednesday 8 March and 12 April.

Knit and Natter

The ever-popular Templeton Knit and Natter is held on the last Friday of each month from 10.30 am to 12 noon, at St Margaret's Church, Templeton. Bring your repair work, knitting or embroidery with you or just come along for coffee, biscuits and a chat. The next dates for Knit and Natter are Friday 24 February, 31 March and 28 April. We look forward to seeing you there.

Templeton Village Hall and Social Club
 Templeton Social Club is open every Monday and Saturday evening from 8pm to 11pm – with a bar and very reasonable prices. Membership is only £2 a year. The village hall has table tennis, darts, pool and skittles. This is a wonderful community resource and there for you to enjoy. It is also a great venue for a family get-together! Please call Bindy on 01884 860655 if you would like to use the hall so we can book you in.

Gardening Club

This very popular club will start again in the spring when the weather gets a bit warmer! Please watch this space for more news and dates.

Welcome to Templeton

A very warm welcome to Katie, Marc and family of Furzey View, and to Val and Richard at The Wolery. We hope you will all be very happy here.

Thoughts, prayers and best wishes

Our thoughts, prayers and best wishes are with all those who are unwell, who have been in hospital, receiving or awaiting treatment, recovering from surgery or going through a difficult time.

Flower Rota – March to April

Liz Walker - Lent begins 22nd Feb
 Cleaning Only
 26 Feb – 5 March Sue Coffin
 No Flowers
 12 March – 19 March Gloria Woollacott
 No Flowers
 26 March – 2 April Lynda Newnes
 Easter Day
 9t April – 16 April Laurel O'Brien
 Flowers and cleaning
 23 April – 30 April

WASHFIELD

By March, the worst of the winter will, hopefully, be over. Any lingering snow will thaw, the rivers will begin to run and the world will wake into itself again.

Dark January is over and the snowdrops are out - and quite a few primroses. Nature gives us hope!

We are very aware that the Ayre family is still grieving the loss of Nancy, whose funeral took place on January 19 and was led by Claire Curtis. It was heartwarming to see St. Mary's Church filled with family and old friends of Nancy and to hear memories of her long life told by her children. Nancy had chosen her hymns and her favourite music was played. Later there was a chance to reminisce with the family in the Village Hall in true fashion, remembering a very wonderful lady.

Mothering Sunday is on March 19 at 10.45 am. and there will be posies of flowers for the children to give to their mothers, and cards for them to make. Do come along - we all had mothers!

We hope to see everyone with the Church's interests at heart at the Annual Meeting to be held after the 10.45 am Service on March 26 - or join us at 11.45 am for coffee before the meeting and hear about what the church has been doing, and tell us what we can do for you.

Easter will follow closely. Egg Decorating and Rolling is at 10am on the Saturday at the church porch and the Tobey family will be in charge!



Moorhayes Meat

www.moorhayesmeat.co.uk

Annabel Taylor-Ross 07768 630388

Beef Box Size	Price	Description
Large	£150	Aberdeen Angus beef, reared on grass on our Devon hillside. Tasty and tender - when you choose to eat meat, choose local quality. Each box contains a selection of sirloin and rump steaks, joints, slow roast briskets, mince, stewing steak and burgers. You can buy individual cuts too!
Family	£100	
Value	£75	
Small	£55	
Student	£45	



BLYTH
construction
(South West) Limited

COVERING ALL ASPECTS OF
CONSTRUCTION, BUILDING AND
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE.

Internal and External

Please call Rory on:
01884 860637 or
07818566757

info@blythconstruction.co.uk
www.blythconstruction.net

PARISH ROUND-UP

Hilary Arnold is stepping down from arranging the Coffee and Hot Cross Buns morning with produce, plant and cake stalls plus Raffle. We thank Hilary and Anne for their many years of dedication to this event - it has become a tradition, thanks to them. We have had offers of help to keep it going and would welcome more; so if you would like to lend a hand please let Jeanne know.

There will be a service of Holy Communion at St. Mary's on Easter Day, at 10.45 am.

The Exe Valley Soup Lunches continue fortnightly and if you know of anyone who is lonely or bereaved and needing company please let Claire Curtis, our Curate, know. Transport to the various venues can be arranged. They are very happy and enjoyable gatherings.

Please let us know if anyone would like a clergy visit, or Home Communion. It can be arranged.

We wish you all a happy and Blessed Easter.

The Social Club have been busy since the last edition of the magazine, with the bar open on Christmas morning, Club nights on Tuesdays with Scrabble/Craft evenings and the Book Club.

On Saturday evenings they have had some great film nights, a children's get-together, hosted the England vs Scotland Six Nations rugby game and put on the most wonderful Music evening with Folk duo The Kahunas (Tony and Tash).

Please support these wonderful initiatives and the work of the committee that goes into organising them.

The next, planned event is:

Marc Harpham acoustic concert
Saturday 4 March - 7.30pm.

Marc Harpham is an acoustic guitarist from Wales. He plays a range of original songs and popular covers using voice, guitar and a loop peddle to build layers. Tickets are available from the Social Club and committee members or washfieldticketsales@gmail.com

Please also remember that paying your membership (just £5) of the Social Club, is a vital part of keeping our village relevant and our community together in the changing times all around us.

The Hall AGM is taking place on Monday 13 March 7.30pm for 8pm start. All are welcome to attend and refreshments will be laid on for attendees. Please come.

Don't forget that teatime@thehall is still as popular as ever. *Never underestimate the power of tea and cake served with love, friendship and a warm welcome.*

These afternoons are held, as always, on the second Tuesday of each month between 2.30 (3pm after the clocks change) - 4.30pm. All age groups are welcome to pop in for tea, cakes, chatter and support.

We were so sad to hear of the death of Nancy Ayre who had lived for many years at Stanterton Farm until latterly when she moved to Barnhaven, Bampton. We send sympathies to all her family at this time.

We also send get well wishes to those struggling with their health right now including Joy Smith who, at the time of writing, is in hospital after a fall and cracked pelvis.

We wish all those with special celebrations and birthdays good wishes and those young people in our parish who are taking GCSEs and other exams this year **GOOD LUCK!**

Church Flower Rota
March 5/12/19/26 LENT

April 2 LENT

April 9/16

April 23/30

Jean French

Sarah Tobey

WITHLEIGH

At last, the days are lengthening, and as the snowdrops spread their mantle of white across the churchyard, we can now look forward to Spring with its warmer (usually!) weather.

Our Carol Service on 21 December was well attended. Pauline B summed up the occasion:

"The Carol Service was, as always, a joyful occasion; the seasonal flowers and foliage, strategic use of candlelight and focal point, the crib, creating the perfect atmosphere. The Christmas tree provided the ideal location for contributions to CHAT. The congregation relived the Christmas story through traditional carols and readings with additional touching contributions from Stephen, enhanced by his techno-artisty.

Mince pies and mulled wine at the conclusion of events was an appropriate and heart-warming celebration of the evening."

Our service on Christmas Eve was taken by Steph, beginning at the earlier time of 11pm. Nevertheless, we were

WOTTON of TIVERTON LIMITED

01398 351221

E-mail: enquiries@wotton.co.uk

www.wotton.co.uk








Removals Covering the UK,
Shipping Europe and the
Storage local area
 - of course !!





Tree Surgery

Forestry, Grounds Maintenance

Environmental Works

Woodchip and Seasoned Logs

Contact - Joe Clark

T: 01884 252308/ 07709 189262

E: info@arbland.co.uk

W: www.arbland.co.uk

FB: @arbland

PARISH ROUND-UP

just able to sing “Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning” as the clock approached Christmas morning.

We celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany on the first Sunday in January, since Epiphany Sunday was the day of our Plough Sunday service. We remembered how the wise men followed a star to find Jesus, “the King of the Jews”. Our theme was signs, and we looked at both secular signs, and those mentioned in the Bible with a connection to Jesus’ birth and the visit of the wise men. We also recalled that nowhere in the Bible are we led to believe that there were three of them!

Our Plough Service on 8 January was led by Brenda, assisted by three young farmers who brought the plough to the front of the church to be blessed. Sophie, one of the young farmers, took part in the service, leading the intercessions, reading the Bible passage, and also taking part with Brenda in the blessing of the plough. Rosie gave a most interesting talk on her early years of living on the family farm in Somerset. As Brenda pointed out, each generation of farmers has to learn new skills and how to operate more powerful machinery. Farming today is not quite the idyllic life Rosie knew! We give thanks for our local farmers for their all hard work on the land.

The 17 January saw the Village Hall full for our Community Lunch. A meal seems guaranteed to draw in a good crowd! It really was good to see so many people getting together for a few hours in a real community atmosphere, with an amazing age range from 6 months to 91 years! Once again, our thanks to Brenda and Sara for providing us with a most enjoyable meal. Also a big thank you to those who in the morning got the hall ready, those who served the food, those who provided pies or puddings, and to those who

donated draw prizes and bought tickets. The draw raised £145, which went to Hospiscare at Pine Lodge.

Thank you, once again, to Susie for a most interesting, thought provoking and enjoyable “Poems, prayer and Praise”, held in the Village Hall on Sunday 29 January. Her theme was Candlemas, plus the purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. All our hymns featured “light”, and were accompanied by Paul on the guitar. During the singing of the hymn “Be thou my vision” we were all invited to light a candle in the display which Susie had prepared. Refreshments were served at the end of the service, enabling us to enjoy a relaxed time of fellowship.

WOW continue to flourish. Since Christmas we have had a fun craft day which was enjoyed by all. Also a lunch at Bickleigh Mill which was attended by 10 ladies. This month we have a talk on Family History. We usually meet on the second of the month. If you are interested, please contact Susie on 01884 258492.

Our next Community Lunch is on Thursday 16 March, 12.30pm for 1pm. Two course meal followed by Tea or Coffee £6 each. Please order your meal by calling Christine 01884 257571 or Brenda 01884 252431.

Our Mothering Sunday service on 19 March will begin at 10.45am, led by Paul and Elizabeth.

We have our Easter Bingo on Thursday 30 March, in the Village Hall, 6.30pm for 7.30pm Eyes Down. Excellent Prizes. Everyone welcome.

The Easter Beetle Drive will be on Saturday 1 April. at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Easter Egg prizes for each

complete Beetle and for the overall winner.

Our now traditional informal Good Friday service on 7 April will begin at 10am, in the Village Hall. Do join with us then for tea / coffee and hot-cross buns, the service itself will start at about 10.30am.

Easter Sunday 9 April will begin with a parish breakfast in the Village Hall, at 8.30am. This will be followed by a service of Holy Communion in church at 9.30am, and will be celebrated by Rev. Ian Johnson. We would love to see you at both events, but if you can only make one of them you are still very welcome.

Our next Poems, prayer and praise will be on 30 April, at 9.30am in the Village Hall.


Coronation of King Charles III on 6 May. At the time of writing, a meeting has been arranged to discuss how the village will celebrate this event. Details will be in the next issue of TODAY, but updates will be available via the WhatsApp group and St Catherine’s News.

Congratulations to any who are celebrating special birthdays or anniversaries.

Get well wishes go to all those known to us who are receiving treatment, recovering from operations, or who are not well at the moment.

Forthcoming Events:
 Community Lunch - Thursday 16 March, 12.30pm for 1pm
 Mothering Sunday service - 19 March, 10.45am
 Easter Bingo - Thursday 30 March, in the Village Hall, 6.30pm for 7.30pm

continued overleaf ➔

 DEVON & SOMERSET MARQUEES <small>Good Marquee & Marquee Hire</small>	
A complete marquee hire service	
Weddings & Anniversaries Christenings & Birthdays	Sports & Charity Events Corporate & Club Functions Christmas & Special Occasions
www.ds-marquees.co.uk 01398 351 210	

	<h2>Mid Devon Wildlife</h2> <p>Friendly & welcoming Regular talks and outings Indoor meetings held at Cherith Hall in Tiverton</p> <p><i>Learning and sharing knowledge about the natural world</i></p> <p>www.mdw.org.uk</p>	
---	--	--

EXE VALLEY WEBSITE

www.exevalleychurches.org

It's the best place to go for updates about what's on and what we do.

PARISH ROUND-UP

Easter Beetle Drive - Saturday 1 April, 7.30pm in the Village Hall
 Good Friday service - 7 April, 10am, in the Village Hall
 Easter Sunday parish breakfast – 9 April, 8.30am in the Village Hall
 Easter Holy Communion service - 9 April, 9.30am in church
 Poems, prayer and praise - 30 April, 9.30am in the Village Hall

Flower Rota:
 February 5 - LENT (Please remove flowers)
 April 10 – EASTER
 April 16, 23, 30 - Michaela Luxton



'Steph on a Stick' at Loxbeare

Does your Community group need funding ?

You may already be aware of the Batsworthy Cross Community Benefit Fund - which has been in place since 2016. The Fund is focused on encouraging and sustaining all aspects of community life and supporting rural regeneration in the area around the Batsworthy Cross Wind Farm. Many different projects have been funded over recent years in the 'area of benefit', which includes the 10 parishes of Bishops Nympton, East Anstey, East Worlington, Knowstone, Meshaw, Molland, Oakford, Rackenford & Creacombe, Rose Ash and West Anstey. A lot of the projects supported so far have focused on keeping community buildings in good order – which is obviously really important. But there are lots of other ways the funding could support life in your local community too, so we'd love to see some more applications from groups for projects that are bringing people together - whether that's via Memory Cafes or sports clubs, out of school activities for children and young people, community energy projects or transport schemes – whatever helps sustain and encourage your local community life. The Fund is managed by Devon Community Foundation (DCF) who assess any applications received, but the final decisions are made by a panel of local people from across the parishes listed. More guidance is available on the DCF website – go to www.devoncf.com and type 'Batsworthy Cross Wind Farm' into the search bar. Or - if technology really isn't your thing - give us a call on 01884 235887.

Fernside AA
Bed and Breakfast ★★★★★
 Bed & Breakfast 2019 Gold Award

Award winning AA 5-Star Gold B & B and Breakfast Award

Warm Welcome. En-suite rooms.
 Special dietary requirements catered for.

Fernside Cottage, Templeton Bridge, Tiverton, Devonshire, EX16 8BP

Email : ianthorington@hotmail.co.uk
 Website : www.fernsidecottage-bed-and-breakfast.co.uk
 Telephone : 01884 860025

Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall

For weddings, parties or other events. Well equipped and ample parking

Tel: Diana 01363 860227
www.cruwysmorchardparish.co.uk

FAX & FILES Tel: 01884 254254
 15 Westexe South, Tiverton, Devon EX16 5DQ
 E-mail: dawn@faxandfiles.eclipse.co.uk

PHOTOCOPYING (Black & White / Colour)
 Business Cards & Business Stationery, Typing, Schedules/Booklets, Invitations
 Menus, Flyers/Posters, Laminating etc

Open Mon to Fri 9.30am to 4.00pm

Devoted Garden Care
 by Emma

Do you need help maintaining your garden?
 Lawn mowing, weeding, trimming low height hedges and trees, etc.
 Contact Emma Halsey on: 0794 9367502 or 01884 233560 or devotedgardencare@gmail.com



The Red Lion Hotel

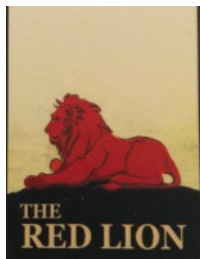
Oakford
Tiverton
Devon EX16 9ES

Tel +44 (0) 1398 351 569

www.redlionoakford.co.uk

For Tables & Rooms

info@redlionoakford.co.uk



Opening Times

Please check the website for our seasonal opening hours.



Apsleys

CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANTS

Accountancy
Taxation
Payroll
Probate Services
R&D Tax Credits
Corporate Finance
Company Secretarial

tiverton@apsleys.com
01884 257725

The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of its readers.

RICHARD GRANT MEMORIALS
2-4 WESTEXE NORTH
TIVERTON
DEVON, EX16 5LX
TEL: (01884) 255737
WWW.FINEMEMORIALS.CO.UK

S SQUIRE & SONS
Local friendly handyman services.
Interior/Exterior work, Plastering,
Painting, Decorating, Fencing,
Garden maintenance and
Bespoke handmade furniture.
Call Sam 01884 255723 / 07922170639
E-mail sam.wj.squire@gmail.com

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

BUILDING REQUIREMENTS
DC BRITTON CONSTRUCTION LTD
would be pleased to quote for your building works, incorporating new builds, conversions, extensions, alterations and refurbishments.
For a personal reliable service, call Dave
on 01884 881643 or 07974412097.

CHIMNEY SWEEP
CRB CHECKED
CLEAN CERTIFICATED
Phillip Melville
01363 877411
Email: phillip.melville@gmail.com



Lighthouse

Christian Books and Café
Registered Charity No: 1063294

13 Bampton Street
Tiverton
Devon
EX16 6AA

Phone: 01884 255769

Email: office@lighthouseiverton.org.uk

Web site: www.lighthouseiverton.org.uk

Formally New Creation Christian Book and Coffee Shop

S.S. ROOFING SPECIALISTS EST 30 YEARS
Roofing & Leadwork Specialists
Family Run Independent Roofing & Leadwork Specialists Covering Devon For 30 Years

Family Run Independent Roofing & Leadwork Specialists Covering Devon for 30 Years

Re-roofing • New Builds
Residential • Domestic • Commercial
Public Sector • Heritage & Listed • Leadwork • Conservation

Re-roofing • New Builds
Residential • Domestic • Commercial
Public sector • Heritage & Listed • Leadwork • Conservation

Phone: 01884 252768 / 07856250874
Email: ssroofingspecialist@hotmail.co.uk
Web: www.ssroofingspecialist.co.uk Fax: 01884 255167

DEVCO MVS LTD

Unit 1, Twyford Units, Kennedy Way, Tiverton, EX166RZ
Used Car Sales and Service Centre
For Mid Devon and surrounding areas
Established – 1973

SALES	WORKSHOP
Hand Picked Quality Used Vehicles	Service and Repairs to all Makes
Light Commercials	MOT Test Station
Part Exchanges Welcome	Current MOT Offer £42.00
Parts and Accessories	

Contact us:

Service & Parts Email: devco.mvs@btconnect.com

Sales Email: sales@devcorenault.com

Website: www.devcorenault.com

Telephone: 01884 254318

Find us on Facebook

S O S

Spot on Safety

Health and Safety Consultants

ARE YOU COMPLIANT?

Specialising in small/medium size businesses and start ups

Tel: 07703 135589/ 07854 122333

Customercare@spotonsafety.uk