



SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2025

Price £1.00

A NEW WARDROBE!

A lot of stuff has happened over the last couple of months or so. I know that all sorts of unexpected and surprising stuff has happened to me and no doubt to you too! There's no stopping it. Whatever our carefully made plans, other stuff just comes crashing in - and there's nothing you can do about it. It's not personal. You've not been targeted. It's just life.

At this point, I should add, that for me life seems very precious, and you'll be pleased to know I have learnt several things.

Firstly, I am determined to make the most of every single day. And I give you permission to remind me of that when I become cynical or negative. I can't guarantee what my response will be - but I give you permission to remind me of what I just said.

I admit that I am stubborn. My children and quite a few of you noticed that I wasn't looking well and expressed concern. I was grateful but thought I knew better. Thank you for your love and concern. I will listen in future - and my children will never let me forget it.

The media may tell us about the brokenness of the health service. My experience has been quite

extraordinary - high levels of skill and care, without which I would not be here today, feeling miraculously well - and hungry!! I am so grateful.

The messages and cards I have received have encouraged me so much. Some of you are so good with sending messages and cards and I just want you to know how important they have been. Thank you for them and your prayers. I have felt buoyed up by the power of prayer.



The verse in the Bible about 'laying up treasure on earth' has been one of the many verses that have popped into my mind on several occasions of late. One of the 'earthly treasure chests' in my house is my wardrobe - OK wardrobes! (I blame my mother!) I have always been a bit of a 'clothes horse' and I have accrued a wardrobe of clothes that I really love, including not one but two

wedding outfits to wear this summer! Oh dear! I can hear the words from the parable. 'You fool!' resounding in my ears. The reason being that I have lost so much weight that nothing fits, it just falls down! All sorts of parts of my body, mainly beginning with 'B' have completely disappeared, and I have been told I will not regain my former weight. (Something to do with not having a stomach!) So - I am having to buy some new clothes for my new size 8-10 physique!

Georgie came to bring me Holy Communion the other Sunday. She reminded me that when we are baptised we receive new clothes - our resurrection clothes - in readiness for what is to come, a life where there is no sadness, or crying or pain. I thought I was about to put mine on, but no! But I know I have got them ready and waiting! I hope you have to!

*With my love to you and
those you love,
Steph*

P.S. Just so as you know, I am hoping to return to work at some time in the future. Not yet, though. It is, apparently, still early days. I will let you know when something definite happens!

**Copy Deadline for
November / December 2025 issue**

Monday 6 October 2025

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WHAT'S ON

NATURE NOTES

The Wonderful World of Lichens

There's a delicate tapestry of muted greys, greens, and yellows, quietly thriving all around us. How often do we pause to appreciate this intricate patchwork? They are everywhere. On walls, rooftops, pavements, tree trunks, branches, wooden benches, and even on seemingly inhospitable tarmac and plastic. Churches and churchyards are havens for these fascinating organisms. Welcome to the enchanting world of lichens!

Of the 2,000 species found in the UK, 700 flourish in burial grounds and churchyards. Many of these are rare and seldom seen elsewhere, making such sites veritable lichen sanctuaries. The diverse materials used for gravestones attract a wide assortment of lichens and lichenologists. The latter can be spotted with their noses close to their subjects, peering intently through magnifying lenses at their latest discovery.

Gravestones, church buildings, surrounding walls, paths, wooden benches, and ancient trees each offer unique conditions, attracting different lichen communities. Growing at a mere 1mm per year, some lichens are as ancient as the gravestones they adorn.

Lichens are remarkable survivors, thriving where few others can - from the North Pole to the summit of Everest, and deep into the Sahara Desert. Unprotected, they can even endure the intense radiation of space.

So, what exactly is a lichen? It is a symbiotic partnership between two organisms living as one. The visible component and main structure is a fungus (found in all lichens). It is partnered with either an alga or a cyanobacteria. The latter two feed the fungus, which in return provides them with a home in what would otherwise be an inhospitable location for them.

Lichens come in three main forms: crust-like (crustose), shrubby/branching/hair-like (fruticose), and leaf-like (foliose). Those found on gravestones, stonework, and paths are typically crustose. While most lichens are known by their Latin names, some

have charming, descriptive names like 'sunburst lichen' and 'pepper pot lichen.' The magical string of sausages lichen, beard-like and dangling from trees in damp woodlands, is an indicator of a pristine, unpolluted atmosphere.

Have you ever wondered where the purple dye of a Roman toga came from, or the oranges and browns of a Harris Tweed jacket, or the earthy fragrances in perfumes? Ponder no more, they are all from lichens!

The natural world is extraordinary in its complexity and variety, and lichens are no exception. They are all around us, waiting to be enjoyed and marvelled. Many are on our doorstep (literally in some cases). Often understated, they are unlikely to be as boring as you might have thought. Take a moment to delve into the wonderful world of lichens - you might be surprised by what you find!

Stephen Powles



CALVERLEIGH

'It's not the winning, it's the taking part!'

Bible Study Group

Looking at Galatians

The next meeting will be held at The Cottage, Washfield Monday September 29th at 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



Teddy Taylor from Templeton representing Team GB in Seville, Spain. Full story on page 15



Parish Diary

SEPTEMBER

- 3 Stoodleigh Coffee Morning and Plant Sale at Honeywell
- 6/7 Lobeare Prayer Weekend
- 6 Stoodleigh Parish Hall Coffee Morning 10.30am
- 9 St Peter's Oakford - Books, Coffee & Chat 10.30am
- 11 Exe Valley Mission Community Lunch at Templeton Village Hall 12.30pm
- 12 Rackenford Club Quiz
- 13 Oakford Moorland Ladies Big Breakfast 10.30am
- 13 Stoodleigh Afternoon Tea at Wheatcroft at 3.00pm
- 13 Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall - Beer & Boogie 7.30pm
- 13 Loxbeare Ploughman's Lunch for Farms for City Children 12.30pm
- 14 Withleigh Harvest Festival and Tea 3.00pm
- 14 Templeton Duck Race 2.00pm
- 15 Withleigh Harvest Supper & Auction 7.00pm
- 20 Calverleigh Bring & Share Harvest Supper 7.00pm
- 20 Washfield Skittles Hall Fundraiser 7.30pm
- 21 Oakford Harvest Festival followed by lunch at the hall 10.45am
- 21 Calverleigh Harvest Festival followed by games on the green 3.00pm
- 21 Red Lion Quiz Oakford 8.00pm
- 23 Loxbeare Harvest Supper
- 27 Cruwys Morchard Harvest Festival and Tea 2.15pm
- 27 Rackenford Sponsored Walk

OCTOBER

- 4 Stoodleigh Village Hall Coffee Morning 10.30am
- 4 Templeton Harvest Supper 7.30pm
- 4/5 Loxbeare Prayer Weekend
- 4 Stoodleigh Harvest Supper 7.00pm
- 7 Washfield Defibrillator Training 7.00pm
- 8 St Peter's Oakford Books, Coffee & Chat 10.30am
- 9 Exe Valley Mission Community Lunch at Oakford Village Hall 12.30pm
- 9 Oakford Moorland Ladies Fashion Show and Clothes Exchange 7.30pm
- 10 Stoodleigh Hall at 7.30pm A talk by Stephen Powles 'Otters, coming to a river near you'
- 11 Loxbeare Soup Lunch for South West Blood Bikers 12.30pm
- 11 Cruwys Morchard Apple Day
- 13 Deanery Synod Meeting at Cullompton with Very Reverend Dr Mike, Bishop of Exeter
- 15 Rackenford Harvest Supper
- 18 Stoodleigh Walk & Lunch
- 18 Washfield Annual Pumpkin Weigh-in
- 18 Cruwys Morchard Bingo 7.00pm
- 18 Loxbeare Coffee Morning at Barton View for Blythewood Shoe Boxes 10.30am
- 19 Red Lion Quiz Oakford at 8.00pm
- 24/25 Oakford Players Variety Show with supper. Contact Dawn
- 25 Calverleigh Family Bingo 7.00pm Village Hall
- 25 Rackenford Fashion Swap Party

PARISH ROUND-UP

Come and meet us at our Tiverton practice on Saturday, 4th October, from 1pm-5pm.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

CALVERLEIGH

As the new school year begins (where did that time go?), we hope that you had a fun and relaxing time through the summer holidays. We send our best wishes to children starting "big school" for the first time, those moving on to secondary schools or college and also to those who may be moving away from the comfort of home to begin their next stage of education at university.

It is great to hear that our Rector Steph is on the road to recovery after her surgery and we continue to pray for her and her family. All through this time Dawn has been holding the fort in the church office, keeping things going. Thank you, Dawn for all you have been doing!

A little bit of light-hearted fun and maybe a bit of rivalry was held through the 24/25 Premier League with members of the congregation in the form of fantasy football. "Calverleague" was set up by Paul with many a discussion taking place before/after services to praise the merits/disappointments/injuries of players etc. A presentation was held with the worthy winner being presented with a trophy. 1st place went to Paul - Hopefully FC, 2nd Rita - 2 metre Rita, 3rd Tasha - Tasha's Titans. Bringing up the rear with the 'It's not the winning but the taking part' award of a wooden spoon was Dave. Thanks, Paul for arranging this and we are now into the 25/26 season and doing it all again. (Photo) See page 3

The Potato Competition was held in July with many saying what a poor growing year it had been. This reflected in the weight of the individual crops which

were grown from just two potatoes. Congratulations to ladies Alison (8lb 8½oz), Wendy (8lb 2oz), Diana (5lb 8oz) with Mary's weighing just 9½oz. Men's competition was won by Kipper (13lb 12oz), Eric (10lb 8oz), Richard (9lb 6oz) and Gary's potato weight of just 7½oz. Well done to you all and thanks go to Gillian for organising this annual event along with a draw, Mary, Louise and Tim for assisting and to Liz from the Stoodleigh Inn for hosting the weigh-in and providing a delicious potato supper. Money raised will go towards Calverleigh church and Devon Air Ambulance. Thank you to all who support this event. We are extremely grateful for your donations.

After the Explore service on 6 July, which was led by Tasha, a Jar of Encouragement was placed inside by the church entrance. The service focused on encouraging each other and the congregation wrote thoughts on strips of paper which were added to the jar. Feedback was received that a person who later visited was very grateful because the paper taken from the jar was just what was needed at that time.

The graveside funeral of Rupert Pilkington was held in July. Rupert was the PCC Treasurer from 1994-97 before going abroad to work for a while and has been a frequent worshipper at St. Mary's. Our prayers are with Rupert's family at this most sad and difficult of times. Our thoughts and prayers are also with all those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. A service of Thanksgiving for the life of Rupert will be held on Friday 29 August at Chevithorne church.

Our open-air service was a bit of a "do we/don't we" decision as to whether we would be brave enough to set up

outside this year. In the end the right choice was made to hold it indoors as before the end of the service the heavens opened, so much so that people had to wait for the rain to subside a little, once refreshment had been served, before they could venture back to their cars. Thank you to the 'runners' who accompanied people to their cars with umbrellas and to all who kindly brought goodies to enjoy with a tea or coffee.

A service celebrating the life of Rev'd Harold Whitty was held at Stoke Canon church at the end of July. Harold was part of the Exe Valley Ministry Team during 1980s and 90s. A good number of people from around the Exe Valley, along with many others, came along to the moving and fitting service full of music and humour for a lovely man, full of faith.

At the time of writing our Produce show, organised by Maureen and Paul, is approaching and we know that people will be busy with their preparations of either growing exhibits, flower arranging, baking, crafting or photography for the event which will take place on 24 August. A report with results will appear in the next edition of the Today magazine.

Many happy returns to those who have celebrated a birthday recently and congratulations go to those who have been celebrating a birth in the family or special anniversary. Congratulations to Dave and Nik are celebrating 14 years of marriage this September! Please get in contact with Dave Burton (calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org) if you would like to share any news with the parish or advertise an event, or to add a birthday or anniversary message.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Forthcoming Events

Harvest Thanksgiving takes place on the weekend of September 20/21 September. A bring and share harvest supper in the village hall on Saturday 20 starting at 7.00pm with a guest speaker. If you would like to come along, please contact Aubrey or Jackie for an idea of numbers. I am sure that there will also be a couple of quizzes during the evening to test your brains.

On Sunday 21 there will be a Family Harvest Thanksgiving service at 10.45am in church followed by games on the green and a bring your own picnic, with tea/coffee and soft drinks provided.

A box for donations will be in church for the collection of goods; tinned, dried and toiletries for CHAT over this period.

On Saturday 25 October, there will be a Family Bingo held at Calverleigh Village Hall in aid of church funds. It starts at 7pm. Draw prizes are welcome. Please contact Maureen and Paul if you'd like to come along.

Each month we hold our Explore Service on the 3rd Sunday. Explore is a fun and interactive all age family friendly service starting at 9.15am with refreshments. Explore is also held in Rackenford each month on the 1st Sunday each month.

More Dates for your diary:

Autumn Fayre: Saturday 15 Nov, 10.30am - 2.00pm

Church cleaning rota:

25 Aug - 6 Sep:	Mrs A Webber
8 Sep - 20 Sep:	Mrs J Goldsworthy
22 Sep - 4 Oct:	Mrs S Greenslade
6 Oct - 18 Oct:	Mrs R Tapp
20 Oct - 1 Nov:	Miss J Herniman
3 Nov - 15 Nov:	Mrs M Furneaux
17 Nov - 29 Nov:	Mrs A Balsdon
1 Dec - 13 Dec:	Miss S Goldsworthy

Flower rota

7 Sep - 14 Sep:	Ms L Carrey
21 Sep - 28 Sep:	Mrs L Thomas
5 Oct - 12 Oct:	Mrs D Hopper
19 Oct - 26 Oct:	Mrs T Pugsley

Mowing rota

25 Aug - 6 Sep:	Mr A Hancock
8 Sep - 20 Sep:	Mr C Durnan
22 Sep - 4 Oct:	The Webber Family
6 Oct - 20 Oct:	Mr A Goldsworthy

If you would like to be prayed for as part of our monthly prayer time (first Saturday of each month) or during a service please contact Julie by email at thegoldsworthys@yahoo.co.uk or on 01884 255248. Dave is always ready to receive any news under Calverleigh whether it be a celebration, an upcoming event or news of interest to the community. Email Calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org.

CRUWYS MORCHARD

Church of the Holy Cross

It is Back to School time of year, and we wish you well as you take on this new challenge.

Autumn has begun and soon the colours of our beautiful countryside will be changing. Harvest is being gathered in, and we wish you a bountiful one.

To celebrate please come and join in with our Community Harvest Festival celebrations on Saturday 27th September. We shall have a community tea at the Parish Hall after the sports in a field yet to be decided. It all begins at 2.15 pm at the church with a short Harvest service. There will

be a collection for CHAT of gifts of non-perishable foods. We look forward to celebrating Harvest with you.

Many congratulations to Kerryanne Campbell and William Croft who were married at our church on Saturday 5 July and to Clarrie Lancelles and Ben Martin who were married on Saturday 12 July. We wish them every happiness in their lives together.

Flower and Cleaning Rota

Aug 25 & Sept 1	Cindy Trick
Sept 8 & 15	Marilyn Hill
Sept 22	Decorators for Harvest
Sept 29 & Oct 6	Cindy Trick
Oct 13 & 20	Sarah Cruwys
Oct 27 & Nov 3	Denyse Standen & Jo Hilton

Our thoughts and prayers are with those grieving the loss of a loved one at this time. We also pray for a speedy recovery and send best wishes to all that are unwell, have been in hospital, are awaiting treatment, recovering from surgery or having a tough time at present. We send our best wishes to Steph as she continues to recover.

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

Beer and Boogie

Come and join us for an evening of fun live music at Cruwys Morchard Parish hall with The Black Dog Boogie Band on Saturday 13 September 7.30pm - 11.00pm. Entry on the doors is £5.00, under 16's free. Hot pasties available. Cash bar. For more information, please contact Diana Vincent on 01363 860227.

Apple Day

The day to get your apples pressed this year is Saturday 11 October. Please remember to bring containers for you

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Apple Juice and enjoy some refreshments while you wait.

Bingo Saturday 18 October, Bingo at the Parish Hall. Door open 7pm, eyes down at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre will be on Saturday 8 November at the Parish Hall. If you are interested in having a stall, please contact Ali Vincent on 07801 480806.

Yoga at the Parish Hall

General Hatha Yoga Class at Cruwys Morchard Hall, Thursdays 10am – 11.15am. All abilities and ages welcome. Call Hilary on 01363 866245.

Upcoming events:

Dave & Di's Christmas quiz, Saturday 6 December.

Parish Hall Christmas Bingo, Saturday 14 December.

Cruwys Morchard YFC

Our members had great success at the Mid Devon Show this year. Well done to all, the tent was awash with your fabulous entries, and it was great to see you in the live action events.

At the time of writing many of our Junior members are embarking on a trip to the Isle of Wight for the South West Area YFC Junior Activities weekend.

We continue to raise money by collecting aluminium drinks cans. So please let us have yours! If you have cans that we can collect please contact Ali Vincent, 07801 480806.

This is only a snapshot of what we've been doing and there is so much more 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 7:00pm. Club email, cruwysm.yfc@gmail.com

Cruwys Social Evening

On the second and fourth Wednesday of every month there is a social evening at the Parish Hall from 6.30pm to 9.30pm. Come and join your neighbours for a chat and a drink and perhaps partake of

the quiz that runs between 7.30pm and 9pm. All welcome! For more information, please contact Ali Vincent, 07801 480806.

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 when 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 alisonpvincent@hotmail.co.uk

from St Paul's & St George's in Tiverton. We are grateful to him for coming to the Exe Valley and for his encouraging message. The service on 17th August will be lay led and we are grateful to Marjorie for playing the organ for this service.

By the time the magazine comes out, the long hot days of summer will be moving into the season of Autumn, when we will be celebrating God's abundant provision for us at the Harvest Praise service on 21st September at 10.45. We will have a guest speaker who farms with her husband on Exmoor. Please do come and join in this service of thankfulness for all that God has provided. The Harvest supper will be on Tuesday 23rd September – we look forward to meeting together to enjoy a meal and the auction of produce. Any money raised will be given to CHAT. Tickets for the supper are £7. Everyone is very welcome to bring produce or flowers on 19th/20th September to decorate the church and subsequently auctioned. There will be a planning meeting for the Harvest Supper on 11th September at 7.30 at Barton View.

Please see centre pages of the magazine for details of other services during September and October.

The prayer weekends will be on 6th & 7th September and 4th & 5th October. If you require specific pointers for prayer, please contact Jean or Carol.

There will be a coffee morning at Barton View on 18th October from 10.30 till noon in aid of Blythwood, which send shoe boxes filled with items for people of all ages, to various places around the world to people who have very little. The small, everyday items in the boxes, bring such joy to the recipients.

The church was full of family, friends and neighbours for the thanksgiving service for the life of Les Tidball, held in July. Les' nephew, Andy, spoke of Les' love of and dedication to farming, which began at a very young age - before he started school - and continued for the whole of his life.

LOXBARE

Our rector, Steph is now at home recovering from major surgery, praise God. We continue to pray for her and her family and look forward to seeing Steph back amongst us when she is well enough.

Congratulations to couples who have recently married: Michael & Dawn in June and Stephen & Donna in July. We wish them every happiness.

It was lovely to have Dave Edwards to lead our service on 6th July. He is an encouraging, uplifting worship leader and we are privileged to have him as part of the Exe Valley Mission Team.

The Songs of Praise was very well attended on 20th July, with hymns being chosen by members of the congregation. Lara, who is a very gifted musician, played the keyboard and we are very grateful to her for coming to Loxbeare. The service on the 3rd August was lay led and the cluster service on 10th August which took place in Loxbeare, was led by Reverend David Widdows

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PARISH ROUND-UP

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Richard Denton in July and our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Jean, who often plays the organ at Loxbeare, and all of his family at this time. Richard will be very much missed by the church family in Loxbeare.

Sadly, we heard of the passing of Reverend Harold Whitty in July. Many of you will remember him as a past rector of the Exe Valley Mission Community. We have fond memories of him and our sympathy is with his family at this time.

We send our best wishes to Jenny after her recent surgery and pray for a speedy recovery for her. Also, for Muriel and Marjorie after their recent stay in hospital.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are suffering or struggling with physical or mental health and for those who care for them.

Community News

The Ploughman's lunch held in July raised £250 for the firefighters service and the Cream Tea held in August raised £152 for Multiple Sclerosis.

There will be a Ploughman's lunch on September 13th from 12.30 till 2.00 and proceeds from this will be given to the Farms for City Children

On October 11th, there will be a soup lunch from 12.30 till 2.00 and proceeds will be given to South West Blood Bikers.

and winter. Logs are being stored in sheds and oil in tanks. Straw, hay and silage are in the farmer's barns and blackberries and apples are being gathered and frozen ready for lovely winter puds.

Country mottoes for September and October,

'September blows soft – till the fruits in the loft.'

'In October dung your field and your land it's wealth shall yield.'

St Peter's Church - Building work continues with the installation of disabled toilet facilities. The staircase leading to the newly raised bell ringing floor should hopefully be in place by the time the Today Magazine reaches everyone. Work is also continuing on the re-tuning of the bells.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Tony Holmes for presenting St Peter's Church with a beautiful wooden cross fashioned from the oak timber removed from the original bell frame. This oak is over 200 years old and the cross takes pride of place in the chancel.

There has been a wedding and two baptisms in St Peter's during July and August.

The wedding of Chris Warne and Tash Dickenson took place on August 2nd, in glorious sunshine. Congratulations and best wishes for a happy life together.

Mairead was baptised in July, daughter of Ella and Ian, granddaughter of Sue and Phil Llewellyn and Lottie, daughter of Justin and Emily, granddaughter of Geoffrey and Dawn Williams was baptised in August. We welcome them both into our church family. Oakford baby Ashton will be christened in

St Michael's Church, Bampton in September. Congratulations to Daniel and Serena.

Harvest Festival – St Peter's Harvest Festival will be on September 21st at 10.45am with David Edwards providing the music. In a change to tradition the service will be followed by a Harvest lunch in the village hall at 12.30pm. Everyone welcome.

The Books and Chat group have been meeting in the village hall while dusty and noisy work has been carried out in the Church, but we hope to be back in St Peter's soon. We spent a happy hour at our August meeting looking through Brenda's photograph albums of all things past in Oakford. It has made us keen to find out more of the history of the old dwellings in the village.

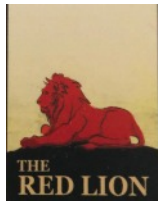
Oakford Village Fete. Sadly this year's fete was cancelled at the last minute because of the dangerous heat we were experiencing. Sad because it had the makings of a good event, but the Tiverton Majorettes understandably felt they could not risk the well-being of the children and likewise we were concerned for both visitors and volunteers setting up the fete. We felt that cancellation was the best option. Thanks to all who worked so hard as usual to get ready for the event. It is strange, we've cancelled for rain and wind but never for sunshine. There is already new thinking for next year's event, so watch out for updates, get involved where you can and let's hope it's just warm. Thank you, Kelvin.

Oakford Village Hall Committee. Kelvin is retiring from the Village Hall Committee after 15 years. A huge thank you for your tireless dedication and hard work from all in Oakford.

OAKFORD

September and October are like a junction in the year, between summer and winter. We have had a glorious summer and now we are preparing for hopefully a kind autumn

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7 SEPTEMBER

12th Sunday after Trinity
(Green)

The cost of following Jesus

Philemon 1-21
Luke 15: 1-10

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH
10.45am Holy Communion
Paul Kingdom
with David Edwards

CRUWYS MORCHARD
10.45am Morning Praise

LOXBEARE
10.45am Morning Praise

OAKFORD
10.45am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD
9.15am 'Explore'
with Nik & David Edwards

STOODLEIGH
10.45am Morning Praise

TEMPLETON
10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD
10.45am Harvest Festival
with pets

WITHLEIGH
10.45am Family Service

14 SEPTEMBER

13th Sunday after Trinity
(Green)

Worth finding

1 Timothy 1: 12-17
Luke 15: 1-10

9.30am Zoom Service

**OUR MISSION
COMMUNITY
HOLY COMMUNION
GROUP SERVICE**
is at
10.45am in

CRUWYS MORCHARD

**Christopher Rowley
and David Edwards**
Everyone welcome

27 SEPTEMBER

2.15pm Harvest Festival & Tea

CRUWYS MORCHARD



21 SEPTEMBER

14th Sunday after Trinity
(Green)

Get real!

1 Timothy 2: 1-7
Luke 16: 1-13

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH
10.45am Family
Harvest Festival

CRUWYS MORCHARD
10.45am Morning Praise

LOXBEARE
10.45am Harvest Festival
Guest speaker Katherine Tucker

OAKFORD
10.45am Harvest Festival
with David Edwards

RACKENFORD
10.45am Morning Praise

STOODLEIGH
10.00am Reflective service
with breakfast

TEMPLETON
10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD
10.45am Morning Praise

WITHLEIGH
10.45am Morning Praise

28 SEPTEMBER

15th Sunday after Trinity
(Green)

9.30am Zoom Service

**OUR MISSION
COMMUNITY
HOLY COMMUNION
GROUP SERVICE**
is at

**10.45am in
LOXBEARE**
with Guest Speaker
from Wycliffe Bibles

**Georgie Bell and
David Edwards**
Everyone welcome

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.



5 OCTOBER

16th Sunday after Trinity
(Green)

A treasured story

2 Timothy 1: 1-14
Luke 17: 5-10

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Songs of Praise

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Praise

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

9.15am 'Explore'
with David Edwards

STOODLEIGH

**10.45am Harvest Festival
with Holy Communion
Paul Kingdom
and David Edwards**

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

6.00pm Evening Prayer

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Family Service

12 OCTOBER

17th Sunday after Trinity
(Green)

Unchained!

2 Timothy 2: 8-15
Luke 17: 11-19

9.30am Zoom Service

**OUR MISSION
COMMUNITY
GROUP HARVEST
FESTIVAL &
HOLY COMMUNION
SERVICE**

**is at
RACKENFORD
at
10.45am
with
Tim Gorringer**

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SERVICE IN ANY CHURCH IN THE
EXE VALLEY MISSION COMMUNITY
ON A SUNDAY

PRAYER CHAIN

The Exe Valley Mission Community
are starting a telephone prayer
chain. If you like to be included for
prayer or know someone who would
like to be included, please contact
the church office. Only first initials
will be used to ensure total
confidentiality

19 OCTOBER

18th Sunday after Trinity
(Green)

A toolbox for faith

2 Timothy 2: 8-15
Luke 18: 1-8

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

9.15am 'Explore'
with Nik & Tash

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Praise

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

STOODLEIGH

10.00am Reflective Service
with breakfast

TEMPLETON

**10.45am Holy Communion
Tim Gorringer**

WASHFIELD

10.45am Morning Praise

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise



26 OCTOBER

The last Sunday after Trinity
(Green)

God stood by me

2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18
Luke 18: 9-14

9.30am Zoom Service

**OUR MISSION
COMMUNITY
HOLY COMMUNION
GROUP SERVICE**

**is at
WASHFIELD
at
10.45am
with
Christopher Rowley**



Exe Valley Lunches



12.30pm - 2.30pm

Thursday 11th September - Templeton Village Hall

Thursday 9th October - Oakford Village Hall

Contact the church office to let us know if you will be
joining us and if you need transport.

01884 250417

PARISH ROUND-UP

Oakford Players Autumn Show is on 24th & 25th October and will be a Variety Show with a 2 course supper! Tickets £18, booking in advance please by contacting Dawn 07733949295 (this show has mild adult content)

In July the Moorland Ladies had a wonderful BBQ evening at the home of chairlady Louise. A beautiful venue with delicious food and perfect weather. Thanks to Louise and John for your hospitality, BBQ boys James and John and the ladies of the committee for all the scrumptious food.

Unfortunately the proposed showing of the British Grand Prix on the big screen in the village hall on the 6th July was a casualty of a poor internet connection. Huge thanks to Debra who put an enormous amount of effort in to organising the event. Most followers of F1 hastily ate their delicious burgers, hot dogs, sausage rolls and cake washed down with a tippie then scurried back to watch the race on their TVs. Broadband is now going to be installed in the Village Hall to provide much better reception for future events. I hope it hasn't put you off Debs.

The Moorland Club Flower and Produce show on 9th August was again a great success.

Lots of entries in all the classes for all to see and wonder at and delicious tea and cakes to enjoy. Many thanks to everyone involved with the organisation of the event and to the judges for your time and expertise. Also of course thanks to everyone who came along to support the event.

Croquet at the Manor took place on the 3rd August and although the day started grey and rainy the sun decided to come out during the afternoon and another fun filled croquet match was enjoyed by the many intrepid folk who

braved the morning weather. Thank you to Nadia and Patrick for their hospitality, to Geoffrey and team for setting everything up and then taking it down afterwards, Sean for the BBQ, John and Jenny for the bar, Dawn and Patsy for the tea and cakes, Wendy and Connie on the gate and last but not least all who came to support the event either by playing or as spectators.

The Magnum of Champagne was won by Dave Bannister. A wonderful total of £1086.57 was raised and donated to St Peter's Tower Fund.

Dates for your Diary

Red Lion Quiz Nights - 21 September and 19 October

Moorland Ladies

13th September The Big Breakfast at the Village Hall - 10.30 am (watch out for info signs around the village soon)

9th October Fashion Show and Clothing Exchange more info soon.

The Arts Society Exmoor who meet at nearby at Brushford Parish Hall invite readers of Today Parish Magazine to join them in sharing a new season of truly exceptional lectures running monthly from October 2025 to June 2026. All lectures are held on the 1st Monday of each month (unless it is a Bank Holiday) and start at 2.30pm. tea and coffee available.

Starting the season on 6th October - The Great Age of the Shogun, art and culture of the Edo Period in Japan.

November - Art Behind Bars, a thought provoking talk on the breaking of the cycle of crime, prison and reoffending.

December 'Messiah', an audio visual exploration of Handel's masterpiece.

Lectures in the New Year range from Studies of Hockney, Mosaics depicting the Rise and Fall of The Roman Empire, The Birth of Expressionism, British

Pantomime and the 'cool paintings' of Piero della Francesca.

New members are always welcome at this friendly society, so please contact our Membership Secretary at Exmoor@theartsociety.org. Guests are welcome at £10 per lecture.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Steph our Rector, John, Louise and Harvey and all in the Parish who are unwell at home or in hospital.

We were sad to receive the following news.

My mother, Cleone Evans (known as Louise) died on 29th July at the age of 100. My family lived at Greenslades for almost 25 years, until 1988 and Louise was very active in the village. She was on the committee of the WI for most of the time she lived there, chaired the committee which built the (then) new village hall and was instrumental in starting up the market bus service which I believe still runs today.

Because she lived so long I suspect most of the people who knew her well will be long gone, but there may be one or two who remember her.

Her funeral will take place at the crematorium in the Rowan room at Barnstaple at 11:30 am on Thursday 14th August

Thank you, Janet Bidwell

Best wishes to all who have birthdays or anniversaries in the coming months.

If any of the village organisations want to have an entry in the Today Magazine which reaches every house in the parish bi-monthly, please send copy to patsyphili@aol.com

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PARISH ROUND-UP

RACKENFORD

When you receive this issue we will be nearing the end of August - racing through another year. I have even noticed some Christmas Cards on the shelves! However, the school holidays are underway with children and staff enjoying a break. When school resumes, some will be starting school for the first time with others moving on to the next school and others starting college or university. We hope you have received the exam results you required to move forward.

On the last day of term of the school year, Rackenford Primary School said farewell and good luck to the six girls and six boys who were leaving to go to their respective secondary schools in September. Traditionally during the 'leavers concert' Steph would give each child a Bible on behalf of the Exe Valley Group of Churches as well as reminding them of how important their time at school has been and not to forget us. As Steph is still recovering from major surgery, Helen Hyland, a member of the PCC and representing the Diocese on the Board of Governors, was delighted to present them in her absence. The children talked with great enthusiasm about the highlights of their time at school before thanking all the staff as they left primary school for the last time.

The weather could have been better for the Village Day on the common but the Church PCC were busy serving many cuppas and delicious cakes throughout the day. Some bought little boxes of cakes to enjoy at home as they left. Thank you to all who provided these

home made bakes and such a wide variety! You were so generous. So many paid compliments on the cakes and enjoyed them and returned for more. Thank you to all the ladies who helped throughout the day and of course to all of you for supporting us and putting your donations into our container.

The quiz at Rackenford Club is held on the second Friday every month, although it's having the Summer off - restarting on Friday 12 September. Teams of 4-6 people answer questions posed by the team who won the previous month. Anyone can enter and it is advertised in the Rackenford summer newsletter, shop and on Facebook. Do come for a very entertaining evening.

The bell tower has been repaired where masonry and pointing was eroded by plant growth and the bells are in good order and are regularly used by visiting ringers who enjoy ringing our bells.

Our historic organ is newly maintained and is used regularly for our services, thanks to Graham.

As always, we are most grateful to David who can be often seen cutting paths in the churchyard. David is a volunteer and we are so pleased to have his help. A full cut is planned at the end of the summer.

Many thanks to Liz and Mike who opened their gardens at Bradford Tracey. Sorry for the misprint in the last issue.

We continue to remember and pray for Jacques and Mary, Jean Cole and anyone in or around our village community who have health issues,

feel lonely or depressed or suffer in any way. Of course we also send our love and prayers to Steph who is continuing her recovery at home and is looked after by her loving family. You are all very much in our thoughts.

A few reminders for your diaries and calendars.

SPONSORED WALK

This is to take place on 27 September. Get your walking boots ready. Please contact Liz Paxton on 01884 881331 for all details. Come and join us, it's always a lovely day.

HARVEST SERVICE

This will be the Group Service and will take place on Sunday 12 October at 10.45am. We look forward to seeing you all.

OUR HARVEST SUPPER

This will take place at Rackenford Club on Wednesday 15 October. Contact Mary Cann on 01884 881696 to book tickets. Tickets are limited. Look out for posters nearer the time.

FASHION SWAP PARTY

Saturday 25 October. Details to be confirmed.

We also plan to have a Christmas Fayre. Look out for posters nearer the time. We don't need to be thinking of Christmas yet do we?

We continue to pray for our troubled world and PEACE.

Our weather forecasters tell us about the heatwaves! Isn't it just the Summer when it arrives?



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PARISH ROUND-UP

STOODLEIGH

What a summer we are having. To wake each morning and sense the day will be dry and warm makes every day seem like a holiday in the beautiful Exe Valley. The birds sing about it, especially the wood pigeons early in the morning sun, so it's only right to fling the windows open, get the washing hung out, and enjoy it. I know, we do need those showers (at night please) but this summer has felt like those Enid Blyton childhood summers that were never ending. Not quite as hot as 1976 when the tarmac melted on the roads, but this year has got to be hot on its heels (excuse the pun!). I am sure farming didn't fare well in '76 with brown fields and scorched marks instead of grass, and there was no use of suncream back then, or encouragement to drink plenty of water, stay in the shade and cover up. No, it was sun bleached hair, tanned skin and just hours of sunny days and evenings.

As this is written it is early August, and just this week we have been able to pick ripe blackberries from the hedgerows. What a find. Little pieces of treasure, it is time to take a bowl on a summer walk.

St Margaret's Harvest Festival & Supper
Our Harvest Supper will be held on Saturday 4th October @7pm in Stoodleigh Parish Hall. This will be a 2 course buffet supper (please bring your own drink and glasses) and will be followed by a friendly (but competitive!) game of skittles. Pricing is as last year at £10 per head, under 14s are £5, and 5years and under are free. So that everyone is catered for please contact either Penny on p.norman58@outlook.com or Mandy

on mandy@exevalleyeggs.co.uk to register that you are joining us.

Our Harvest Festival service will also include Holy Communion if you wish to take it, on Sunday 5th October at 10.45am. Do come and join us for some Harvest singing and coffee with friends afterwards.

Afternoon Tea

An invitation to join us for Afternoon Tea at Wheatcroft, Stoodleigh. This is Saturday 13th September at 3pm. Raffle, and free entry. Donations are for St Margaret's Church. Do join us if you can (it's a must!).

Friends of St Margaret's

We are fortunate in having a beautiful and historic church at the heart of our community here in Stoodleigh. However, in common with so many rural parishes the cost of upkeep and maintenance is a constant concern. This is of course not a new problem and in 2013 The Friends of St Margaret's came into being to specifically help fund the maintenance of our church. Over the years the Friends have meant we have been able to pay for necessary repairs that might not have otherwise been possible. We are very grateful to those who already support The Friends of St Margaret's and if there is anyone interested in becoming a Friend or finding out more please contact our Treasurer, Yvonne (yvonnejlang@outlook.com).

PCC Secretary

Our PCC has been without a Secretary for a little while. Yvonne has been carrying out the role on a temporary basis but we would like to find someone who would be willing to take on the role on a permanent basis. Responsibilities are primarily arranging PCC meetings (approx 6 per year), and

producing the agenda and minutes. If you are interested in becoming our PCC secretary please contact Penny our Churchwarden on p.norman58@outlook.com

Poorly People

We would like to extend Get Well wishes to all who are unwell at the moment. This includes our own Churchwarden Penny who broke her right arm recently, and is finding that using just her left arm isn't nearly as helpful. To Jeannie, who broke her foot recently, and all who are currently experiencing difficult or anxious times. Good news to hear that Steph is home and recovering – take small steps Steph to mend slowly and steadily.

Stoodleigh Marriages

During May, June and August we have had 3 couples tie their knot within our village. We send our Congratulations to Pete & Paula, Dawn & Michael and Libby & Frazer. May you have many years of love, happiness and laughter together, with our Best Wishes.

The Flower Rota for Stoodleigh Church

We are fortunate in our village to have enthusiastic and talented flower arrangers. And compliments from the Archdeacon of Exeter on flowers for the wedding of Dawn & Michael must not go unacknowledged. So well done Phyllis, Angela and Penny you clever ladies, the church looked truly blooming.

15 - 20 September	Yvonne Lang
27 September	Angela Hill
4 October	Harvest everyone
11 - 18 October	Mandy Widdowson
25 October - 1 November	Linda Hill

100 Club Draw Winners

July: Julian Earl, Kim Grimston, Heather Burmeister, Ann Smith.



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PARISH ROUND-UP

The Stoodleigh Inn

Our Annual Tractor Run, held on Sunday 13th July, was a sight to behold. Fuelled up with bacon rolls and coffee, around 50 tractors set off from the Inn....we think most made it home! The charity event continued into the afternoon with live music from Jason Toft. A cheque for £1510.00 was presented to The Devon Air Ambulance. Lizzie & Mike from the Inn would like to thank everyone who took part and helped to make the event a success.

Garden Club

By the time you read this we will have held Stoodleigh Annual Show at the Parish Hall. We do hope that as many of you as possible were able to take part and that you had an enjoyable day. The results have been posted on the Garden Club page of the Stoodleigh Website.

Members and friends enjoyed a tour and wine tasting event, followed by their Summer Party, at Quoat-at-Cross Vineyard in July. It was a great event and we can all recommend the wines. A visit to the Vineyard is a must!

Coming up and open to all:

Wed 3rd September – Macmillan coffee morning and Plant Sale at Honeywell.

Friday 10th October – A talk by Stephen Powels on 'Otters, coming to a river near you' 7.30pm at the Parish Hall.

Stoodleigh Parish Hall

It was great to see so many people at our July's monthly coffee morning. Everyone enjoyed the chance to catch up and have a chat with neighbours, tea and cake and browsing the bookshelves for something interesting to read. August's coffee morning was less well attended many are away on holiday, but it was great to welcome new people to the hall. Please join us

for our next Coffee Mornings on the 1st Saturday of the month – 6th September, 4th October and 1st November – 10.30am until 12.00. We look forward to seeing you. Plans are afoot at the hall to spruce up the lobby area, and we hope you will see this soon.

Our Future Events:

Saturday 18th October 'Walk & Lunch'. This is a joint fundraising event with St Margaret's Church so we do hope you can join us for all or part of the day. Lunch will be open to walkers and non-walkers, all are welcome. More details will be sent through the community email nearer the time but alternatively please contact Linda on 07818433046 or email linda.brice21@yahoo.com or Mandy on 07729406646 or email mandy@exevalleyeggs.co.uk for more information and bookings. And if you would like to help or be involved behind the scenes please let us know.

The Parish Hall's Winter Fair & Market will be on Saturday 15th November, 10.30am to 2pm. Available is coffee, cake and light lunches as well as local businesses showcasing their goods, crafts, plant stall and more. Anyone wanting to book a table as a stallholder should contact Linda on 07818433046 or email linda.brice21@yahoo.com

And lastly, we would like to welcome anyone who has recently moved into Stoodleigh. We hope you are enjoying settling into the village and you will join us for some events through the year.

harvest, acknowledging those in need and reflect on environmental stewardship. Sometimes, we can take harvest and our 'daily bread' for granted but we have only to think back to times of bare shelves and shortages of a particular item in our supermarkets, to appreciate God's provision and how it got to us. Why should all farmers receive a medal after the harvest? For being outstanding in their field! But aliens cheat – they use a tractor beam.

St Margaret's Church – Update

As you will be aware, thanks to the ongoing work at our church and churchyard, St Margaret's Church is being well maintained for future generations to enjoy. This year we have been rewarded with an abundance of wild flowers, which have been encouraged by leaving areas in the church unmown during the flowering period. A big thank you to Peter who regularly cuts the grass in the churchyard and maintains it so well.

The interior walls of the church still need attention and special paint. Because of the costs incurred, the work is being carried out in stages. We are very grateful to Bertie Dent who, as part of his Duke of Edinburgh award, has continued to care for the church with oiling and treating the wooden pews, chairs, floors and benches, and the church noticeboards are looking good!

Services

The Sunday Services at St Margaret's Church are usually held twice a month, with a mix of lay-led services, and services led by several clergy, rotating between all the parishes. The centre pages in this magazine cover the many services that will be held over the next two months across the nine parishes in the Exe Valley Mission Community.

TEMPLETON

Greetings from Templeton

September and October are times to celebrate God's provision; express gratitude for the abundance of the

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PARISH ROUND-UP

The services in Templeton over September and October will be held on September 7th and September 21st at 10.45am. We are very grateful to Marjorie who plays the organ for many of our services.

Templeton Village Fete

Saturday August 9th was the annual Templeton Summer Fete. The weather was kind to us and it was a great success. Thank you to everyone who took part in making the day such fun and who gave so generously! Thank you to all those who took part in preparing the ground, cutting the grass, strimming the banks, setting up the marquee, baking, contributing gifts, food, produce and many other items as well as helping with the stalls and games. Events like this really do take a whole village and we are so grateful to have such tremendous support. Over £1500 was raised from the event for village funds.

Well done Teddy!

We must congratulate Teddy Taylor, at the Old Rectory in Templeton, who represented Team GB earlier this year at the European Shooting Championships in Seville, Spain, and captained the Junior Team. They won Gold as European Champions! Teddy also was 5th equal (6th via count back) individually in Juniors. He was also 2025 Devon ESP Champion shooting 95 out of 100. He made the England Team in July, shooting at the CPSCA World Championships where The Junior team won Silver. Teddy was also the flag bearer in the opening ceremony. Attached are a few photos of Teddy at the events. (more on page 3)



Future Events

Sunday 14th September - Duck Race at Templeton Bridge from 2pm.

This popular event will start from 2pm when the ducks will make their way from Great Esworthy Farm down the River Dart, finishing at Dartcoombe Mill. The ducks have been training hard. The river is not exactly a torrent at the moment but who knows what the flow will be like in September! There will be cream teas, pasties, books, plants, and bric-a-brac for sale. "Buy your ducks now (£1 each) by contacting Roger and Bindy at 01884 860655 or email templetonvh@gmail.com."

Ducks will also be sold on club nights and on the day! Money prizes! Proceeds in aid of Village Funds.

On Monday 13th October at 7.30pm the Tiverton and Cullompton Deanery Synod is meeting at Cullompton Community Centre, Pye Corner, Cullompton EX15 1JX. We are very pleased that the Very Reverend Dr Mike Harrison, Bishop of Exeter, will join the Deanery Synod for that evening. This is an open meeting for anyone in the Tiverton and Cullompton Parishes.

Saturday 4th October - Harvest Supper at 7.30pm at Templeton Village Hall.

This is the first event of the Harvest Festival weekend. The bar will be open from 7pm and the supper will be ready at 7.30pm. Do come along and enjoy this annual, delicious and plentiful

supper to celebrate the harvest and have a chat. Once again, the talented Templeton Art Group will be displaying their paintings around the hall. Tickets for the Harvest Supper will be £10.00 each (and £5 for 14-year-olds and under). All proceeds in aid of St Margaret's Church, Templeton.

Sunday 5th October 10.45am - Templeton Harvest Festival Service at St Margaret's Church.

Do come and join this harvest celebration, and stay on for coffee and biscuits afterwards. We would be grateful if you could please bring any fresh fruit, vegetables, packaged or canned produce to the porch of St Margaret's Church during the week before the service so that it can all be displayed in the church on the Sunday. All the produce will be donated to the Churches Housing Action Team (CHAT) which really appreciates our donations.

Saturday 1st November - Bonfire and Firework display - entry from 6.30pm, bonfire alight at 7.30pm.

This very popular annual event will take place at Templeton Village Hall. The bar will be open, there will be hot dogs and hot drinks for sale, and a Guy Competition so make a note of the date now! Adults - £6, Children 5-15yrs - £3 (tickets on the gate - cash only please). The hall has a card reader for drinks and food, as well as accepting cash. No personal fireworks or sparklers please - this contravenes our insurance.

Templeton Children's Christmas Party
Another date for the diary; the Templeton Children's Christmas Party, organised by Tony Loosemore is on Sunday, December 14th. This is a free event for the children of Templeton, with a special visit from 'you know who'.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Regular groups

Art Group

The Art Group meets at Templeton Village Hall fortnightly on Tuesdays 9.45am to start at 10am until 12 midday. During September and October, the Art Group will meet on September 9th and 23rd and October 7th and 21st. Everyone is invited. No charge. Just bring yourselves with whatever art work you are doing or want to have a go at, with Lynda there to help if needed. Coffee and cake provided. Look forward to seeing you there. If you want to know more, please contact Lynda at newnes7@mail.com

Book Group

The Templeton Book Group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 3pm at Templeton Village Hall with coffee, tea and cake. Please contact Julie on 01884 233507 or email Julie.dent@yahoo.co.uk if you would like to know more. The September/October dates for the book group will be Wednesday September 10th and Wednesday October 8th.

Garden Club

Gosh, the time goes on, and we are heading into the Autumn! Our garden club meets every month and this summer we have been delighted to visit fellow gardeners' gardens which has been a great treat. Much discussion and input occurs on a multitude of problems and solutions, and we are always learning from each other. If anyone would like to join our group, please give Ginah Palmer a ring on 01884 253552. We'd love to see you.

Knit and Natter

Templeton Knit and Natter is on the last Friday of each month from 10.30am to 12 midday, in St Margaret's Church, Templeton. Why not bring any of 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 September 26th and Friday October 31st.

Templeton Village Hall and Social Club
Would you and your family like to use Templeton Village Hall for any games of table tennis, darts, pool or skittles? – they are all there for you to enjoy – or for a family get-together, or a barbecue, all set up and ready to use! Just phone Bindy to check there's no other booking on that day and she will open the hall up for you (01884 860655). The Social Club is open every Monday and Saturday evening from 8pm to 11pm – with a wide range of drinks available at very reasonable prices. Membership is only £2 a year so why not join up now!

Welcome to Templeton!

We would like to welcome Mark and Brieux to Templeton. They have recently purchased the School House and aim to restore it to its former glory! We do hope you will be very happy here.

Our thoughts, prayers and best wishes
Our thoughts are with our Rector, Steph, who is now back at home and who has been gradually getting stronger after her big operation. She has written to us all with a thank you for all the prayers and kind wishes sent from friends in Templeton. Steph has been amazed by the level of care, skill and expertise that she has received from the teams of carers, occupational therapists and physiotherapists who are regularly visiting her.

Our deepest sympathies go to Gordon Webber whose wife, Iris, recently died peacefully at home. Iris was the daughter of William and Lorna Reed who lived at Coombe Mill, now Dartcoombe Mill, Templeton Bridge. Iris and Gordon have lived in Puddington for

many years and our thoughts are with Gordon and their wider family.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who are in hospital, undergoing treatment, or recovering from illness, and also with their families who support them. We do hope that you will be feeling better soon.

Church Flowers and Cleaning Rota – September to October 2025

7 - 14 Sept.	Teresa Pancherz
Flowers and Cleaning	
21 - 28 Sept.	Liz Walker
Flowers and Cleaning	
5- 12 Oct	Phillida Strong
Harvest Festival	
19 - 26 Oct.	Val Hopley
Flowers and Cleaning	

WASHFIELD

September days have the warmth of summer in their briefer hours, but in their lengthening evenings sure signs of the autumn to come.

Despite the dubious weather in the morning of the Church Fete, the forecast for the afternoon was much improved, so we were able to hold this important event outside. We are so grateful to Bronson and Camilla for letting us use their lovely garden. As always, The Tiverton Concert Band played beautifully throughout the afternoon, entertaining us with their varied repertoire. The Fete was opened by Jeanne Jones who has, for so many years, been the backbone of our lovely church and we continue to be grateful to her for her help and support.

The fete attracted a large number of people who generously spent their

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PARISH ROUND-UP

money at the variety of stalls and games before crossing the road to the Village Hall to enjoy our renowned teas! The amazing sum of £1,250 was raised for the church. A very BIG thank you to all the willing organisers, helpers, contributors to the stalls etc as well as the hard working tea ladies who worked tirelessly in the kitchen all afternoon, and Denise who again allowed us to park in her field. We are so grateful to everyone who helped make this a very happy and successful event.

We have the luxury of living in a beautiful area, with varied ecosystems but we also know we need to do everything we can to increase biodiversity and habitats. To that end tree planting volunteers are needed this coming winter, in Washfield and other local sites. All ages welcome. No experience or equipment needed. It's an opportunity to be healthy, to create new habitats and have a good laugh, meeting new people. Email : wildtivoton@gmail.com or join the Facebook group Tiverton Tree Team

We look forward to seeing as many as possible to our Harvest Service on Sunday 7 Sept at 10.45. This year we are inviting you to bring your pets – big and small to join our service.

The Social Club committee have (as always) been planning events for the coming months to bring our community together and entertained.

The first is a BBQ afternoon on Bank Holiday Monday (25th) with fun and games including football, goals, and table tennis. Everyone welcome. Bar and BBQ from 3pm

The second is a Skittles/Hall fundraiser night on September 20 from 7.30pm in the hall. Get a team together and enter. Teams of 4 people should enter at the Social Club for £10 or contact someone from the SC. Small prizes on offer...it promises to be a fun night for all.

The third is our Annual Pumpkin weigh-in on October 18. Keep tending your beauties until then and then transport them to the hall by whatever means necessary (hand, basket, wheel-barrow, tractor) and get it weighed. Good luck all. Proceeds of the evening to Devon Air Ambulance.

Please keep taking part in these lovely events to support YOUR village Look out for upcoming events as and when they are advertised.

Several interest groups meet on the Social Club evenings and you are most welcome to join those taking part. These include a Book Club, Table Tennis players, Craft Group and Scrabble players. Come along on a Club night, pay your subs, and join in!

The Hall committee is trying to raise awareness of the Community Defibrillator that sits (thankfully idle) on the side wall of the building (and has done since 2012). We would like to think that everyone in the Parish knows its there and could access and use it, if necessary (but that's probably not correct) There is a flyer in this magazine with more details of the defibrillator and the key code to get it out (should you unfortunately need to) and also written on the cabinet. The hall is also planning an evening defibrillator training/first aid course on how to use it in an emergency. This is FREE and being held on Tuesday 7 October in the hall starting at 7pm and all are welcome to attend. Contact Anne on 255298 to book in.

Don't forget also, teatime@thehall is still as popular as ever. Held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (now, whilst in British summertime) between 3.00-4.30pm. All ages are welcome to these friendly, chatty afternoons. Come along, you'd be most welcome.

To those children starting school, or just moving up a year we send our love and

if you are starting your first job, moving on to Secondary School, College, or University...good luck!

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.

Flower Rota

Aug 24/31

Oct 5/12

Oct 19/26

Nov 2/9

Nov 16/23

Nov 30/Dec 7

Caroline Nicholson

Juliet Ellis

Annabel Taylor-Ross

Alison Atkins

Marion Elston

Sylvia Balment

WITHLEIGH

Thought I would give you a bit of trivial information of some events that are celebrated and some that are not.

September – Michaelmas celebration on 29th associated with St. Michael and the coming of Autumn.

Widdicombe Fair 2nd Tuesday in September started with a cattle show, sheep sale and a song.

Clipping the Church around 19th or first Sunday after in Painswick, Gloucestershire where children join hands around Church of The Virgin Mary and while a hymn sung walk forwards and backwards.

October – Trafalgar Day 21st is the celebration of the victory of Nelson and celebrated by Royal Navy officers with a dinner.

Edward the Confessor Day 13th October was an English National Saint until Edward III adopted St. George as our National Patron Saint.

On Sunday 29th June, Susie once again led our "Poems, prayer and Praise", held in the Village Hall. This was a group service being the fifth Sunday of



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WHAT'S ON

the month. Her theme this time was JOY, and our songs echoed this theme. Susie had done much research into "Joy", and this was echoed in the poems, thoughts and prayers. Thank you, Susie.

Our nominated charity for 2025 is FORCE (Friends of the Oncology and Radiography Centre, Exeter), and we were pleased to welcome Nigel Acheson, a Trustee of FORCE, to our service on Sunday 13th July to tell us about the work of the charity. It was a most informative talk, teaching us much about FORCE which we may not have known. With cancer survival rates increasing some of their work now involves caring for patients who have survived cancer to deal with many varied issues - diet, exercise, finances, coping with the after effects of treatment, changes to what was a normal life, and working with families.

At the end of the service, we presented Nigel with a cheque for £360. Nigel wrote, "Our thanks to all who so generously donated to this gift. Thank you for asking me to speak with you all and thank you so much for your donation to FORCE. We are very grateful to St Catherine's for your support. It was a pleasure to come and speak to you about the history of FORCE and the work that we do to support people and families impacted by a cancer diagnosis. With very best wishes, Nigel".

Our thanks to Rev. Paul Kingdom who stepped in at short notice to take our cluster service on Sunday 20th July. On Sunday 27th July we welcomed Rev. Georgie Bell to St Catherine's for our Mission Community Group service. The afternoon of Tuesday 29th July saw a memorial service at St Mary

Magdalene church at Stoke Canon for the late Rev. Harold Whitty, former rector of the Exe Valley Group of churches. The service, put together by the family, was a fitting tribute to Harold, and it was good to see members from the Group churches present.

On Sunday 3rd August after an early service at 9.30am, when Marjorie joined us to play the organ, we all travelled to The Mount Pleasant Inn at Nomansland for our annual Friends of St Catherine's Lunch. It was lovely to sit back and enjoy lunch with friends. Our thanks to Sara who organised it all.

From September the service pattern is changing. Our family service will remain on the first Sunday of the month, but our Morning Praise service will be on the third Sunday. The second and fourth Sundays will be group services of Holy Communion. 'Poems, Prayer and Praise' will continue on the fifth Sunday. However, our Harvest Festival will be at 3pm on the afternoon of Sunday 14th September.

The monthly Bingo's continue in the Village Hall, the next Bingo will be on Thursday 4th September, eyes down at 7.30pm. The October Bingo will be on Thursday 2nd, again eyes down at 7.30pm.

For this year's Harvest on the 14th of September, we are planning a display of produce in the church. To help us with this we are asking for donations of vegetables, preserves etc to add to our display. Please leave any donations in the church porch or just inside the door, by 10.30am on Saturday 13th September. The produce in the display will be taken to hall and sold in the Auction at the Harvest Supper on Monday 15th September.

You are all welcome to join us at 3pm on Sunday 14th September for our Harvest service, which will be followed by our Harvest Tea in the Village Hall. On Monday 15th our Harvest Supper is 7pm for 7.30pm, you will need tickets for the Supper, please call Christine 257571 or message Brenda 07591000479.

On Saturday 19th July we held our Church Fete at the village hall, this year we were lucky with the weather so we could set up stalls and tables outside. A big thank you to everyone who ran stalls and helped before and after the day, a great day resulting £1329 going to the church fund.

WOW

It was a wonderful way to celebrate summer when we gathered for a picnic on a beautiful and sunny day. We were in the garden of one of our members, with a picturesque green view.

Having eaten our own picnic, we were then offered delicious cakes and many kinds of scones to complete the feast, baked by our hostess and her daughter. Despite the heat of the day there was a lot of happy chatter.

Any queries about WOW (Women of Withleigh) please contact Susie on 258492.





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