

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025

Price £1.00

WORDS, WORDS, WORDS!

I have always been fascinated by words. It intrigues me that so many words, with all their different meanings can be created by permutations of a mere 26 letters.

Some sources suggest that the English language has over 1 million words, with only 170,000 in current use. (170,000! I remember my teenage children communicated using only a few choice words, generally mumbled and thankfully unintelligible –and grunts!)

I love the fact that words fall in and out of fashion and that their meaning changes over time. Take the word 'erumpent!' for example. Go on, say it out loud. I dare you! It's a great word and it describes new life that springs up bursting out all around us. Erumpent! I feel erumpent at the moment! Long may it last!

I love that some words bring joy and life and cause endless delight – 'It's a boy!'.. 'It's another boy!'.. 'It's a girl!' 'I love you!' These are erumpent! Sadly, others bring fear and dread, and sting and scar for years: 'I'm leaving!' 'I've got bad news'.. 'You are so stupid!'. 'I hate you'.

I have heard quite a few words in the past few months. Some of the medical ones were, and still are, a

challenge – a challenge of pronunciation – never mind anything else! I heard very clearly when I was told, 'you may not survive this surgery'. You don't forget words like that. They are life-changing. They become part of your story.

So, as we enter the season of remembrance and Christmas, what words do we recall? Which words stay with us and what effect do they have on us? When we say, 'We will remember them' what does it actually mean? Once a year – or is it far more than that? After all, remembering can be little more than a passing nod, or it can be something that dwells within and travels with us for a lifetime.



God had some very definite instructions how his people were to remember his laws: 'Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and

when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.' (Deut 6:7-8)

As we look towards Christmas we will hear familiar words - sung and read - in supermarkets, shops, schools and churches. 'The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.' 'Oh I wish it could be Christmas every day.' 'This was the true light which lights every person who comes into the world.' 'All I want for Christmas is you!' 'Don't be afraid! I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Saviour – yes, the Messiah, the Lord – has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David.' Which words will stay with us? Do they mean anything at all? Will they scar and sting or will they bring life and joy?

So may you listen well and hear the words of the angels: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased'.

May you and your family have a happy, joyful and live-giving Christmas and may you feel truly ERUMPENT, well into the new year!

Your erumpent Rector, Steph

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WHAT'S ON

NATURE NOTES

Autumnal Tips

A rainbow lends a splash of colour to the iron grey sky, while a murder of crows sweeps up from the bare field, and far off, rays of sunshine flash on the white wings of circling seagulls. The trees bow beneath the wind, sending leaves scurrying across the ground. Within seconds, the grey clouds are emptying at pace and cold rain pours down my neck. I shiver and moan to myself, but then think, actually, this is really exhilarating. It might be rather different to last week when I felt the warmth of the sun as I sat drinking tea in the garden, but that is Autumn! The last sunny days reminding us of Summer, and the forecast of Winter.

So I dash out between the showers to put away garden equipment, tie things down, move plant pots to more sheltered positions, bring in the geraniums and tender plants and generally tidy up. That includes picking up the recycling boxes and the bin, the contents of which have blown across the yard.

It is time to:

- Empty and clean the greenhouse
- Mulch the garden with manure, leaf mould, wood chippings
- Gather leaves to rot for next year's mulch
- Plant tulip bulbs
- Plant and prune fruit bushes and shrubs
- Check the car for antifreeze
- Protect outside taps
- Make sure the heating works and get in a fuel supply
- Are there candles (and torches) available in case of a power cut?

Clean the bird feeders and begin feeding the birds. I have to tie the lid down on the dustbin where I keep the food. Last year the squirrels worked out how to get the lid off and even chewed through the string holding the lid down.

Scrub the bird baths, water feeders and refill with water each day, particularly after a frost.

Repair the bug hotel, adding fresh wood, sticks, hollow plant stems and pine cones.

Last Autumn, we drilled holes in a chunk of oak and watched as caterpillars built a nest and sealed themselves in.

Position the bird feeder so birds have emergency access to a hedge or tree if a predator appears, but also so that it can be a great opportunity to photograph, record and learn about different birds that visit the garden.

What about a hedgehog corner? A safe place for hedgehogs to hibernate is just as important as food. Wild corners, log piles, a shelter or [hedgehog house](#) offer a ready-made safe haven, protecting them from predators and the elements.

Leaving out food irregularly in a different area of the garden is helpful. Hedgehogs will enjoy [dried black soldier fly larvae](#), which is a safe, sustainable treat and protein-rich option to help hedgehogs gain weight. [Hedgehog-specific food mixes](#) are nutritionally balanced and specially formulated to meet their needs, or plain kitten biscuits or meat-based wet dog or cat food. Fresh water, but never milk, which can upset their stomachs. It is important to make sure that any water supply is safe. Last week, I pulled a hedgehog out of a water trough which it had fallen down into and sadly, could not climb out. This can be avoided by adding rocks or hedgehog ladders to ponds and water sources as a means of escape.

Exhilarating weather (wet and windy) as we have just experienced with Storm Amy, calm, sunny days or crisp, frosty mornings, snow-covered landscapes by day and clear starry skies at night, icicles and Jack Frost – whatever the weather – it is Mother Nature in all her ferocious and gentle glory. Like the plants and animals, we humans must just hunker down and dream of Spring.

There are lots of tips on preparing for Winter through websites:

[Hedgehogs - People's Trust for Endangered Species](#)

[RSPB Bird & Wildlife Conservation Charity](#)

[Caring for Birds in Autumn – Awesome Wildlife Co](#)

[RHS - UK's leading gardening charity / RHS](#)

[Top tips for gardening in autumn | National Trust](#)

[How to get your home and property winter ready - Met Office](#)

Fiona Bladon

Bible Study Group

Looking at Genesis

The next meeting will be held at The Cottage, Washfield
Monday 3rd November
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 Gorringe
t.j.gorringe@exeter.ac.uk



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Thursday 13th November - Calverleigh Court

Thursday 4th December - Christmas Party
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PARISH ROUND-UP

CALVERLEIGH

As summer has drawn to a close for another year the trees are showing off their beautiful colours in the autumn sunshine while the nights are drawing in. We have enjoyed a good summer with gardens still looking colourful and continuing to produce blooms at the time of writing. We have so much to be thankful for at this time of year especially as the news from Steph is looking very positive and her thoughts are turning to a phased return to work. We are very much looking forward to that day, Steph, and continue to pray for you.

Way back on 17 August we held a special Explore & More service at Calverleigh led by Tash and Nik with David Edwards providing lively music, some of which had some lively actions. After the service we moved to the village hall for tea and coffee which was then followed by fun and games which included lego, junk modelling and water games on the green. Picnic lunches were enjoyed and then a couple more games and a treasure hunt rounded off the event. Thank you to all who came along and to all who helped to organise the day!

The Calverleigh Produce Show was held on Saturday 24 August, thanks to organisers Maureen and Paul Furneaux. We were very pleased with the number of entrants across a variety of sections with lots of fun and friendly competition along the way. The organisers wish to thank everyone who helped, entered, donated and supported the event, which raised a total of £80.00 towards

the church. Congratulations to Rita who gained the most points, winning by just one point, and Maureen who received the 'best in show' award with her miniature scarecrow. Our thanks go to Maureen and Paul for organising this enjoyable but stressful day, especially when sharing a kitchen with other competitors!

The church was beautifully decorated for our Harvest thanksgiving over the weekend of 20/21 September. The smells and colours were amazing and there was such an abundance of fresh produce. Our harvest supper, held on the Saturday was well attended, with a good variety of food for the bring and share supper. Jenny Tuckett was our guest speaker who gave an interesting and informative talk and slide show on her work with Shire horses. She also brought along some of the regalia worn by the horses when they were presented at shows. Thank you, Jenny. A couple of competitions were played before and after supper along with singing two harvest hymns. Thank you to games master Aubrey for taxing the brain, providing the entertaining 'ag game'. Thanks also to those who brought food along for supper, to all who helped in any way to prepare the room before and after and with washing up.

The following morning, we held a Family Harvest Thanksgiving service which was led by Julie. We were challenged by Nik to peel an orange making the longest continuous piece of orange peel that we could. There were many very determined looking faces around the congregation and two worthy winners while others failed miserably. It was a great challenge though and a lovely aroma of oranges

filled the whole church. We later moved to the village hall afterwards for refreshment and all age fun and games, including balloon volleyball, beanbag throwing and (of course) potato rolling. Whilst our picnics were eaten indoors because of the weather, good fun was had by all, nonetheless.

A collection of goods was received for CHAT as part of our celebrations and the fresh produce was taken to The Salvation Army who distributed it to those in need.

The service on 5 October was Songs of Praise led by Jackie with eight hymns chosen by members of the congregation, ranging from the traditional to the more modern. Lovely hymns full of praise and thanksgiving, Inspirational poems were read by Nik and Tash. Thank you to all who chose their own special hymn or praise song.

The funeral of James Butler took place on 5 September, with burial in the churchyard. James was our PCC Treasurer in the late 1990s. Our thoughts and prayers are with James' family who had also lost a brother, Bob, back in April.

It was with great sadness that we heard that dear Myrtle Webber had passed away. For many, many years Myrtle was our church organist before her eyesight began failing. She was instrumental, along with the late Margaret Goldsworthy, in forming our church choir. Myrtle had a lovely way of introducing us to new tunes by playing them before services a few times before being sung in a service. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of Myrtle's family and friends on their

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PARISH ROUND-UP

loss. She will be greatly missed by many.

Diana would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts, many cards, flowers and visits following the loss of her daughter Ruth. This has been much appreciated by her and all her family at this very sad time. Thank you so much.

Our thoughts and prayers are also very much with all those who have lost a loved one, whether recently or longer ago.

We send our best wishes and congratulations to Aubrey and Sheila who have recently celebrated 60 years of marriage and wish you many more to come. Best wishes go to those others who have also been celebrating recently whether it be a wedding anniversary, significant birthday, birth of a child or any other special occasion.

The Mowing rota finished for this year. Thank you to all who have been on the mowing rota once again this year – especially those who organise the mowing rota. The PCC appreciate your generosity in giving so much of your time and energy to keep the churchyard looking so lovely and well cared for, for parishioners and visitors alike. We also like to thank those who help with the cleaning of the church and with the beautiful altar flower displays throughout the year.

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. If you have something that you want to share, whether it's a thank you to someone who helped you, or someone celebrating a significant life event, please get in contact with Dave Burton

(calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org) or call 01884 561499.

Forthcoming Events

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 would like to come along. (If you're lucky and get an advanced copy of the magazine, you may still be able to make it to this one!)

Our monthly Explore Service is a fun and interactive all age family friendly service starting at 9.15am with refreshments, for a 9:30am start. Our next service will be on 15 November. Do join us if you can! (Explore is also held in Rackenford each month on the first Sunday each month).

We are holding a Remembrance Sunday service on 9 November at 10.50am with a Group Holy Communion.

Carol Singing: Loxbeare and Calverleigh carol singers are trying something different and will be singing this year at Loxbeare Church car park from 6.30 - 7.30pm on Monday 22 December and at Calverleigh village hall car park from 6.30 - 7.30pm on Tuesday 23 December.

Please come and join us for a good sing song on one or both of these evenings - rain or shine! This year we will be raising money for the Mid Devon Messenger charity (talking newspaper). If there is anyone who is unable to join us but would really like to have a carol sung at their door, please contact Aubrey on 01884 255248, Jackie on 01884 255814 or Sue on 01884 259496 so that we can come to you on either of the above dates after we have finished.

More Dates for your diary:

15 Nov: Autumn Fayre from 10.30am - 2.00pm

7 Dec: Christingle Service at 3.00pm

21 Dec: Carol Service at 3.00pm

25 Dec: Christmas Day Holy Communion at 9.30am

Church cleaning rota:

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

15 Dec - 3 Jan 2026: Mrs J Goldsworthy

Flower rota

19 Oct - 26 Oct: Mrs T Pugsley

2 Nov - 9 Nov: Mrs R Tapp

16 Nov - 23 Nov: Mrs S Greenslade

30 Nov - 7 Dec: Mrs M Furneaux

CRUWYS MORCHARD

I love autumn. As a child one of my favourite hymns was "Autumn Days", with its joyful tune and cheerful lyrics. It was a hymn that I could sing with gusto and true heart as the words spoke about a world that I recognised. Before and after Sunday school my siblings and I would search around the base of the Horse Chestnut tree on the road for conkers. Still to this day I revere the conker as a precious gem, and I still search the ground at the base of the very same trees for their wondrous fallen seeds. Over the years I have noticed that the humble conker and those trees have a great many admirers, it always makes me smile and strengthens my sense of

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PARISH ROUND-UP

community. So, I mustn't forget to say a great big thank you, I mustn't forget.

Church of the Holy Cross

We were so lucky to have glorious weather for our Harvest Festival once again. Our thanks go to those who helped during the service and to Jeff for organising the sports. Great fun was had by all who took part in the various events including the spoon and tomato race, sack race, three-legged race and welly-wanging to mention a few. This was followed by tea in the hall where a wonderful buffet was laid out with delicious homemade cakes, sandwiches and pasties. It is so good for our community to enjoy time together and support a local charity, CHAT was delighted with all the generous donations from one and all. Many thanks to all involved.

On Sunday 21 December we will be holding our usual Christingle and Carol service. It begins at 10.45am and will be followed by refreshments. Cindy and Diana would like to hear from anyone who would like to help out with the service. During the service we shall be collecting non-perishables for CHAT to distribute locally to those in need. We will be making Christingles on Saturday 20 December at Cindy's house Valley View, Pennymoor from 2pm.

Our Christmas Eve Communion service will take place at 9.30pm, on Wednesday 24 December.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are unwell at this time and with anyone grieving the loss of a loved one. We send our deepest sympathy to Julie and her family and friends as they mourn the loss of Jim Carter.

Flower and Cleaning Rota

Oct 27 & Nov 3 Denyse Standen & Jo Hilton
Nov 10 & 17 Sue & Pauline Guscott

Nov 24 & Dec 1 Claire Miller
Dec 8 Lorna Warren
Dec 15 Decorators for Christmas
Dec 22 & 29 Diana Vincent & Val Randerson
Jan 5 & 12 Cindy Trick

As we come to the end of another year thank you to all who help to keep our church looking clean and providing fresh flowers. There will be a new rota out in the new year so if anyone would like to join the team cleaning the church and / or providing flowers please let Cindy know, 01363 866621.

Please see the central pages of this magazine for details of upcoming services in our church.

Beer and Boogie

Once again, we had a great event. Thank you to everyone who helped with this event, to those that attended and to The Black Dog Boogie Band for giving us such a fantastic evening. Together we raised £803.45 for church funds.

Christmas Fayre

Come and join us at the Parish Hall on Saturday 8 November, 10.30am to 1.30pm for a chance to get some goodies in readiness for Christmas. There will be various craft stalls, cake stall, Christmas Hamper raffle, Children's Tombola and delicious refreshments. Donations for the Tombola and Cakes would be much appreciated. For further information please contact Ali Vincent on 07801 480806.

Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall

Dave & Di's Christmas quiz, Saturday 6 December, doors open at 7pm with the Quiz beginning at 7.30pm. There will be a bar and raffle. To enter your team please contact Diana Vincent on 07801 937401 by Wednesday 3

December. £8 per person, this includes supper.

Christmas Bingo to be held at the Parish Hall on Saturday 13 December, doors open 7pm, eyes down at 7.30pm. Usual good prizes and a raffle.

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.

Cruwys Morchard YFC

The annual presentation evening was held on the Saturday 27 November, where members celebrated their past year, enjoyed a fine meal and looked forward to the new year ahead with many new officers moving into their roles.

This looks to be a fun packed year with Entertainments, Christmas Meals, Tractor Runs, Sports, Stock, Socials and a great deal more. 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

Cruwys Social Evening

The social evenings will be on the 12 & 26 November and 10 December 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.

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Sunday services

2.30pm Nomansland chapel *



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PARISH ROUND-UP

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

LOXBEORE

We are so thankful that Steph is now well enough to have a phased return to work. We were delighted to welcome her in the congregation at the group service at the end of September. It reminds us of the power of prayer and we continue to pray for Steph and her family.

By the time these notes will have gone to print, we will have moved on from the long, hot days of summer and the beautiful autumn. The days will have shortened and winter will be on its way. Each season has something differ to offer and we have much to be grateful for. Some young people in our community will have gone to university, college or begun apprenticeships and our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families as they journey through this new part of their life.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Derek McManus in September, and our thoughts and prayers are with Avril especially with her loss coming so soon after the devastating fire in their bungalow only a few weeks previously. Derek was a good friend to many, and he will be very much missed in the community. Wendy is organising a time of thanksgiving for all that Derek meant to us, in her house in October.

It was lovely to see all ages from 1-year old to 90-year-olds at our Harvest Praise service, when we gave thanks to

God for all that He has abundantly provided. Thank you to Kathryn, our guest speaker, who spoke about her life on Exmoor where she farms with her husband. She gave an inspiring talk based on The Lost Sheep, encouraging us with the assurance that no matter how far we've wandered from God, He is always ready to welcome us and hear our prayers. Thanks to all who gave produce and flowers and to all who helped to decorate the church so beautifully. The collection at the Harvest service was for TEAR fund and £200 has been sent to them.

The Harvest Supper and auction of produce was enjoyed by all and £300 raised at this event has been given to CHAT, to help those in need in Tiverton and surrounding area.

It was lovely to welcome friends from the Exe Valley Community to the group service at the end of September, when we had guest speakers from Wycliffe Bibles. The collection taken at this service was given to Wycliffe and we have sent £150 towards the work that they do.

If anyone would like to donate a filled shoe box for the Blythwood appeal, please would you leave them in the church by 9 November. The money raised at the coffee morning on 18 October will be used to purchase items for shoe boxes and if anyone would like to help pack the boxes, please contact Jean or Carol for details of the date and venue.

For many years, New Creation – now The Lighthouse - Christian bookshop and café kindly opened the shop to Loxbeare church for an evening to provide a 2 course meal and give people the chance to browse and make purchases. They have kindly agreed to do this again this year on Tuesday 18 November, meeting at 6.00 for 6.30. Price: £13.50 per person. Please contact Jean on 07835 300233 if you would like to come to this friendly and relaxed evening, where we can enjoy a delicious meal and spend time together.

Remembrance Service, when we particularly remember all who have served in various wars, is on 9 November and will begin at 10.50am.

Please see centre pages for details of all services.

Carol Singing – Loxbeare and Calverleigh carol singers are trying something different and will be singing this year at Loxbeare Church car park from 6.30pm -7.30pm on Monday 22 December and at Calverleigh Village Hall car park from 6.30pm-7.30pm on Tuesday 23 December. Please come and join us for a good sing song on one or both of these evenings. We will still be raising money for charity. If there is anyone who is unable to join us but would really like to have a carol sung, please contact Aubrey on 01884 255248, Jackie on 01884 255814 or Sue on 01884 259496 so that we can come to you on either of the above dates after we have finished. Mid Devon Messenger (talking newspaper) will be this year's chosen charity.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all who have received challenging diagnoses, awaiting operations, struggling with mental or physical health and those who are lonely and finding the long, dark nights difficult.

Many people help to keep the church running smoothly throughout the year and we are so thankful to all who help in any way to keep the churchyard tidy, the church clean, warm and decorated with flowers, lead services, provide refreshments, deal with the administration, the musicians, help with maintenance and for all the prayer warriors.

COMMUNITY NEWS

There will be a cream tea in the village hall on 8 November from 3.00 – 4.30. Monies raised at this event will be in aid of a new theatre at the Royal Devon & Exeter hospital.

The Big Christmas Cream Tea in the village hall will be on Saturday 13 December and the charity is Devon Air Ambulance.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

OAKFORD

So here we are at the end of summer 2025 and what a glorious summer it has been. With just enough rain to green up the fields for a last cut of silage to help boost the winter feed stores. And now as I am writing the November/ December report, it's early October, the sun is pouring into the house and we are being blessed with an Indian Summer.

I struggled to find countryside mottoes for November and December but here are two.

If there is ice in November that will bear a duck, There'll be nothing after but sludge and muck.

And for December - A green Yule makes a fat Kirk-yard.

So there you go, the end of 12 months of mottoes which I hope may have made you smile.

St Peter's Church.

The Harvest Festival and lunch was held on 21 September. The church looked lovely as usual, thank you to all the ladies who decorated the windows, Altar and Font. Dry and tinned food was also collected this year and a large hamper of goods was taken into CHAT. Thank you to Carol.

The building works continue in the church, broken slates on the roof have been replaced, so no more leaks. Heating pipes have been upgraded and the church path has been re-surfaced. For the first time in the church's history we have running water! There is now a toilet facility at the back of the church with new storage space.

The new raised floor for the bell ringers is now in place and is reached by a

striking new staircase which aims to blend the old with the new.

The Bell Tower.

There was a set back with the bell restoration when a crack was discovered in one of the bells. The work to repair it is extremely specialized and as there is only one company in the country at present skilled enough to do this work we are having to wait a bit longer for the bells to return to us. We are still hopeful that they will be back for our Christmas Carol Service!

We continue to give grateful thanks for the recovery of our Rector Steph as she starts her phased return to work.

The Moorland Ladies Club

The Big Breakfast event was a huge success with a delicious breakfast menu cooked by Julia aided by her kitchen crew and served by members of the Moorland Club. Thank you all £855 was raised and will go towards this year's fund raising for The North Devon Hospice.

13 November - club meeting 7.30pm
Winter Decorations evening.

11 December Christmas Dinner for Club members - 6 for 6.30pm

Oakford Players

24/25 October Oakford Players present 'Autumn Antics' Songs, Sketches and Monologues. Arrive at 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Tickets £18pp to include a 2 course supper. Licensed Bar.

Tel: Dawn 07733 949295

Red Lion Quiz

23 November and 21 December 8.00pm

The Books and Chat Group. Held on 1st Wednesday of each Month at 10.00am. in St Peter's Church (unless notified differently)

The book shelves in the church have been covered in the past few months due to the building work in the Church. They will be replenished very soon now with a collection of new books and everyone is welcome to come and browse and borrow from the shelves at any time. Alternatively if you just want to join us on the first Wednesday in the month for a coffee/tea and biscuits and a chat you will be most welcome.

More dates for your diaries

Remembrance Service on 9 November at the Memorial at 10.50am and afterwards in the Village Hall for lunch and a film.

29 November Countdown to Christmas Party. Start the party season early and practice your dance moves on the dance floor to sounds from the 80's onwards

30 November Advent Songs and Supper in the Village Hall. An evening to welcome in Advent with EVMC popup choir, poems, songs and local talent.

20 December Strictly Come Dancing Final Watch. Cocktails, mocktails and supper available.

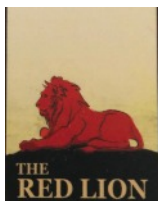
Saturday 20 December 6.00pm Carol Service in St Peter's, please let Dawn know your favourite carols and if you would like to read, a poem or Bible text. Christmas Eve 5.30pm Carols around the Village Tree.

Look out for posters and online for more information of these upcoming events.

Our thoughts and prayers go to all who are unwell at home or in hospital.

Best wishes for anyone in the Parish with a birthday or special anniversary.

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2 NOVEMBER

The 4th Sunday before Advent
(Green or Red)

Celebrating God at work

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4,11-12
Luke 19: 1-10

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Praise

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

No Service

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

TEMPLETON

No Service

WASHFIELD

3.00pm Evening Praise

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Holy Communion

9 NOVEMBER REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The 3rd Sunday before Advent
(Green or Red)

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.50am Holy Communion &
Remembrance

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.50am Remembrance

LOXBEARE

10.50am Remembrance

OAKFORD

10.50am Remembrance
at War Memorial followed by
lunch and a film in village hall

RACKENFORD

10.50am Remembrance
at War Memorial

STOODLEIGH

10.50am Remembrance

TEMPLETON

10.50am Remembrance

WASHFIELD

10.50am Remembrance

WITHLEIGH

10.50am Remembrance

16 NOVEMBER

The 2nd Sunday before Advent
(Green or Red)

How to live now

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-12

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

9.15am 'Explore' Family Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Holy Communion

LOXBEARE

No Service

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

STOODLEIGH

10.00am Reflective service
with breakfast

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

10.45am Family Service

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

23 NOVEMBER CHRIST THE KING

The Sunday next before Advent
(Red or White)

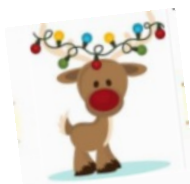
9.30am Zoom Service

**OUR MISSION
COMMUNITY
HOLY COMMUNION
GROUP SERVICE**

is at
10.45am in

LOXBEARE

**Paul Kingdom and
David Edwards
Everyone welcome**



30 NOVEMBER ADVENT SONGS & SUPPER OAKFORD VILLAGE HALL AT 6.00PM

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.



7 DECEMBER

The 2nd Sunday of Advent
(Purple)

Come, Jesus, show us the way

Isaiah 11:1-10
Matthew 3:1-12

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH
3.00pm Christingle

CRUWYS MORCHARD
10.45am Morning Praise

LOXBEARE
10.45am Christingle

OAKFORD
10.45am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD
9.15am 'Explore' & Christingle

STOODLEIGH
10.45am Holy Communion

TEMPLETON
10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD
10.45am Christingle

WITHLEIGH
4.00pm Christingle

14 DECEMBER

The 3rd Sunday of Advent
(Purple)

Come, Jesus, and fill us with joy.

Isaiah 35:1-10
Matthew 11:2-11

9.30am Zoom Service

**OUR MISSION
COMMUNITY
GROUP
HOLY COMMUNION
SERVICE
is at
RACKENFORD
at
10.45am
with
Christopher Rowley
and David Edwards**

21 DECEMBER

The 4th Sunday of Advent
(Purple)

Come, Jesus, be with us

Isaiah 7:10-16
Matthew 1:18-25

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH
3.00pm Carol Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD
10.45am Christingle
and Carol Service

LOXBEARE
10.45am Carol Service
followed by mince pies and
mulled wine

OAKFORD
No Service

RACKENFORD
No Service

STOODLEIGH
6.00pm Carol Service

TEMPLETON
10.45am Holy Communion

WASHFIELD
3.00pm Evening Prayer

WITHLEIGH
3.00pm Carol Service

24 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS EVE

(Purple)

Acts 13:16-26
Luke 1:67-79

9.30am Zoom Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD
9.30pm Holy Communion

LOXBEARE
6.30pm Holy Communion

RACKENFORD
6.30pm Carol Service

TEMPLETON
6.00pm Carol Service

WASHFIELD
6.00pm Carol Service

WITHLEIGH
11.00pm Welcome in Christmas



**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOU
ARE WELCOME TO JOIN ANY
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

25 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY

(White)

9.00am Zoom Service

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

**CALVERLEIGH
at 9.30am**

**EVERYONE IS
WELCOME**

PARISH ROUND-UP

Any organisation who would like to have a mention in the bi-monthly Today Magazine, please send copy to patsyphili@aol.com

RACKENFORD

Moving into October has brought a change in weather. We have, however, had a good September but must now deal with darker nights and colder weather. Many will have attended to gardening and tidied it up for the winter months and have planted bulbs to brighten up Spring 2026.

Our schools have now begun again and we wish all our children at Rackenford School a happy time learning and enjoying school life.

We have some happy news to share! Daphne Weston celebrated her 100th birthday on September 4 with a lunch party arranged by her eldest son Charles Scott. Daphne has fond memories of the 16 years that she lived in Rackenford. Since 2021 she has resided in Northern Ireland, close to many family who visit her on a very regular basis. The PCC and her friends from Rackenford Church would like to send our belated congratulations and very best wishes to Daphne. We remember her fondly.

Our belated love and deepest sympathy to Gwyneth and family on the passing of her husband Harold.

We had the pleasure of knowing Rev Harold Whitty who was part of the Exe Valley Ministry. He was such a gentleman.

On Monday 18 August, Jean Cole passed away at the grand age of 97 years. Jean had lived in Rackenford village since 1950 with her late husband George and bringing up their

family, the late Peter, Richard and Simon. After suffering a stroke Jean lived in a residential home in Exmouth for a short while before being moved to Tiverton (nearer home) and residing at Margaret Allen House where she was very happy. She was regularly visited by all her family and friends and often taken out for trips, meals and shopping. Her funeral service and internment with George took place on Tuesday 23 September where the church was full and people standing. The service was conducted by Rev Prebendary Christopher Rowley. Our deepest sympathy to Richard, Simon and her grandchildren and family at this difficult time.

On Saturday 27 September, the boots were out ready for another Sponsored Walk, once again organised by Liz and Tim. Many thanks for giving your time and ensuring all returned safe and sound. This time it was a circular walk around the village of Oakford. The walk passed through farm fields, by valley streams and the Bellbrook Trout Fish Farm, through woodland and along quiet lanes. St. Peter's Church, Oakford, is one of nine churches along with All Saints Church, Rackenford which make up the Exe Valley Mission Community. Many thanks to all our amazing walkers and all who sponsored them or gave donations. We really appreciate your generosity.

Sincere thanks to Fred and family for yet again cutting our churchyard hedge prior to Harvest. We are extremely grateful for all the work you undertake for the church in giving your time to us. I'm sure Father Christmas will come to you!

Mary and Ruth attended the final of the RAETT (Tennis Tournament) where they thoroughly enjoyed the warm welcome and refreshments. They

received a donation of £1500 for Rackenford Church from the outgoing chairman John Dodds. This kind and generous gift is a great help in many ways. Hope you all enjoy your tennis.

Sadly David, our church yard cutting volunteer, is stepping down from cutting the paths etc with the mower. He has indicated that a weekly cut is needed for the growing season late April/May to October. Thank you David for everything you have done for us. You have certainly made a big difference and it has never gone unnoticed. If anyone feels they can volunteer and give some time to help continue David's good work, we would love to hear from you.

Some of us attended our Mission Community Holy Communion Group Service in Loxbeare with Guest Speakers from Wycliffe Bibles, which was very enlightening and interesting. Georgie Bell and David Edwards took the service. It was such a lovely surprise and a joy to see Steph joining us in the congregation. We felt truly blessed to have her with us as she continues her steps in gentle recovery. You never know where she may surprise you next.

This issue will go to print before we celebrate our Harvest and Harvest Supper as will the churchyard cut.

SWAS (Ambulance Service) came to our church on September 23 from 10-12 noon to take the yearly Defibrillator Awareness Training. Many thanks to Ruth for organising this.

Our Remembrance Service will take place at the War Memorial where Jackie will be taking the service. Richard Harris will lay the wreath. This service will begin at 10:50 prompt on November 9. Many thanks to Richard, Jackie and Mary.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Our thoughts and prayers to all who are unwell or distressed in any way. We think of Jacques and Mary and to all who we have not heard about.

New diaries at the ready! Next year's Gardening Club Spring Show will be on Saturday 28 March.

Finally! We hope Madick and Ian will have enjoyed a wonderful wedding day on October 18 and continue to have a wonderful happy life together.

We continue to pray for our community and peace in the world.

STOODLEIGH

It seemed like overnight in September that our warm summer of '25 was over. Cue the orange and red Autumn leaves falling and darker evenings. The swallows flying high above our lanes disappeared, replaced by an abundance of pheasants. They have to be the most indecisive of birds. The hen pheasant will dart away pretty quickly when danger approaches. But not the cock bird. He is far too busy strutting his wonderful plumage and fighting with neighbours to decide which way to dart. A neighbour of mine couldn't walk down her driveway because of the territorial pheasant on guard! Pheasants aside, walking our lanes in the autumn and noticing the huge variety of foliage that make up our hedgerows is truly amazing. The weird fungi growing in the damper patches, the deer and fox runs leading secretly into woods. And the haunting sounds of the Stags bolting, marking their territory in our valleys. Mother Nature,

as we call it, is a miraculous affair. Every single year we get our four seasons as the year rolls along and then rests over the winter months. We will have changed the clocks by the time you receive this Exe Valley magazine leading the way into winter and Christmas. So here are some dates to brighten those winter months...

St Margaret's Church: Christmas Bingo

Our Christmas Bingo will be held at The Stoodleigh Inn on Thursday 6th November @7pm. Eyes down for 7.30pm. Thank you in advance to Ed & Julian, that popular double act, for being comperes for this. Do join us for an enjoyable evening.

Remembrance Service

The Remembrance Service, held at St Margaret's Church, is on Sunday 9th November @ 10.55am. The church service will follow the two minute silence at 11am. If you would like to create your own poppy for Remembrance (a drawing of one or a crochet or knitted poppy) to place on the altar, in remembrance of someone dear to you or unknown, please bring them with you to be offered during the service.

Christmas Coffee Morning

Our Christmas Coffee Morning is on Saturday 13th December @ 10.30am. This is held in the Church with surprises to be won in our raffle. Do come along for a Christmas catch up with friends over mince pies and cake.

Carol Service

The Christmas Carol Service will be held in our church at 6pm on December 21st. After singing all those Carols please stay and join us for a replenishing mulled wine and mince pie.

Nov & Dec Flower Rota

8th to 15th November Phyllis Hill
22nd to 29th November Julie Hubbard
6th to 12th December Everyone (for Christmas)

By 20th December could everyone please check their flower arrangements for the Christmas carol service which is on the 21st December.

Thank you from the PCC

The PCC would like to thank everyone who supported the Harvest Supper in October. There was a homemade banquet of food that could beat the socks off any top restaurant, followed by 2 teams playing a friendly game of skittles. An evening of fun and fundraising at the same time!

We would also like to Thank all those who have subscribed to the Today magazine and also those who give their time distributing the magazine around the parish. It is very much appreciated.

Stoodleigh 100 Club Winners

August: Ann Smith, Kay Bassano, Merv Selley, Tanya Thomas;
September: Vanessa Turner, Linda Sharrock, Sean Manuel, Jane Foster;
October: Linda Brice, Sarah Clarke, Peter Ayre, Merv Selley.

Huge thank you to the Stoodleigh 100 Club members whose annual subscriptions mean that this year we've been able to donate £50 each to St Margaret's and the Parish Hall. The monthly draw provides some fun throughout the year - you have to be in it, to win it - contact Geraldine on 01398 351391 if you'd like to join for the remaining of this year.

Stoodleigh Community Email Group

Would you like to stay in the loop with Stoodleigh News and Events? You are welcome to join the Community Email group. Community emails are

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PARISH ROUND-UP

circulated via stoodleighweb@gmail.com (via blind copy) with village news from the police, local authorities, parish council, church, parish hall, local organisations and clubs. This includes items such as road closures, police messages, social events, meetings, church services and Stoodleigh Inn opening times. The Community Email group comprises just over 160 folk in our community at the moment. If you'd like more information, to join the Email group or have information to share at any time - just email with details to the above address. Many of you are already regular users of Stoodleigh Parish Website but if you haven't come across it yet, see <https://www.middevonparish.co.uk/stoodleigh/> where you can find news, a village events calendar and information about the church, parish council, local groups and organisations. If your group or organisation has info or updates to add to your webpage, please email stoodleighweb@gmail.com

Stoodleigh Parish Hall

By the time you have read this our October and possibly November monthly coffee mornings will have come and gone. They are still proving to be a welcome event enabling the community to get together over coffee and cake to have a chat and catch up with friends and neighbours. We will not be holding one in December as the tree lighting event is being held on the same day but we look forward to our first one in 2026 on Saturday January 3rd from 10.30am to 12, then every 1st Saturday of the month.

Stoodleigh Winter Market and coffee morning

Organised by the Parish Hall committee, this is on Saturday 15 November 10.30 to 2pm. Do join us for coffee and cakes,

light lunch, local businesses and artists showcasing their goods and crafts, plant stall, local honey cake stall and more. To book a stall or more information ring 07818433046 or email linda.brice21@yahoo.com

Stoodleigh Parish Hall Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 19 November at 7.30pm at the hall. All Stoodleigh residents are invited to this event. New ideas and volunteers are very welcome. If you would like to help with the organisation of events or join in to maintain our community building that would be brilliant as your support is greatly needed. Our committee has dwindled over the current year to just a handful of volunteers and without a committee to share the load, the hall would not remain open. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Christmas Tree Lighting on Saturday 6 December.

Children's activities from 5pm. We are hoping the big man in red will attend. Switch on at 6pm outside our Parish Hall, with a singalong after. Refreshments will be available throughout. We hope to see you there. For further information please contact Linda on 07818433046.

Stoodleigh Garden Club

A Macmillan Coffee morning was held at Honeywell at the beginning of September and raised the amazing amount of £1,072.80 for the charity. A big thank you to our hosts Paula and Pete, and to all who came along and so generously supported the event. A lovely morning was had by all, enjoying bacon and sausage baps, cakes and treats and copious amounts of tea and coffee. We also had a raffle and plant sale. To everyone, thank you!

We shall be holding our AGM on Thursday 13 November, 2pm - 4pm at the Parish Hall. This is also an opportunity to guide the programme for next year and have an informal chat over refreshments. Anyone with an interest in gardens, nature or rural crafts, is most welcome to attend, whether from Stoodleigh or the wider area. We would be delighted to see you there.

In the run up to Christmas, the Garden Club will be holding their annual Christmas Party at the Parish Hall and a wreath making event with Marguerite in the Tiverton Pannier Market Hall.

Stoodleigh Snippets

The finals of the national competition of Lawn Bowls was held in Leamington Spa on 30 August, and the Devon team won. That's The Nationals folks! They won the National competition! We must Congratulate all the team on doing so very well, and Stoodleigh's own Angela Hill was part of that winning team. Well done to all of you.

Back in September Stoodleigh Cricket Club challenged Stoodleigh Inn to a friendly cricket match. As always, the Inn let the Cricket Club win! But a good time was had by all involved along with £130 raised for cricket club funds. It was nice to see a few villagers supporting the event. Our thanks to those who helped on the day.

And on the evening of Friday 29 Sept, an annual novices Bell Ringers competition was organised by St Peter's Church Tiverton and took place at Stoodleigh's St Margaret's church. Each team of six ringers was judged on eight minutes of ringing. The judges mark down each mistake and so the team with the fewest mistakes were the winners. There were 9 teams taking



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PARISH ROUND-UP

part and the winning team was Uffculme. Stoodleigh came eighth of the nine teams.

"Congratulations" to Linda & Roger Hill who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary back on 25 October. Linda & Roger met through that well known dating agency the Young Farmers Club and were married at St Margaret's Church in 1975. They have farmed and lived in Stoodleigh for all of their married years, and we would like to say "any Congratulations to one of the nicest couples around...and Roger, do you still have those bell bottomed flares because they're back in fashion now!"

And finally it remains to say we are delighted to hear that our Rector Steph is making such marvellous progress back to good health. Good luck with all that clothes shopping Steph, fill your boots, and wardrobes, to the brim. Your words of how precious life is ring so true all year round, but especially as Christmas approaches. And we hold in our thoughts and hearts those we miss and who are not here to share a special time.

TEMPLETON

The evenings are closing in, and we may be starting to light our fires or put the central heating on. The falling leaves are now changing to glorious autumn colours! Despite the cooler weather, there are still days to enjoy outside before winter really sets in.

With the evenings getting darker, could drivers please look out for pedestrians and animals in the lanes and pedestrians, remember to wear something white or reflective in the dark for greater visibility. There is no

pavement and the verges – if there are any, may be muddy or uneven so we all need to be careful.

With the extreme weather conditions we seem to be experiencing nowadays, we need a collective effort to look out for, and support people who may be having difficulties with icy roads or snow. Templeton has the good fortune to have a road warden and a snow warden so do contact Laurel (lb@templetonparishcouncil.org.uk) or Sara (ss@templetonparishcouncil.org.uk), if you see there are problems in the roads, especially potholes or risk of snow!

St Margaret's Church and Churchyard. There is always ongoing work and repairs needed to be carried out on the interior of St Margaret's Church and on the churchyard. Recently, a record of the names on all the headstones in the churchyard has been updated. We hope to arrange for the stonework surrounding the windows to be exposed. There is also a need to find some way to stop the paint from peeling off the walls after having been painted. This is work in progress!

Past Events:

On Saturday 9 August, Templeton held its Annual Summer Fete. This is always such a fun day with a variety of entertaining games, Bruce and William had tended to the grass before the day to create a perfect pitch and putt course. Everyone enjoyed delicious cream teas, hot dogs, bric-a-brac, clothes, produce and book sales ...and more! Thank you all for taking part and making it such a successful day. A grand total of £503 was raised, which will help support much needed village funds.

On Sunday September 14 the Duck Race took place at Templeton Bridge.

There was a break in the torrential rain during the event and the wet weather this year didn't deter people from coming and enjoying the event! The race started at Great Esworthy Farm and ended at Dartcoombe Mill. For once the river was quite high and so it didn't take long to encourage the 332 ducks to scramble downstream. Everyone enjoyed cream teas and pasties, and buy some books, plants, bric-a-brac, take part in the raffle, and, most importantly, there was time for lots of chat. A big thank you to everyone who contributed so generously to the Duck Race and made it a really enjoyable day. Over £405 was raised to support village funds. First prize £30 went to Brett, second prize £20 to Laurel, third prize of £10 to William!

There was a wonderful spread of hot and cold scrumptious food at the harvest supper on 4 October at Templeton Village Hall - and thanks to all those who contributed all the delicious food and came to support this annual harvest celebration. The display of the Templeton Art Group' paintings really shows such amazing talent within the village. The evening ended with the entertaining £1 rolling competition for the nearest to the bottle of whisky (congratulations to Val Greenfield!), and a Devon Villages A to Z Table Top Quiz (Well done Shaun, Sue, Ted, Gloria and Ron for winning the quiz). The evening was thoroughly enjoyable and also raised a much-needed £533 towards St Margaret's Church, Templeton.

Templeton's Harvest Festival Service was held at St Margaret's Church on Sunday 5 October. The church was filled with beautiful flower arrangements and generous food donations. All the donations of fresh, canned or packaged produce have

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PARISH ROUND-UP

been donated to the charity CHAT (Churches Housing Action Team) in Tiverton, for which they were, as always, extremely grateful at this time of need, with the situation likely to become more difficult for many families through the winter. Thank you everyone for your generosity.

Future Church Services:

The centre pages in this magazine covers the many services that will be held over the next two months across the nine parishes in the Exe Valley. Many of the Templeton Church services will be lay-led, but the group services are usually led by different clergy in the nine parishes in the Exe Valley Mission Community on a rotating basis. We are indebted to Marjorie Smith for her invaluable support in playing the organ for our services.

Future village events:

Halloween Party – Friday 31 October from 5pm at Templeton Village Hall. Alex and Scott have kindly invited adults and children in Templeton to come and celebrate Halloween at Templeton Village Hall from 5pm – £2 entry for adults – children go free. This will be a hauntingly great evening with spooky costumes, eerie games and lots of family fun!

Firework and Bonfire night – Saturday 1 November from 6.30pm at Templeton Village Hall. By the time this issue of the today Magazine reaches you Templeton's Bonfire Night will be almost upon us! The firework display is always spectacular and the event is great fun. There will be a Guy Competition so bring your guy along with you! The bar will be open from 6.30pm and the bonfire will be alight from 7.30pm with the fireworks soon to follow! Hot Dogs and hot drinks will be on sale. Entry is £6 for adults and £3

for children aged 5 to 15 (tickets on the gate – cash only). Please no sparklers or personal fireworks!!

Sunday Roast - November 9 at 1pm, Templeton Village Hall. Sue and Shaun have offered to once again cook their delicious Sunday Roast Beef Dinner at Templeton Village Hall. Contact Sue on 07722 163594 to secure a place and avoid disappointment. Cost £10 for adults and £5 for children.

Pottery Christmas decoration making – Wednesday 19 November at Templeton Village Hall, 10am to 1pm. Please come along to join local potter, Tom Payne as he demonstrates and helps you make your own pottery Christmas decorations. He will then take them away, dry and fire them. The cost of the event will be £5. Please get in touch with Matthew Palmer on 07595 868165 if you would like to book a place.

Art Exhibition and Sale - Saturday 22 November from 12 midday to 4pm at Templeton Village Hall. Paintings by the talented Templeton Art Group. Come and buy a painting for yourself or as a Christmas gift? Tea and cake provided.

Christmas-themed Musical Evening! Friday 5 December at 7.30pm, Templeton Village Hall. Rehearsals will be starting in early November. If you, or anyone you know, would like to take part, please let Sue Coffin know as soon as possible. Email: sueandregcoffin@fhsinternet.com Tel: 01884 860246. Bar open at 7pm. The show will start at 7.30pm. Entry £5.

Christmas Children' Party - Sunday 14 December at 3pm at Templeton Village Hall! - with a visit by Father Christmas! A wonderful annual family event organised by Tony Loosemore, with a disco, party food and fun. If any of your children would like to join the party

please let Tony know beforehand so that he can cater for enough food for everyone (07510128683). You will need to bring a wrapped and named gift for each child for Father Christmas to distribute.

The Annual Christmas Bar Games (table tennis, pool, darts, and skittles) will be held at Templeton Village Hall on the Saturdays: 6, 13 and 20 December the grand finals! Do come and take part in this fun event – and there's still plenty of time to practice on club nights or other nights in the week!

Make use of Templeton Village Hall. With the nights closing in fast, maybe you and your family and friends would like to use the village hall for a game of table tennis, skittles, darts or pool on other days in the week apart from club nights – maybe to get into form for the Christmas Bar games?

Just phone 01884 860655 or email templetonvh@gmail.com to make sure there is not already a booking on the date you need, and someone can open up the hall for you.

Regular groups in Templeton:

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

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's a vacancy. Knit and Natter - St Margaret's Church. Last Friday of every month 10.30am to 12 midday. Bring any repair work, embroidery, crochet, knitting, or just come along for the coffee and biscuits and a chat!

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Gardening Club – Held at different people's homes, this is a great opportunity to talk gardening and gardens – the group will start again in the spring and meet regularly from early spring until the autumn. If you'd like to know more, do get in touch with Ginah (ginahpalmer@gmail.com).

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who are unwell, awaiting treatment, in hospital, recovering from surgery and our thoughts are also with their families who will be supporting them. We do hope that you will soon be feeling better.

Flower and Cleaning Rota:

2 to 9 Nov: Bindy Linden
16 to 23 Nov: Laurel O'rien
30 Nov to 7 Dec: Gloria Woollacott
(advent – no flowers)
14 Dec to 21 Dec: Ginah Palmer
(advent – no flowers 1st week)
28 Dec to 4 Jan '26 Julie Dent

WASHFIELD

November days grow short, the nights grow long, the autumn turns to winter's song. Chill December brings the sleet, blazing fire, and Christmas treat"

Hallelujah – a new Archbishop! How wonderful. We have Dame Sarah Mullally in our prayers as she takes over a very long and tricky in-box. How tragic her first job was to offer heartfelt sympathy for victims of the Manchester Synagogue attack, using her first public statement to condemn the "horrific violence" of Thursday's deadly attack on a synagogue in Manchester, saying "hatred and racism cannot tear us apart".

We wish Rector Steph such love as she returns to work – and urge her to go

against all her natural instincts and take it slowly! We also send our heartfelt thanks to Dawn and the team for keeping the balls in the air during Steph's convalescence.

We enjoyed a wonderful Harvest Service which we used as an opportunity to say thank you for our animals, wildlife and their carers. Our congregation was joined by dogs of various shapes and sizes and Timmy the Tortoise. Many thanks to Sarah, Oliver and team for the beautiful decorations and to Hugh and the Partridge family for arranging the traditional stooks in the porch. We sent a collection of £145 to CHAT.

Just a reminder that 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

Our Market Bus is an important part of many Parishioners week, and is a lifeline for those who no longer drive. Toby Gray has stepped up to support Colin Radford as vice Chair, and they are looking for a Secretary. The workload is not onerous – taking minutes at the quarterly meetings and dealing with any correspondence in between times. Please contact Colin or Toby if you would like to find out more and have a couple of hours each month to keep this rare and important service going.

We have those in our parish in our thoughts and prayers, those who are sick, lonely, bereaved, waiting for medical procedures, separated by work commitments, or facing family or

financial struggles. Our community is welcoming to all.

We were so sad to hear, as we went to print, that Adrienne (Addie) Pannifer had died after a spell in hospital. She would have been 90 years old just a few days after her death.

Addie had lived in Washfield for many years, originally with her late husband, John and children Robert and Andrew and latterly on her own. She was often to be seen walking her beloved Border Terrier, Marcus (named after Marcus Trescothick) and was devastated when he died.

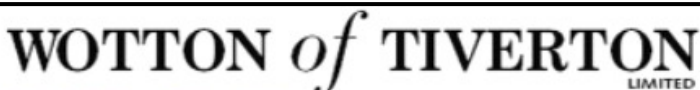
Addie was a quiet, un-assuming lady, but very capable in the interests she followed. She was an avid reader and a master at languages, particularly French. At one point in her retirement, she strove to learn every European language plus also, Els taught her Dutch. She proclaimed that Russian was the most difficult to learn,

She taught general subjects at Bolham School and past students remember that she had a soft, gentle manner. She also taught at Uffculme School.

She played the piano to a high standard and the organ beautifully in Washfield's St Marys church. She was a member of St Peter's Church choir and took singing lessons locally as she was a perfectionist.

Although a shy, private lady she liked to join in at Lunch Club and teatime@thehall (happily mixing and chatting with the others there). She loved to help at the Fete (and we, fellow tea ladies) loved her helping, as she did for many years.

Her neighbours were staunchly protective of her and looked out for her as she got older and more vulnerable.



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PARISH ROUND-UP

She will be sadly missed by all who knew her in the village. We send our sympathies to Robert and Andrew as they grieve their mother's passing.

For our next church fundraiser we're looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the inaugural Washfield Santa Fun Run (walk or toddle) – Saturday 20 December 10am starting at the village hall (weather permitting, updates on the village Facebook page Humans of Washfield). We're looking forward to seeing many, many fancy dress Angels, Rudolph's, Santas and other Christmasy themes racing round the block (walking counts too!). So whether you are a tortoise or a hare put it in your diary, gather your family and friends, and earn yourself that extra mince pie. Prizes for speed, for teams, for creative costumes and for finishing! Soup and hot chocolate will be available in the hall afterwards. (And if you're not up for taking on the hill please offer to marshal or help in the kitchen). Approx 3.5km total loop, Hall – Cotleigh-Keepers-Washfield Wood-Dark Lane-Hall).

We look forward to welcoming you all to our service of Remembrance on 9 Nov at 10:50 where we remember all who fought for the freedom and rights that we enjoy today. Readers for Carol Service to Annabel please). Reminder that evening services will commence at 3pm, not 6pm, once the clocks go back.

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

The first was a well-attended BBQ afternoon on Bank Holiday Monday with fun and games including football and table tennis. The food (cooked by the menfolk) was outstanding and the salads provided wonderful. It was a lovely evening and enjoyed in relaxed style by all who attended.

The Social Club held a most successful Skittles/Hall fundraiser night in September at the hall. There were lots of teams entered with some skittlers coming from Australia (and playing the sport for the very first time!) It was a fun-filled night for all including children (who also carried out the 'sticking up' duties). There was a fantastic supper and prizes (donated by Emma and Brian) were handed out to the winning team of Pete, Lucy, Anne B and Stuart (see Photo). The proceeds of £225.60 was given to the Hall, Photo on page 4.

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 held an evening of defibrillator training/first aid on 7 October which was well attended. Hopefully we will never need to test our skills in this area but always keep your flyer close just in case.

Don't forget our time-honoured teatime@thehall is still as popular as ever. Held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month between 3.00-4.30pm (changing to 2.30-4pm after the clocks change) All ages are welcome to these friendly, chatty afternoons. Come along, you'd be most welcome.

To those who are not enjoying good health at the time of writing, and those who are currently spending time in hospital we hope you will soon be home, we send loving wishes for a speedy recovery if you are convalescing.

Flower Rota

Nov 2/9

Nov 16/23

Nov 30/Dec 7

Dec 14/21

December 28/Jan 4

Alison Atkins

Marion Elston

Sylvia Balment

Anne Moore

Mrs Jones

WITHLEIGH

Autumn is now with us, and we have had our first named storm, Amy. The trees will be turning colour and the leaves falling with the children gathering conkers and of course the clocks will have gone back by 1 hour for the next five months. Then our thoughts will turn to Christmas with festive lights and customs as we celebrate a special birth. Let us all remain warm and safe during these special couple of months and enjoy any gathering of friends and family.

Our Harvest Festival was held on Sunday September 14th at 3 pm and was very well attended. The service was led by Paul and Elizabeth, who spoke about three special gardens, God being the faithful gardener. Rosemary, Wendy and helpers had put together two wonderful displays of produce at the front of the church. The windows were decorated by our regular flower arrangers, and with sheaths of corn at the entrance of the church, gave us a real feeling of the Harvest season. Marjorie played the organ for us. After the service tea was served in the Village Hall and our thanks to all those who had prepared it.

The Harvest Supper followed on the next evening when over 50 sat down to supper prepared by the Drew family. Following the meal Henry auctioned all the produce which had been brought over from the church. £385 was raised for The League of Friends of Tiverton Hospital. Many thanks to everyone who gave the produce and to those who

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WHAT'S ON

helped Henry by keeping the bidding going well to raise such a good amount. Thank you, Henry, for being our auctioneer.

At our PCC meeting on 22nd September, it was reported that an electrical inspection had been undertaken by J V Lee Electrical, with several issues being highlighted, the necessary work having now been completed.

Also, the trees in the churchyard were inspected recently, and all were found to be in good condition.

Our Worship Team met at the beginning of August at which the new Exe Valley service rota was discussed. This now means our own regular services will be on the first Sunday of each month (Family Service) and the third Sunday of each month (Morning Worship). We will still be having a service on the fifth Sunday of the month when this occurs, at 9.30am in the Village Hall.

Saturday 30 August took us all by surprise when so many of you came and supported our Cream Tea, organised by Janet, for the upkeep of our churchyard. How lovely it was to see the Village Hall full of people chatting and enjoying themselves. We, however, were running home to take more Scones from the freezer! Luckily, we had enough scones, cream and sponge for everyone. Well done Janet for all your hard work and a big thank you to all those who helped out, made scones and sponges. £458 was raised for the Churchyard Fund.

On the 20th of September Gill held a Jumble Sale in the Village Hall for Hospiscare which raised just over

£400 a wonderful result. Well Done Gill and thank you to everyone who supported Gill.

The first Community Lunch for this winter will be on Tuesday 4th November, 12.30 for 1pm. Tickets will be £8 each, please call Christine 01884 257571 to book your ticket, booking is essential.

Thursday 6th November is Bingo night, in the Village Hall, eyes down at 7.30pm. Ladies have been busy knitting or crocheting poppies, and Margaret and the WOW ladies are hoping to make a display of them in church or on the church gate for Remembrance Sunday. We will be holding our usual Remembrance Service on Sunday 9th November at 10.50 am.

Christmas begins with our Christmas Bingo on Thursday 4th December, in the Village Hall, eyes down at 7.30pm.

Our Christmas Fayre will take place on Saturday 6th December in the Village Hall, beginning at 10.30am to 3pm. Do come along and perhaps do some Christmas shopping or win a Christmas Cake and enjoy some homemade soup for Lunch, other options are available!

See centre pages for details of services.

Our Christmas Eve Service will be at 11 pm. Marjorie has kindly agreed to play the organ for our Christmas Eve Service. Instead of presents under the Christmas tree, we are planning once again to have a "Post Box" in church during December for donations to Hospiscare.

This year's Christmas Community Lunch will be on Tuesday 9th December, 12.30 for 1pm. Booking is essential, please call Christine 01884 257571.

Father Christmas has the date for the Children's Christmas Party in his diary. This will be on the afternoon of Saturday 13th December, please call Amy 07568 925771 for more details.

The Flower Rota for November and December is;

2nd Nov - Daphne.

9th to 23rd Nov - Shirley

30th Nov to 14th Dec - Sara

21st to 28th Dec - Christmas Decorations.

WOW

The WOW (Women of Withleigh) continue to meet once a month, (sometimes twice if we gather for a Bannana Cafe coffee)!. In October our speaker cancelled and some quick thinking on behalf of Pauline and Pauline created a happy evening of quizzes, homemade eats and plenty of chatter. It is always fun to get together, Withleigh not being the easiest village for social encounters!

We have been knitting poppies for Armistice Day with the idea of decorating the church gate and some features within the church. At our November meeting we made good progress sewing poppies onto ribbon and net ready for the display.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Susie on 238492.

We have just sadly heard of the passing of Harry who regularly attended our Church and did a grand job with the Hymn board making sure we always had the correct numbers. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.





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