



TODAY

The Parish
Magazine
for the
Exe Valley
Mission
Community

MARCH / APRIL 2024

Price £1.00

LITTLE THINGS MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE!!

I've just come back from a few days in London. I went with my daughter, her partner, and my grandchildren. I love it there.

I lived there and I worked there. There is so much to see and do. But to be honest I was feeling a little anxious, for all sorts of reasons. Robert and I loved going together and I had no idea how my grandchildren (born and bred in Devon) would cope with it. After all, it was half term and there were bound to be crowds. Surely, they would find – we would all find – London a bit rough and tough, pushy and shovey, compared to gentle Tiverton, which we also love.

We caught the train to Waterloo, where we were staying. The train was busy. It was unlikely that we would find seats altogether. As we hovered in the aisle working out where we would all sit, a woman moved to give us more space, and at the same time a man also moved. When he stood up, he was wearing a boot, having injured his leg. He insisted on moving down the carriage with his luggage. Now we had not just one but two adjacent table seats – luxury!

The following day, on the underground, two people offered to give up their seats. Now I realise that this might mean I look totally decrepit(!) but I was thankful for the gesture.

As we gathered around street performers in Covent Garden, people made room to let the children have a better view. Despite the huge crowds we were warmly welcomed into the Science Museum and the Natural History Museum. In restaurants and bars people were smiley and friendly.



And to top it off, on our way home, we missed our train and had to catch the next one which didn't go to Feniton, where we had parked the car! When the guard saw that we had been hoping to get off at Feniton, he organised

an unscheduled stop, helped move all our stuff up the train, and told us we could stay in 1st Class for the journey!! Amazing! 'Everyone is very kind in London!', said one of the children.

Well clearly, you only have to read the news to know that sadly not everyone is very kind in London – or in Tiverton, either. But it does go to show what kindness and courtesy can do. Little things can make a huge impact and a massive difference!

As we move from winter to Spring when we feel warmth and see signs of life and growth, let us be conscious of those little things which can make so much difference to friends and strangers. 'Clothe yourselves with kindness,' says Paul to the church in Colossae, 'and put on love.'

With my love and prayers.

Steph

Check out the new Parish Diary on page 3 for events throughout the Exe Valley parishes.

**Copy Deadline for
May / June 2024 issue**

Friday 12 April 2024

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

RECTOR

Rev'd Stephanie Gordon-Jeffs
The Rectory, Withleigh,
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@hotmai.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

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

WASHFIELD
Richard Scholes 01398 351528
mail@richardscholes.com
Malcolm Dudley-Williams 07860 203564
malcolm@dudley-williams.com

WITHLEIGH
Brenda Tucker 01884 252431
tucks@btconnect.com
Stephen Roche 07811 139031
stephen_roche187@hotmail.com



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
www.exevalleymarketbus.btck.co.uk

AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE HIRE
CONTACT JENNIE CHAPPELL
01398 351666

**VOLUNTEER DRIVERS ALWAYS
NEEDED**

**THE
CURTIS
CO.**
THE PARTNER FOR YOUR OUTDOORS

 **Grounds Maintenance:**
Garden care, Lawn mowing,
Hedge/Tree management and
more!

 **Event Equipment Rentals:**
Stretch Tents, Tables, Chairs,
Glass and Tableware, Bar hire
and more!

Contact us for a FREE quote
01884 906960
contact@thecurtisco.com
 @the_curtis_co 



WHAT'S ON... ..**PARISH DIARY****MARCH**

- 2/3 Prayer Weekend - Loxbeare
 6 Gardening Club - The Cruwys Arms Pennymoor
 7 Bingo 7.30pm - Withleigh
 7 Exe Valley Community Choir practice 7.30pm - Oakford
 9 Soup Lunch 12.30pm - Loxbeare
 14 Exe Valley Lunch 12.30pm - Stoodleigh
 14 Moorland AGM 7.30pm - Oakford
 14 Exe Valley Community Choir practice 7.30pm - Calverleigh
 16 Mill House Worship Retreat Day with David Edwards 10.30am
 21 Exe Valley Community Choir practice 7.30pm - Templeton Village Hall
 23 Easter Bingo 7.00pm - Cruwys Morchard
 24 Palm Sunday Service with choir 10.45am - Cruwys Morchard
 24 Templeton Run - Templeton
 24 Red Lion Quiz 8.00pm - Oakford
 25 Bingo 7.00pm - Loxbeare
 26 Village Hall AGM 8.00pm - Cruwys Morchard
 30 Easter Egg Rolling and stalls in hall 10.30am - Washfield
 30 Beetle Drive 7.30pm - Withleigh

APRIL

- 1 Table Top Sale and Cream Tea - Calverleigh
 4 Bingo 7.30pm - Withleigh
 6/7 Prayer Weekend - Loxbeare
 6 Easter Fair 10.30am - Stoodleigh
 11 Moorland Open Evening 7.30pm 'Trials and Tribulations of a Surgeon' Gavin Haig
 13 Cream Tea 3.00pm - Loxbeare
 16 Community Lunch 12.30pm - Withleigh
 21 Red Lion Quiz 8.00pm - Oakford
 26/27 Oakford Players 7.30pm 'An Italian Job!' Murder Mystery - Oakford

Baptism and Confirmation***Every day there is something new for you.******If you or your child would like to be baptised or you would like to be confirmed then join Steph and Claire during the Easter holidays to discover more.******Contact the church office
01884 250417 for more information.
Transport available.*****Bible Study Group****Looking at the Letter to the Hebrews****The next meeting will be held at
The Cottage, Washfield
Monday February 26th 2.30pm****If you would like to come please let me know so that there are the right number of handouts. Many thanks.****Tim Gorrington
t.j.gorrington@exeter.ac.uk**

WHAT'S ON

NATURE NOTES

Let the natural world inspire us

In the heart of Devon, where the rolling hills meet the rugged coastlines, and the ancient woods whisper secrets of old, the natural world continues to be a source of inspiration and motivation for all of us.

Nature's influence on human achievement is undeniable. It is a relationship steeped in history and rich with stories of perseverance, courage, and innovation.

Take, for instance, the legendary tale of Robert the Bruce. After suffering a series of defeats in his quest for Scottish independence, disheartened and contemplating surrender, Bruce found refuge in a cave. There, he observed a spider attempting to weave its web, failing time and again, but never yielding to defeat. Inspired by the spider's persistence, Bruce returned to the battlefield with renewed vigour, ultimately leading Scotland to victory.

We are inspired and challenged by Nature's beauty, resilience and magnitude. From the tiny spider inspiring Robert the Bruce to Nature's challenging call to climb the mountains of the world, to ride the rapids of swirling rivers, to row the oceans, to cross the deserts and explore the forests. We see her power in mountainous seas, volcanoes and floods. She tests our resilience, perseverance, courage and innovation.

In Devon, where the natural landscape is a tapestry of breath-taking splendour and harsh challenges, for the farmers tending to their lands to the fishermen braving the tempestuous seas, or the artists and writers drawing inspiration from the tranquil countryside, the spirit of perseverance is ever-present.

Each passing season, we are reminded of Nature's endless cycles of challenges and triumphs. Her presence is as commanding as it is nurturing and we find a constant source of inspiration to achieve, to innovate, and to overcome.

As we walk the moors, explore the woods, or gaze out to sea, we hear and

see the constant miracles of life, the mew of a circling buzzard, the bleat of lambs, or the sunshine flash on a dolphin's fin.

Let us walk with determination and courage and learn to live in harmony with her.

Fiona Bladon



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



Exe Valley Lunches



12.30pm - 2.30pm

Thurs 8th February - Calverleigh Court

Thurs 14th March - Stoodleigh Village Hall

Thurs 11th April - Withleigh Village Hall

Contact the church office to book

01884 250417

WHAT'S ON

EXE VALLEY COMMUNITY CHOIR

Sarah Milne has kindly agreed to be Choir Master again and Tim Hugill to play the organ, so the choir will be singing on Palm Sunday, March 24th at the Church of the Holy Cross Cruwys Morchard, 10.45am.

All rehearsals start at 7.30pm and the dates are:

29 February - Rackenford

7 March - Oakford

14 March - Calverleigh

21 March - Templeton Village Hall

Everyone is welcome to join the choir so please come along.
Contact Claire Curtis on 07873 575276 for further details.



WORSHIP RETREAT DAY AT MILL HOUSE TIVERTON
SATURDAY 16TH MARCH 10-3.30PM

Join us for our next retreat day at Mill House, Westleigh. (EX16 7ES)

A special day of worship, fellowship, relaxation and prayer in a beautiful setting.

The price £25 includes a light lunch, tea and coffee. It would be great to have you with us if you are free.

For more information contact
David Edwards
davidedwards815@gmail.com

24th March
Group Holy Communion Service

Palm Sunday
with
THE EXE VALLEY CHOIR

CRUWYS MORCHARD at 10.45a.m.

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

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

At long last the evenings are drawing out! We are now well into Lent and signs of Spring are all around. However, we must go back and think about all the activities held in Advent and over Christmas.

Our Carol service was led by Jackie and younger members of the congregation sang 'Away in a Manger' and some of them also did readings during the service. Thank you to all who decorated the church so beautifully, took part or supplied food for the refreshments afterwards.

Loxbeare and Calverleigh carol singers were out on three evenings, 19, 21 and 23 December. Despite the windy second night, the evenings were really enjoyable for those taking part. We even managed to sing at most households across the two villages over the three hours each night. New people joined in this year and from the youngest (19 months old) to the eldest (whose age shall not be divulged). All were in good voice raising a grand total of £700, that was split equally between FORCE and Devon Air Ambulance. Thanks to all who took part in this very worthwhile time of fellowship with the opportunity to sing and hear your favourite carols. Thanks also to those who supplied supper for us on two of the evenings. We weren't expecting anything, but it was greatly appreciated at the end of a period of travelling around and spreading Christmas Cheer. "The best way to spread Christmas Cheer is singing loud for all to hear" - and they certainly did that!

We were so pleased to have Rev'd Steph Gordon-Jeffs lead our Christmas Day service. Steph's talk this year of the retelling of the Nativity involved book titles. This inevitably meant that poor Aubrey and Jackie were darting around the church as members of the congregation held up the books titles that they had been handed to reward them with a chocolate. They certainly earned theirs. We can't wait to find out how you're going to give our wardens a Christmas morning work-out next year! As well as being a fun service, it was also a very emotional service at times with Steph and Robert's family in attendance. Our thoughts continue to be with you all. Thank you, Steph for a lovely service which I am sure was quite tough for you.

With that in mind we also learned of the passing of one of Maureen Batstone in December. Maureen had become one of our regulars at St. Mary's since moving to Farleigh Meadows. She loved to watch the children taking part in services and was always a very happy lady. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Maureen and with anyone else who is mourning the loss of a loved one whether recently or not.

As ever, your generosity as a community is well established. During Advent a collection of dried and tinned foods, along with toiletries were donated and left under the Church Christmas Tree for CHAT. Thank you to all who gave so generously. All donations were delivered to the CHAT office before the New Year. We will be collecting for them again during Lent. To find out more about the work of CHAT, visit: www.chatmid.org

Our congratulations go to Jess and James on the birth of their daughter Hallie, a sister for big brother Chester, granddaughter for Paul and Maureen and great granddaughter for Myrtle.

Our very best wishes also go to those who have celebrated a special birthday in the past two months. Many happy returns to you and we hope that you had a lovely time with family and friends. Many Happy returns to Dave who turns 43 in April!

In February a Taize service was held at the church. The service was arranged by Rev'd Tim who was ably assisted by Gill as they led the singing of chants which were sung in English, Latin or French. Some were familiar to a few of us, while others were not so well known but it is always good to be able to learn something new. It was an enjoyable, prayerful time and we look forward to hosting one again in April!

Dates for your diary:

- 1 Apr - Table Top Sale / Cream Tea at Village Hall
- 4 Apr - Service of Thanksgiving for Maureen
- 4 May - Day of Prayer
- Jun/Jul - Potato Competition
- 7 Jul - Open Air Service
- 24 Aug - Produce Show
- 14/15 Sep - Harvest Weekend
- 16 Nov - Autumn Fayre

Flower rota

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| 31 Mar - 7 Apr: | Mrs M Radford |
| 14 Apr - 21 Apr: | Mrs D Hopper |
| 28 Apr - 5 May: | Mrs T Pugsley |
| 12 May - 19 May: | Mrs R Tapp |

Cleaning rota

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 19 Feb - 2 Mar: | Mrs A Balsdon |
| 4 Mar - 16 Mar: | Mrs N Burton |

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

For all your grocery and household needs, including specialty bread, local honey and home-baked cakes and biscuits, plus cash ATM.

**Open daily (check for hours)
01884 881740**



hmad | architects

- Experienced, friendly, local RIBA chartered architectural practice based in Mid Devon 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:



**Building Excellence
AWARDS 2023**
Regional Winner



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

PARISH ROUND-UP

18 Mar - 6 Apr: Mrs J Goldsworthy
 8 Apr - 20 Apr: Mrs A Webber
 22 Apr - 4 May: Mrs S Greenslade
 6 May - 18 May: Mrs R Tapp

Mowing rota

1 Apr - 13 Apr: Mr A Goldsworthy
 15 Apr - 27 Apr: Mr D White
 29 Apr - 11 May: Mr K & Mrs C Hayes
 13 May - 25 May: Mr C Durnan

CRUWYS MORCHARD

Church of the Holy Cross

With Spring upon us and lambing ramping up, life is never more evident than now. From the buds and bulbs that have been growing before our very eyes, whilst we shake off the gloom of winter, to the ever-persistent dawn chorus of thrushes and blackbirds alike.

We send our congratulations to Lee and Sarah on the arrival of Hamish, a little brother for Henry, and to Charlie and Michelle on the arrival of April.

In January, Steph and Claire once again held the Marriage Preparation Day in our hall, providing couples with lots of useful information as they prepare for their wedding and lives together. Best of wishes to one and all.

We continue to keep Steph in our prayers as she moves forward without Robert by her side and are so pleased to have her with us at our services once more.

We pray for a speedy recovery and send best wishes to all that are unwell, have been in hospital, are awaiting treatment or having a tough time at present.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those grieving the loss of a loved one and send our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Brenda Hiscocks.

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

Flower and Cleaning Rota

Thank you to all who help with the church cleaning and flowers throughout the year.

Feb 26/Mar 4 Lorna Warren
 (Lent - no flowers)
 Mar 11/18 Carol Chisholm and Jackie Mitchell (Lent - no flowers)
 Mar 25 Decorators for Easter
 Apr 1/8 Lorna Warren
 Apr 15/22 Carole Chisholm and Jackie Mitchell
 Apr 29/May 6 Cindy Trick

Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall

The Parish Hall's Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 26 March 2024 at 8.00 pm at the Parish Hall. All welcome to attend.

Parish Hall Easter Bingo - Saturday 23 March at the Parish Hall. Doors open at 7.00 pm and eyes down at 7.30 pm. Usual good prizes plus prizes for the children too.

Cruwys Morchard YFC

It has been a busy couple of months for us with competitions galore occurring. We came 3rd with our Drama at the Group competition, and

2nd with our Disco Dancing at the County competition. Some of our members made up the Group Choir who came 1st at the County competition and a special mention to Evie Rice and Jess Kingdom who took part in the Junior Member of the Year competition at Group level. Many congratulations to all who have participated and given their all, and it is that spirit and involvement that has seen Cruwys Morchard YFC become Devon's club of the month for February! Well Done.

Best of luck as you go on to compete at South West Area in March for the Disco Dancing and Choir. Congratulations and Good Luck to Jess Kingdom who is Junior Member of the Year for the Exe Valley Group and goes on to compete at Devon County level.

This is only a snapshot of what we've been doing and of what there is to come! If any of this sounds tempting, please come along, and join us. We hold our monthly meetings at Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm. Club email, cruwysm.yfc@gmail.com

Flower Show

The Annual Flower Show takes place this year on Saturday 10 August. Schedules are now available, with many new classes to enter. Children's buckets and seed potatoes are now available. Also, this year a new class of "Grow-on a Plug Plant", these will be available soon. For more information, please contact Pauline on 07968 101121 or pauline.8@hotmail.co.uk

F. BALMENT

& Sons Ltd. EST. 1930

BUILDERS CONTRACTORS
 DECORATORS
 STONE AND BRICK WALLING
 PATIO'S - PAVING

'Davia', Washfield, Tiverton.
 Tel: 01884 256094

Tina Collier

Artist & Pet Portraiture

Botanical art

FB - [tcartistrydevon](https://www.facebook.com/tcartistrydevon)

07725170447

tcartistrydevon@gmail.com

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

Hand Picked Quality Used Vehicles

Light Commercials

Part Exchanges Welcome

WORKSHOP

Service and Repairs to all Makes

MOT Test Station

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

PARISH ROUND-UP

Cruwys Morchard and Puddington Gardeners

Our first meeting of 2024 was in The Cruwys Arms on Wednesday 7 February.

We discussed the reasons for pruning, which included raising a tree canopy and thinning to let in light and air flow with the aim of producing more or better fruit and flowers. Sometimes it may just be to produce a more pleasing shape. Pruning is also used to create a thicker hedge and one member has recently laid a long stretch for this purpose. Almost all garden birds that don't use ledges or holes (natural or made by us) need a thicket to nest in, whether that is a hedge or a rough patch of bush and bramble that is encouraged to be impenetrable to predators and provide shelter from the weather. Many insects thrive in this habitat; an essential part of the ecosystem with lives of their own – insects are not just bird food.

All pruning of deciduous plants needs to be done before the sap rises.

As always discussion ranged widely over a number of garden topics and tips were shared.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday March 6 in The Cruwys Arms and we will be taking along gardening books to swap, share or give away. There will also be our surplus seeds to pass on. All welcome whether members or not.

Congregational Churches

Please join us for:

Tea and Cake at Nomansland Chapel, 3-4pm every Friday.

Sunday services

2.30pm Nomansland chapel *

4.30pm Pennymoor chapel *

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

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

LOXBARE

It is good to see signs of spring with many flowers and buds already making their appearance, birds singing and days beginning to lengthen, giving us hope of drier!!! & 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. Christmas Day we joined with Calverleigh for a lovely service taken by Steph as we celebrated Jesus' birth together. A donation of £300 was given to Children's Society from the Christmas offerings at Loxbeare.

Thank you to those who gave up their time to go Carol singing on three nights this year around Loxbeare and Calverleigh, for those who provided supper and those who gave so generously donations amounting to

£700 split between Devon Air Ambulance & Fore.

See the centre pages for our services for March/April. On March 10 Mothering Sunday there will be a continental breakfast in the Hall from 9.30am followed by a service also in the Hall. Do come and join us.

There will be a PCC meeting on March 12. The monthly prayer weekends will be 2/3 March and 6/7 April. Anyone wanting prayer or prayer pointers please contact Jean on 01884881400 or Carol 01884881480.

Congratulations to Matt and Mel on the birth of their little girl Maisie Dawn the beginning of December. Best wishes to you all. Happy birthday to all with birthdays in March/April and congratulations to all celebrating special occasions.

We send our love, prayers and sympathy to any who have lost loved ones, to Margaret on the death of her brother.

We pray for Margaret R & Marlene and all who are unwell or waiting for treatments or operations. For those who are finding the winter months long and dreary and are restricted in not being able to get out much. May we have some warm sunshine soon to help make us feel better and look forward to the spring. Although it has been so wet I am sure we are all grateful it was not snow and ice.

Village dates:

March 9 there will be a soup lunch 12.30 to 2.30 and April 13 cream tea 3-4.30. £76 was donated to the



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

Read the TODAY magazine, in colour, on-line at Exevalleychurches.org/magazine/index.php

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

Alzheimers Society from the February cream tea.

March 25 will be Bingo evening. Doors open at 7.00 eyes down at 7.30.

OAKFORD

March is the first month of spring, a time for waking up. Snowdrops, daffodils and primroses are appearing in the hedgerows and spring bulbs are beginning to add colour to our gardens. Birdsong and lengthening days bring anticipation of good things to come.

We have been fortunate to have Tim Hugill playing and waking up our lovely organ at some services held in St Peters recently and what a wonderful sound it is, thank you Tim.

The steps and the area around the lych gate of St Peter's have been kept beautifully clean and tidy recently, thanks to John Reed for all his care and hard work.

The 4 February saw an almost full church at St Peter's, for the baptism of little Jack Williams, a very happy service filled with smiling adults and children. Thanks to Steph, Dave, Levon and Dawn. Please see the centre pages for our services in March/April.

Thoughts and prayers go to all who are unwell at home or in hospital and to those who are caring for them. We offer our condolences to Tracey Rich on the death of her mother Connie Rich.

We welcome home Shirley after a spell in hospital. Shirley has faced her

troubles with such courage and good humour, we send all our prayers and good wishes.

The Exe Valley Choir will have its first practice on 29 February at Rackenford Church to prepare for the Palm Sunday service at Cruwys Morchard Church - 10.45am on 24 March

What's happening in Oakford. The new Oakford Community website has been launched.

Please take a look and check out the diary for all things Oakford and the surrounding area.

www.oakford.community
Thank you Paul Chappell

The Red Lion Quiz.
24th March - 8.00pm
21st April - 8.00pm

The Moorland Ladies are a group based in Oakford who meet once a month every 2nd Thursday, sometimes daytime sometimes evening depending on the arranged event. We welcome anyone from the surrounding area who would like to get to know new ladies and join in the fun. A yearly subscription of £15 is all it is to be a member. We understand people have commitments and cannot attend every month but there is always something arranged if you can. Our AGM is on March 14 in Oakford Village Hall at 7.30pm followed by Easter egg decorating. If you are interested in becoming a 'Moorland Lady' you are welcome at this event to see what we are all about. It would be great to see new faces there or you can contact me at any time for more information. Kind wishes Louise Wilder (Chairlady) 01398 351277

14 March, 7.30 Village Hall AGM & Egg decorating

11 April, An open evening with Guest speaker Gavin Haig. 'The Trials and Tribulations of being a Surgeon.'

The Oakford Players are a local Amateur Dramatics group based at Oakford Village Hall in Oakford. The Oakford Players started in 1988 and have since raised £26,000 for local charities. We have been lucky to recruit some new members this year. There are now 15 members in the group including backstage and technical.

If you would like to join us, please contact Tony Holmes 01398 351665

APRIL

26/27 April we will be putting on a Murder Mystery, "An Italian Job". Tickets are £20 to include a 3 course meal. Please contact Dawn Williams on 01398 324035 for tickets

JUNE

15 June and once again there will be Croquet at the Manor, by kind invitation of Patrick and Nadia. More details to follow in the next issue of TODAY magazine.

JULY

July 15, Oakford Village Hall Committee is holding a Race Night! Come dressed for Ascot, prize for the best hat! Keep an eye out for posters.

Get Ready for Oakford Village's Thrilling Soap Box Derby

Join us for an exhilarating day of high-speed racing and family fun at the upcoming Oakford Village Soap Box Derby! Get your engines revved up and start building your own gravity-powered

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



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



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



3 MARCH

Third Sunday of Lent
Exodus 20: 1-17
John 2: 13-22

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Morning Worship

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Prayer

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise
David Edwards

OAKFORD

See Rackenford

RACKENFORD

10.45am Holy Communion
Tim Gorringe

STOODLEIGH

See Rackenford

TEMPLETON

10.45am Family Service

WASHFIELD

10.45am Morning Prayer
4.00pm Taize
Tim Gorringe

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Family Service

10 MARCH

Mothering Sunday
Numbers 21: 4-9
John 3: 14-21

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

**10.45am Holy Communion
and Mothering Sunday
Service**
Tim Gorringe

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Mothering Sunday
Service
Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and David Edwards

LOXBEARE

9.30am Mothering Sunday
Breakfast in Village Hall followed
by service.

OAKFORD

10.45am Mothering Sunday
Service

RACKENFORD

9.15am Explore
Mothering Sunday
Claire Curtis

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Mothering Sunday
Service
Claire Curtis

TEMPLETON

No Service

WASHFIELD

10.45am Mothering Sunday
Service

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Mothering Sunday
Service

17 MARCH

Passiontide begins
Jeremiah 31: 31-34
John 12: 20-33

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

9.30am Family Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Templeton

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise
Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and David Edwards

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise
Tim Gorringe

RACKENFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

STOODLEIGH

9.30am Reflective Service
with breakfast

TEMPLETON

10.45am Holy Communion
Claire Curtis

WASHFIELD

3.00pm Evening Prayer

WITHLEIGH

See Templeton

24 MARCH PALM SUNDAY

Isaiah 50: 4-9a
Mark 11: 1-11

9.30am Zoom Service

**OUR MISSION
COMMUNITY
HOLY COMMUNION
GROUP SERVICE
WITH EXE VALLEY
COMMUNITY CHOIR**

is at
**10.45am in
CRUWYS MORCHARD**
Steph Gordon-Jeffs
Everyone welcome

29 MARCH

GOOD FRIDAY REFLECTIONS

LOXBEARE

10.45am Tim Gorringe

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Claire Curtis

WASHFIELD

10.45am Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and David Edwards

WITHLEIGH

10.00am Hot Cross Buns
followed by reflective service
in village hall

AGAPE MEAL

Maundy Thursday 28 March
6.30pm at Withleigh



Please let the office know if
you are coming.
01884 250417



31 MARCH

**EASTER SUNDAY
HOLY COMMUNION at
10.45am in**

CALVERLEIGH
Jerry Bird

CRUWYS MORCHARD
Tim Gorringe

OAKFORD
Steph Gordon-Jeffs with
David Edwards

RACKENFORD
Self-service

TEMPLETON
Claire Curtis

WITHLEIGH
8.30am Breakfast in village
hall followed by service
9.30am in church

7 APRIL

Second Sunday of Easter
Acts 4: 32-35
John 20: 19-31

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

4.00pm Taize Service
Tim Gorringe

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Prayer

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise

OAKFORD

See Stoodleigh

RACKENFORD

See Stoodleigh

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Holy Communion
*Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and David Edwards*

TEMPLETON

10.45am Family Service

WASHFIELD

6.00pm Evening Prayer

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Family Service

14 APRIL

Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 3: 12-19
Luke 24: 36b-48

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

See Loxbeare

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Praise
Tim Gorringe

LOXBEARE

10.45am Holy Communion
Claire Curtis

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

9.15am Explore
Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and David Edwards

STOODLEIGH

9.30am Reflective Service
with breakfast

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

See Loxbeare

WITHLEIGH

10.45 Service of the Word

21 APRIL

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 4: 5-12
John 10: 11-18

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

9.30am Family Service
Claire Curtis

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Withleigh

LOXBEARE

No Service

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise
Tim Gorringe

RACKENFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

TEMPLETON

See Withleigh

WASHFIELD

10.45am Family Service
Steph Gordon-Jeffs
with David Edwards

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Holy Communion
Jerry Bird

LENT REFLECTIONS

Join Steph Gordon-Jeffs
for Compline Prayer
at 6.30pm every Wednesday
during Lent on Zoom from
21 February.

(with the exception 28
February)

Meeting ID: 856 4943 0168

Passcode: 336782

Readings:

21 February - Mark 1: 40-45

28 February - No Lent Prayer

6 March - Mark 5: 1-20

13 March - Mark 5: 21-43

20 March - Mark 6: 53-56



28 APRIL

5th Sunday of Easter

9.30am Zoom Service

**OUR
MISSION
COMMUNITY
HOLY COMMUNION
SERVICE**

is at
**10.45am in
LOXBEARE**

**Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and David Edwards**
Everyone welcome

PARISH ROUND-UP

race car for a chance to compete in this thrilling event.

Date: Saturday 20th July
Time: 14.00

Location: The Manor Oakford
This adrenaline-fuelled extravaganza promises to be an action-packed day for participants and spectators alike. Whether you're a racing enthusiast or simply looking for a fantastic day out with your loved ones, this event has something for everyone.

Watch as daredevil racers zoom down the track, showcasing their speed, skill, and determination. Cheer on your favourite teams as they navigate twists, turns, and exhilarating downhill stretches.

****Prizes and Trophies:**** Witness the glory as winners of each division are awarded fantastic prizes and trophies. The competition will be fierce, and the rewards will be well-deserved!

For more information, registration details, and updates, contact Georgina Potter. Tel: 07803 430-320 email: gkpotter@outlook.com

****Helpers Required****

Note: Safety precautions and guidelines will be strictly adhered to during the event to ensure the well being of all participants and attendees

AUGUST

17 August - Boules and Cream Tea at Greenslades House by kind invitation of Geoff and Marjorie Baylis.

The Oakford Wildlife Warden scheme is ongoing and growing in numbers. We cannot do what we want to do for the natural environment of our parish, without your help and assistance, so thank you all who helped out last year.

Anyone interested in joining our small and dedicated bunch of nature lovers is more than welcome to get in touch.

The main project on our agenda at the moment is the control/eradication of the highly invasive Himalayan Balsam. This plant starts off infesting our parish in the SWW works behind Townmead bungalows and filters down to Iron Mill Stream and from there into the Exe Valley proper. The seedbed for this plant only survives in the ground for 2-3 years (unlike many seeds that survive for decades). If we can attack it before it seeds each year, we have a chance of eradicating it. Although obviously dormant this time of year we will gear up our efforts later in the season and organise parties to attack it at its source firstly and then further down the line in the hope that we can eventually get the parish clear of it.

We made good progress in 2023 and hope to improve on that this year. Hopefully last years efforts will make this years workload a little less daunting!!

Every member of the team has their own favourites within the wildlife world and I for one have recently taken on a new agri-environment scheme here at Hamslade which will involve coppicing, pollarding, and hedge laying , all in an effort to enhance the natural environment and increase diversity.

As always, if you have any concerns regarding the natural environment within our parish then please do highlight this to me and we will do what we can to address the issue.

If you want to join our merry team to help out, be it boots on the ground, technical or support servicing in any

way then again please do get in touch. davidbannister10@hotmail.com

Thanks to the village organisations who sent in their news to keep folk in Oakford and the wider area of the Exe Valley updated.

If you have anything you would like to share in future issues of the magazine please contact by phone - 01398 351648 or email patsyphili@aol.com

RACKENFORD

It seems strange to have to refer back to Christmas after the first two months of 2024 have passed.

The previous Today notes had to be in before all our Christmas celebrations had commenced so happy new year everyone.

December 10 saw many gathering from all parishes as we were warmly welcomed to the home of Claire, Andrew and family for "Explore Christmas Outside" story. Narrated by Claire. The setting included those dressed as you would imagine all those years ago. The Shepherds, The Wise Men, The Angels and Mary on a real donkey with Joseph leading the way. Each part of this special time led us from one area of the farm to another, until the stable was reached where we saw the wonderful sight of Mary, Joseph and a baby wrapped warmly. Carols were sung as the journey progressed, the story had been told, with readings along the way. Such a special time to share Jesus birth with our friends. Snacks, mulled juice and hot chocolate were enjoyed together. Thank you to everyone for a joyful evening.

Ray Westcott & Sons
Traditional West Country
Thatchers
Over 35 years experience.
No job too SMALL
Estimates given FREE



angela123westcott@hotmail.com

Contact:
01884 861577
07990 951809
07788 293580

Bay Leaf Garden Services

- . Full Garden Maintenance
- . Bush and Shrub Management
- . Weeding, Planting, Pruning and Clearances

Weekly, Fortnightly or Monthly sessions
at affordable hourly rates

Please call Steve on 07970 820 057

PARISH ROUND-UP

A joy to see our carol singers out and about singing / playing us towards Christmas. A wonderful gathering, increasing as they made their way around, you must have felt so cold but thank you for starting off the festive feeling. Hot Chocolate was enjoyed and hopefully warmed you as you finished your evening inside church. Thank you Sharon and all that took part.

We were overjoyed by the wonderful congregation who attended our Christmas Eve service. Lay Led by Liz and Mary. We are so grateful to all of you who did readings and made this service just how we hoped it would be. The church was full with families reuniting, friends meeting up, coming back to Rackenford for some where they once lived, lovely to see you all. The singing was joyful and heartwarming, what a difference it makes when the church is full. Thank you all and hope you enjoyed it too. A good start to Christmas.

Sadly Christmas and New Year doesn't mean happiness and good health to everyone. Life can change so quickly for many. We pray for our loved ones and community.

We send our heartfelt and deepest sympathy to our friend and well know figure Fred and to his children, Jennifer, Andrew and Brian and all the family on the death of Joan. Joan was a dearly loved wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Joan and Fred had been together 62 years. Joan was also a dear friend to so many of us in and around Rackenford. She loved her life working on the farm, supporting the church in numerous ways and was a regular worshipper until poor health prevented her attending. She enjoyed

her bingo, skittles and all the simple things in life and would help anyone she could. She will be greatly missed. A thanksgiving service for Joan was held at our church on January 30 with a full church and standing room only, what a tribute. A cremation followed this service.

Very sorry to hear that Andrew L, and Sharon S, have both been very poorly in hospital but glad you are now both home and making good progress. We also remember Jacques and Joan B or anyone feeling poorly, having surgery /treatment that we have not heard about. Our prayers are with you.

Really sorry to see Steve, Jenny and Laura leave Rackenford after so many years. We wish you great happiness in your new home. Will also miss not having your delicious cakes, sponges on our doorstep Jenny.

A very warm welcome to the new occupants of Old Bell, we hope you will enjoy being in Rackenford.

It was a pleasure to welcome back Steph with Dave at our last Explore Service on January 4th. We shared thoughts of trusting the Lord and the promises he made to us.

God will love you forever, God will never leave you, God will comfort you, God is always faithful, God will keep you safe, God keeps his promises. We all left with a little jar of these beautiful thoughts.

Thank you to Elliot and James for the readings you gave us, we enjoy listening to you. Annmarie had written a poem, which Steph reminded us to read. Many thanks to Annmarie. We are

so pleased the children are helping during the service and playing such a big part. Biscuits, coffee, tea and hot chocolate were enjoyed before the service as we welcomed each other.

A little reminder, our Mothering Sunday Service is also our "Explore" service too with Claire. What a perfect time to celebrate our mums, grandparents or anyone who would like to come and celebrate someone special in their lives. A little gift will be handed out to all those who we love and care for us.

March 31 is our special Easter Sunday service which will be lay led, we look forward to your company.

At the time of going to print we have several wreaths still on loved ones graves, we have no collection facilities for these so if they could be removed it would be a great help.

We continue to pray for all those at war, the traumatic times so many are going through, with no end in sight to the despair they feel.

We also pray for King Charles as he continues his cancer treatment.

Let us hope we will soon be enjoying better weather, time in our gardens and Peace on Earth.





Professional Tennis Coaching

07963 646402



HIGHFIELD TENNIS TIVERTON



HIGHFIELD
CERAMICS
SCHOOL

- Professionally qualified teacher
- Mixed ability classes
- All aspects of claywork
- Mornings & evenings
- Mixed groups
- D of E students
- Tiverton

www.ceramics.lu
01884 257123





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



To place an advertisement,
please contact Dawn Williams
01398 324035
dawnannwilliams1@gmail.com

PARISH ROUND-UP

STOODLEIGH

St Margarets Church

Christmas has come and gone, and it all seems a long time ago now. By the time you read this you will be halfway (roughly) through Lent. So I wonder if you've "given up" anything or you're trying to improve some aspect of your life? Lent is a very good time for reflection and taking stock, where do you want to go from where you are now? A new job? Volunteering for a good cause? The possibilities are endless whatever your age and abilities.

We had a lovely Christmas time at St Margarets, the coffee morning was well attended as was the Carol Service. I don't think anyone will forget Jeannie, Mary and Julian doing a special "poem performance"! Our Breakfast services are going well, but we're always very happy to welcome any new/more attendees. Hot coffee and lovely croissants and buns must be worth a visit?

We will have had our first lunch Service by the time you read this, it's a new idea to (hopefully) encourage more people to view the Church as THEIR CHURCH! Not just somewhere for Weddings and Funerals etc. We look forward to seeing you there.

Flower Rota

18 - 28 March is Lent
 30 Mar - 13 April is Easter Everybody
 20 - 27 April Pat Aplin

Parish Hall
 Our new Parish Hall Management Committee has been busy, attempting to maintain the momentum of activity created by our retiring Chairperson, Vivienne Menear and longstanding Secretary, Geraldine Talbot. We would like to thank them for their service to our community.

Our project for the year ahead is to upgrade the hall lobby to match the major improvements to the kitchen, as well as ensure that the hall is properly maintained, and its ageing structure is well cared for. We gave a farewell to the woodworm, without disturbing the bats, and learned a lot about the wild residents of old buildings.

As always, there are regular activities in the hall including exercise classes, social events and private functions (the hall and kitchen are available to hire by the hour or by the day) and we have special events such as the recent Christmas tree lighting and forthcoming Easter Fair, to be held on Saturday 6 April from 10.30am. Monthly coffee mornings (the next on Saturday 2 March) are always popular, and everyone is welcome. We are hoping that our plans for the lobby refurbishment will make a more convivial environment for a chat and catch up with fellow parishioners.

All the details about hiring the hall and the facilities available can be found on our website:
<https://www.middevonparish.co.uk/stoodleigh/parish-hall/>

100 club winners
 December
 Phillips Hill, John Lang, Nicola Quick and Pat Aplin. Extra prizes, Felicity

Green, Yvonne Lang, Elaine Morisson and Carol Radford.

January
 Shirley White, Phil Talbot, Steve James and Di Honnors

We are hosting the next Exe Valley lunch on 14 March, as advertised in this edition of Today, and so please come along and don't forget to book your meal by phoning the rectory office.

In the last edition we welcomed Brenda, Michael and Ben to Stoodleigh. We need to make a correction to their new address we hope you enjoy living in the village at Little Daymer! Apologies for the error.

"Quoit at Cross Vineyard will be open for wine tours and tastings from May 1st to Sep 30th. Vineyard walk and talk followed by sampling of 3 wines. Views over Stoodleigh and the Exe Valley. For more details contact Tim Hill:
quoitatcrossvineyard@gmail.com
 07983 974 957
www.quoitatcrossvineyard.com"

Stoodleigh Garden Club
 The Garden Club is embarking on another packed year of events, starting with a visit to Ashley Court for snowdrop time, in February. The programme for 2024 is available on the Garden Club page of the Stoodleigh Website, new members are always welcome and non-members are invited to join us for the Community events.

"Tim Hill of 'Quoit at Cross Vineyard' is applying for personal and premises license for the Vineyard (due to open May 2024 for Wine tours and tastings/events) located at Quoit at Cross farm, Stoodleigh, near Tiverton, for the sale of alcohol purposes, both

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

llloyd@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

off and on license. Licensing authority - Mid Devon Council - www.middevon.gov.uk - Phoenix House, Phoenix Ln, Tiverton EX16 6PP. License application dates 26th February - 25th March 2024. It is an offence to knowingly make a false statement in connection with an application, maximum fine for liability £5000. Applicant assumes full responsibility."

TEMPLETON

As February gives way to March, so Winter gives way to Spring, and so the more frequent sunny days provide the opportunity for an increasing range of gardening tasks; preparing seed beds, sowing seed, cutting back winter shrubs and generally getting on with all those 'tidying up' jobs around the garden that many of us have been putting off. *Tackling the most difficult job first or starting with the one that always put off until last can change the very perception of that task for the better.*

St Margaret's Church and Churchyard Specialist repairs to the interior walls of the church continue. This has taken some time due to the nature of this work, but as custodians, we can but look after this village focal point for future generations. We are so grateful for all the regular donations which has helped to achieve this.

The extended area and beech hedge, planted by the local community, now looks established and, once the weather improves, the wooden bench will be very welcoming for anyone wanting to sit quietly in the churchyard. Building on last year's success,

William and Reg are planning to organise a team this year, to tidy the churchyard, cut back shrubs and clear leaves. If you would like to help, please watch this space for further details.

Services

The Sunday services for March and April are published in the centre pages of this magazine. If you or your family have any favourite hymns that you like to sing at one of the services, just let our churchwardens Reg or William know (contact details on page 2).

The last Today Magazine was published before many of our Christmas events had taken place. Many events hadn't happened at the time of writing, but did so before the magazine was circulated to the parishes. Here's a roundup:

The Christmas Children's Party was held on Sunday 10 December at Templeton Village Hall, with a special visit by Father Christmas who was kept busy delivering presents to over 20 happy children. Organised as usual by Tony Loosemore, this was a wonderful occasion for local families, with a disco, plenty of party food and fun.

The Annual Christmas Bar Games (table tennis, pool, darts, and skittles) were held at Templeton Village Hall every Saturday evening in December from Saturday 2 December until the grand finals on Saturday 16 December. There is always time to practice on club nights or other nights in the week. The 2023 winners were:

Ladies skittles: Winner Liz Walker, runner up Lisa Hawkins.

Mens skittles: Winner Martin Saunders, runner up Eric Kingdom.

Mens mixed/pool: Winner Mike Pancherz, runner up Mark Stone.

Ladies darts: Winner Teresa Pancherz, runner up Sue Gammon.

Mens darts: Winner Reg Coffin, runner up Roland Morrish.

Mixed table tennis: Winner David Leeming, runner up Jake Pancherz

A wonderful candlelit Christmas Carol Service with Claire took place on Christmas Eve. It was lovely to see St. Margaret's Church packed with friends and neighbours singing their favourite carols and taking part in the readings. The village hall was open after the service and included the presentation of the Christmas bar games shields to the winners.

A karaoke and music night took place on New Year's Eve at Templeton Village Hall. The bar was open and snacks and nibbles adorned the tables. Many thanks to Sue Coffin's talented brother Bob and his wife Sonia and family who entertained us, set up the karaoke for the evening and provided the music. Thank you to everyone who made it such a lovely way to see in the New Year and kick off 2024!

At the time of writing, a fundraising curry and quiz night is being planned for 24 February. Ciara Wilson has been actively raising funds to support her volunteering trip to Kenya this summer and this event will take her a step closer to achieving this much deserved goal.

Templeton Run

On Sunday 24 March 2024, the Exe Valley Rotary Club is organising their annual Charity Templeton Run. This event started over ten years ago as a 5km fun-run for people of all ages, with Templeton Village Hall providing refreshments for the runners and marshals. Last year, the Rotary Club

The Bowen Technique

Do you suffer from sciatic pain, whiplash, back pain, knee pain, frozen shoulder, jaw problems, anxiety, chronic fatigue, MS, fibromyalgia, sleep, digestive problems, infant colic, sleep disorders...?

Bowen Therapy is a gentle, hands-on, soft tissue therapy which triggers the nervous system to reset tissue tension, facilitating the body to heal itself.

Bowen promotes changes in many systems of the body such as the lymphatic system, hormonal system and autonomic nervous system. Bowen does not force the body to change, rather it enables your body to realign and heal itself naturally. It is suitable for all ages.

Jemma Jones, Mobile 07748 987 109

Clinic is at Leftfield (formerly Neal's Yard), Exeter

www.jemmajonesbowen.co.uk info@jemmajonesbowen.co.uk

SaveX Services Ltd

Rob Vinnicombe

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

MOB: 07770637924

OFFICE: 01363 866992

EMAIL: savexgenerators@aol.com

PARISH ROUND-UP

decided to expand the run to a wider group of runners as a 10km and 5km run. The course will follow a route starting at Templeton Village Hall and go through beautiful countryside into the Cruwys Woods, which Guy Cruwys has kindly opened for the occasion. If you're interested in entering the run, which is overseen by the South West Road Runners (SWRR), here's the link – Book yourself in now! <https://www.swrr.co.uk/feighan-fury/>

Easter Service and Egg Hunt

On Easter Sunday, 31 March, the Easter Service at St Margaret's Church will be followed by an Easter Egg Hunt in Templeton.

Templeton Tractor Run

For the past two years Roland and Reg have arranged a Tractor Run at Templeton Village Hall and are hoping to do so again this year. This fund-raising event involves classic and vintage tractors; the owners drive their tractors along a planned local route. Refreshments are served after the tractor run. We are currently thinking of sometime in April or May but as soon as a date has been finalised, details about the time and the route will follow.

Other events planned for this year include: a village treasure hunt - sometime in June (date to be confirmed) and a village barbecue - sometime in September (date to be confirmed). A pet church service is also planned – date to be confirmed!

Anyone fancy a game of Pickleball?

Pickleball is a paddle sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton, and table tennis using a paddle and plastic ball with holes. This game is appropriate for players of all

ages and skill levels and the rules for pickleball are simple. Templeton Village Hall plans to buy a pickleball set, so if you're interested in playing a game, just email templetonvh@gmail.com so that we can get an idea of numbers and organise some dates.

Regular Gatherings

Art Group: every second Tuesday 10am-12 midday Templeton Village Hall. No charge. Just come along. Coffee and cake provided.

Yoga: Sessions every Thursday, 3.30pm to 5pm at Templeton Village Hall. Pat, an experienced yoga instructor, can accommodate all abilities. £9.00 per session. Just come along any week.

Book Group: Templeton Village Hall. Second Wednesday of every month at 3pm. Although the group is at full capacity at the moment, please contact Julie 01884 233507 if you would like to be contacted when there is a vacancy.

Knit and Natter: At St Margaret's Church on the last Friday of each month 10.30am to 12 midday. Bring any repair work, embroidery, crochet, knitting, or just come along for a cuppa and biscuits and a chat!

Templeton Village Hall and Social Club:

Come up on a club night for a drink and a chat or maybe you would like to have a game of darts, pool, table tennis or skittles? - Club nights are held on Monday and Saturday evenings from 8.00pm to 11pm. Club membership is £2.00 and the drinks are very reasonably priced. If you would like to book the village hall for a birthday party, meeting, or any other event, contact Bindy 01884 860655.

Thoughts, Prayers and Best Wishes
Our thoughts and prayers are also with the family of Jem (Jeremy) Dinneen of Chapel House, Templeton Bridge. Sadly, Jem passed away on 29 December 2023 after a tremendous 3-year battle against Lymphoma. Jem and Marianne have been part of Templeton for over 25 years and never missed a fete, duck race or bonfire night despite living in both Shepperton and Templeton. Jem will be greatly missed by all who knew him. His funeral was held on Tuesday February 6 in Guildford.

Our prayers and best wishes go to all those who are unwell, who have been in hospital, awaiting or recovering from surgery, or who are having a tough time.

Church Flowers and Cleaning Rota March and April 2024

Ginah Palmer	10/17 March
No flowers	
Lynda Newnes	
Easter Sunday	24/31 March
Gloria Woollacott	
Flowers and cleaning	7/14 April
Laura O'Brien	
Flowers and cleaning	21-28 April

WASHFIELD

Nothing ever seems impossible in Spring as the buds burst into bloom and the river carries their song of life. Where flowers bloom, so does hope.

Greetings from St. Mary's and our best wishes to all those experiencing difficult times after visits to hospital and the trials of



Sydenhams
GARDENS & LANDSCAPES

Landscaping and Garden Design

Contract Grass Cutting
Lawn tractor / Lawn mowing

Border design and planting

07971 531163
andrew.sydenham@gmail.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



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

convalescence. We are very pleased that Hilary is happily at home again. You are all in our thoughts and prayers for a return to good health.

We are delighted to welcome two new babies to the parish, a daughter, Martha, for Lydia and Richard at Cotleigh, and for Lucy and Peter, Angus, a brother for Albie. Many congratulations to you all!

Christmas was well celebrated at St. Mary's and began with the Christingle Service, and on Christmas Eve it was almost 'standing room only' for the traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols. We would like to thank all those who decorated the church and the Christmas tree so beautifully. A large young people's choir excelled themselves singing 'Away in a Manger', Sarah's organ playing was much appreciated and all the Lessons were read by young people - a wonderful effort by the whole church family and ably hosted by Richard. Mulled wine followed and Christmas good wishes exchanged, which sent us happily on our way!

On Christmas Day we shared our worship with our neighbours at Calverleigh, who made us very welcome.

Cheerful signs of Spring are all around, with snowdrops appearing and primroses and daffodils battling with the wind and rain. Like them we are preparing for Easter with its wonderful message of new life, despite wars and violence and suffering in so many parts of the world. There always will be hope of more peaceful times to come.

Please look in the centre pages of the Magazine for Easter. We will be sharing with another church on Easter Day but there will be a quiet Service of Reflection in Washfield on Good Friday

led by Steph, our Rector. Lent will be observed in various ways throughout the Exe Valley Churches. One of these will be Mothering Sunday at St. Mary's so do come and say thank you to your Mums with a posy of Spring flowers and with chocolate biscuits and drinks for all! Steph will also be leading the Family Service for all ages on March 17th at 10.45 am., when all the church family can be together.

We look forward to the Egg Rolling and Decorating Day on Easter Saturday - a great tradition in Washfield when local children and visiting families meet up and the competition is keen! We are hoping to have stalls and Coffee and Hot Cross Buns, Raffle etc. in the Hall afterwards.

A HAPPY EASTER to all our readers!

Glad to report that, the Burns Night, put on by the Social Club on Saturday 25 January was amazing, with over 50 attendees. The lovely meal was suitably-themed with the haggis being the 'piece de resistance.'

Special thanks must go to Alastair for his address to the haggis which left us in awe. Puddings then followed and a dram of whisky for all attending before the tables and chairs were then pushed back and the music and dancing began! What a ceilidh it was too with much fun and laughter! A very special night and thanks to all who helped arrange this so meticulously.

The film night in February, The Grand Budapest Hotel, was also a resounding success. Full of fast-paced slapstick and dark humour, it was a visual treat for those attending. More, more, more, I hear you cry!

On the menu next is a Line Dancing evening at the end of February. Yeeha! Well done to all the Social Club committee for its work in putting these events on.

Please don't forget to keep a look out for what's on next.

Don't forget also, teatime@thehall is still as popular as ever. On 2nd Tuesday of each month between 2.30pm-4pm. All ages welcome to these friendly, inclusive afternoons.

To those who are not enjoying good health at the time of writing, we hope you will soon feel better, we send loving wishes for a speedy recovery if you are convalescing.

We wished Michael Kerlake a very happy 80th birthday at the end of December. Hope you enjoyed your special day, Michael.

Church Flower Rota
 March 31/April 7
 April 14/21
 April 28/May 5

Mrs Taylor Ross
 Jessica Lampard
 Mrs Frankpitt

WITHLEIGH

The weather has often been dark and gloomy over the past winter months, but now spring seems to come earlier these days. Our churchyard is adorned with snowdrops at the present moment which makes us feel that spring is just around the corner, and soon there should be daffodils in the hedges and banking and we will be looking forward to pleasant spring sunshine and gentle warmth, on that theme here is a spring poem.

WOTTON of TIVERTON LIMITED



01398 351221
 E-mail: enquiries@wotton.co.uk
www.wotton.co.uk



WOS2



KM 522428



BS EN 12522



EUROPEAN MOVERS



TRADING STANDARDS UK

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

S.S. ROOFING EST 30 YEARS SPECIALISTS

Roofing & Leadwork Specialists

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



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

PARISH ROUND-UP

*God smiled, and there was sunshine,
Softly streaming all around.
God wept, and there were showers,
Gently nourishing the ground.
God laughed, and there were birds,
Sweetly singing melodies.
God beckoned, and there were blossoms,
Bursting forth from all the trees,
And the entire world was beautiful,
And every living thing,
Was blessed with joy and happiness.
When God loved, and there was Spring.*

Our plough Sunday service in January was well attended and the plough entered the church with help from the YF who also did several readings, we had an enlightening talk from Sara about life growing up on a local farm in the 60's and onwards.

A belated welcome to Matthew, Emma and their family, who have recently moved into the Old Rectory. We hope you have settled in well and look forward to seeing you at future village events.

We send our sympathy and love to John and his family on the death of Averil whose funeral service took place in our Church recently.

Witleigh Wildlife Group.(WWG)

The Witleigh Wildlife group was launched in 2023 and kicked off with a talk by Stephen Powles about Hedgehogs. This was followed by further presentations and monthly Saturday morning produce and plant swap "get togethers" at the village hall. This year we will be restarting in early spring and hope to welcome John Walter's, a passionate naturalist, who is well known for his presentations on "Spring Watch" and "The One Show", to be our first speaker. Details to be finalised.

Our monthly Saturday morning bring, swap, coffee and chat "get togethers" will take place every 2nd Saturday of the month 10.30-12.00am commencing on 13/04/24. We look forward to seeing you there.

Village Hall Notes February 2024

It was lovely to see so many at our Christmas Community Lunch. Thank you to everyone who supplied food and draw prizes. The draw raised £134.50 for Children's Hospice South West.

We also held a Community lunch on the 25th January, for this lunch the proceeds from the draw went to Sing to Remember, we sent them £125. Again thank you everyone who contributed to make it an enjoyable time together.

We send our condolences to the Birt family following the passing of Dr Robin Birts, Charlie's Dad. Dr Birts was seen in the village when he came down to stay with the family.

On Thursday 7th March we are holding our Easter Bingo. Eyes down 7.30pm. After Easter on Thursday 4th April will be our regular monthly Bingo.

The much awaited Easter Egg Beetle Drive will be on Easter Saturday 30th March. A good chance to win an Easter Egg if you missed getting any from the shops!! We are in the Village Hall beginning at 7.30pm.

Our next Community Lunch will be on Tuesday 16th April, 12.30pm for 1pm. Tickets are £6 from Christine 01884 257571. Our charity will be The Tiverton Hospital League of Friends.

WOW continues to flourish. Since the last newsletter we have had two contrasting meetings. In January Helen MacIntosh from the Mid Devon Messenger gave us a lovely talk

explaining about all the activities, besides the talking newspaper and books which are arranged for the blind. Carole and her trusty guide dog also came and Carole told us about her amazing life despite her handicap. This month Susie's sister Jane led us in a happy day crafting our own greetings cards by playing with paints and collage. The next meeting is on Thursday 14th March in the Village Hall at 7.15pm. Any queries, please contact Susie on 258492.'

Congratulations to anyone who has a special anniversary, and to any who have a special birthday.

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

Flower Rota;

7th, 14th and 21st April Michaela Luxton
28th April, 5th and 12th May Rosie Edmondston-Low

Date's for your Diary,

Thursday 7th March Easter Bingo, in the Village Hall, Eyes down 7.30pm
Saturday 30th March, Easter Beetle Drive, in the Village Hall, @ 7.30pm
Thursday 4th April, Bingo in the Village Hall, Eyes down 7.30pm
Tuesday 16th April, Community Lunch, in the Village Hall 12.30 for 1pm



**DEVON & SOMERSET
MARQUEES**
EVENT MANAGEMENT & MARQUEE HIRE

dsmarquees.co.uk
01398 351 210

**A COMPLETE
MARQUEE HIRE SERVICE**

- Weddings & Anniversaries
- Sports & Charity Events
- Christening & Birthdays
- Corporate & Club Functions
- Christmas & Special Occasions

SC JOINERY

All aspects of joinery & carpentry

Mobile: 07725129757

Email: scjoinery@yahoo.co.uk

Facebook: @joinerysc

PARISH ROUND-UP



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Opening February
SHARE SHOP TIVERTON
 A new community library of household equipment to borrow at low cost.

Can you help us?
 Contact shareshoptiverton@gmail.com
 or find us on facebook,
 @shareshoptiverton

shareshoptiverton.org.uk
 A Sustainable Tiverton project.




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





Ele Davidson

Painter & Decorator
 North Devon Area

07775 600298

eledav1@btinternet.com

[painterdecoratorcommissions](https://www.facebook.com/painterdecoratorcommissions)

The Red Lion Hotel

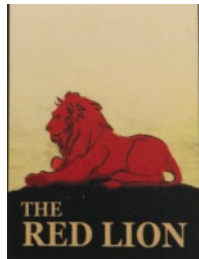
Oakford
Tiverton
Devon EX16 9ES

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


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

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

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

KILBRIDE ROOFING

ROOF SLATING, TILING AND LEADWORK CONTRACTORS

SPECIALISTS IN RE-ROOFING HERITAGE AND LISTED BUILDINGS

TEL : 01884 252213

EMAIL : enquiries@kilbrideroofing.com WEB : www.kilbrideroofing.com

KILBRIDE ROOFING LIMITED

UNIT 5 A, HARTNOLL BUSINESS CENTRE, POST HILL, TIVERTON, DEVON. EX16 4NG



HAWKEBARN
WEDDING & SPECIAL EVENT VENUE
rustic | romantic | relaxed



A stunning barn venue for your Devon countryside wedding
2024/25 Dates Available

Passionate about horseracing?
Get involved with
NIGEL HAWKE



Thorne Farm RACING
We offer:
Racehorse Experience Days
A range of Racehorse Ownership Options
Contact Nigel Hawke
07769 295839/01884 881666
marketing@thornefarmracingltd.co.uk

THORNE FARM
HOLIDAY COTTAGES & FARM STAYS
rural | quirky | comfort



Stay with us in our beautiful Devon valley
Book online at:
Devon Farms & Country Stays

Your advert could be here.
Six bi-monthly issues.
1250 copies are distributed through the Exe Valley and it is also read in colour on-line.

hawkebarnvenue.co.uk • nigelhawke@thornefarmracing.co.uk • thornefarmholidaycottages.co.uk

Three great businesses, one stunning location...

Thorne Farm • Stoodleigh • Tiverton • Devon EX16 9QG