

MARCH / APRIL 2026

Price £1.00

LESSONS FROM A BLUE TIT

For my birthday last year, my son and his wife bought me a bird feeder.

I've tried to have a bird table before, but Withleigh is where the wind blows cold, and the wild Withleigh winds kept blowing the table over.

But my birthday bird feeder is different. It sticks onto the window, and so far hasn't blown away. I love it!

The only trouble is – and I know it is a contradiction – much as I love watching birds, through my window, I really, really, really dislike being near them. You know, close up. In a confined space. With all that flapping and feathers. I really don't like it at all.

So now you will understand why I found what happened the other day, so difficult. I was just about to leave the house, when I realized that there was a bird stuck in my woodburner. It was a beautiful blue tit. It was flapping around, trying to get out, and I desperately wanted to open the door and let it escape. But I couldn't.

Pathetic, I know. So, I phoned for the cavalry, and spent a few minutes apologizing to the bird,

through the glass, before I left to take a funeral.

The cavalry (in the shape of my son and daughter-in-law) arrived later in the day. I shut the sitting room door and left them to it. Of course, they opened the door of the woodburner and the bird wouldn't come out. He was hiding in the back, covered in soot and ashes. With the help of a box, they caught the bird and set him free. He flew up into the air, and was gone.

My daughter-in-law filmed it to show me. The colours of the bird hit the sunlight (yes, there was sun! It wasn't chucking it down!) and looked beautiful, despite being covered in soot and ash. So why am I telling you this? I learnt a lesson from that blue tit!



Next week is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. It's a time when we remind ourselves of the things we have got wrong, which is never a bad thing. We will have

marked ourselves with ashes and said sorry to God.

Just like that little blue tit, when I know I have done something wrong, I feel like hiding at the back of the woodburner. Actually, even when I haven't done something wrong, I feel like hiding at the back of the woodburner!

But Lent reminds us that God delights in forgiving us. He doesn't want us to be in hiding. He wants us to be Easter people – with Spring in our step, not cowering out of sight.

Easter reminds us how much God loves us. He wants us to be free, to experience resurrection life, to be able to live life in all its fullness, rich in colour, rich in beauty, rich in joy.

As winter, wind and rain give way to Spring and our Easter celebrations, may you experience the liberating joy of God's love for you and those whom you love.

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

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WHAT'S ON

NATURE NOTES

Wandering the byways, searching the hedgerows and banks sheltering the first flowers of spring – snowdrops. It is always a joy to discover the burgeoning buds on the trees, birds chirping as they hop amongst the bare branches and pigeons romancing, snuggling up to each other on the telegraph wires. On my walk today, apart from seeing some patches of blue sky, I saw a pair of jays, primroses, celandines, gorse, daffodils and dandelions.

It made me wonder why so many spring flowers are yellow?

Of course, Google had the answers and it seems there are several reasons.

Firstly, to aid seed production, the bright colours attract pollinators such as flies and bees. Although the flies cannot perceive colours well, they are attracted to the contrast of the yellow flowers against the green foliage.

Secondly, yellow flowers contain carotenoids, which are pigments that support photosynthesis and which are less energy-intensive to create, compared with other, darker, colours.

Yellow flowers can absorb sunlight efficiently, helping them to thrive, even in limited sunlight. The colour allows the flowers to warm up more quickly, allowing the plants to grow and reproduce effectively, even in colder temperatures.

Hedgerow bases, woodland, banks and grassland generally are rich in yellow spring flowers – primroses, daffodils, crocus, lesser celandines, forsythia and cowslips – and consequently the invertebrates that pollinate them and feed on them, and in turn the birds that eat the insects and feed them to their fledglings.

The white flowers – snowdrops, wood anemone and garlic have similar reasons for appearing in Spring. They are highly reflective of light and appear bright in the landscape. They often have open shapes to be available to any pollinators that might be around in early spring, taking advantage of a less-crowded, if cooler, season.

Pollinators emerging from hibernation or migratory journeys are hungry and in need of energy. Flowers, like those listed above provide critical nectar and

pollen at a time when other plants have yet to bloom.

Some of the most common spring pollinating insects include flies, hoverflies, shieldbugs and bees:

The Common bee-fly drinks nectar from flowers with its long tongue, its wings beat so fast as to be invisible.

The Brown hoverfly is slim and shiny with orange-brown hairs and is one of several similar hoverflies. Sallow blossom, blackthorn colt's-foot and dandelion are favourites.

The Bumblebee hoverfly has very large eyes and long narrow wings, which distinguish it from bumble bees. It is either all-over orange-brown or has a black abdomen with pale tail-tip, and it loves to visit sallow blossom.

The first Bumblebee out has a lemon-yellow collar band on its thorax, an orange tail and frequently a yellow abdominal band and it visits colt's-foot, sallow blossom and dandelions.

Although better known for his poem about daffodils, William Wordsworth was also a fan of the Lesser Celandine:

*There is a Flower, the Lesser Celandine,
That shrinks, like many more, from cold
and rain;*

*And, the first moment that the sun may
shine,*

Bright as the sun himself, 'tis out again!

Efflorist's floral expert David Denyer notes that 'Primroses are rich in folklore, often associated with fairies, and are believed to bring luck when placed on doorsteps. However, they should be kept out of reach of pets, as they can be toxic to cats and dogs.'

Fiona Bladon

Sources: North Somerset Times, New Scientist, BBC Countryfile

[The Ultimate Guide to UK Spring Wildflowers: Identification, Folklore, and Walks](#)



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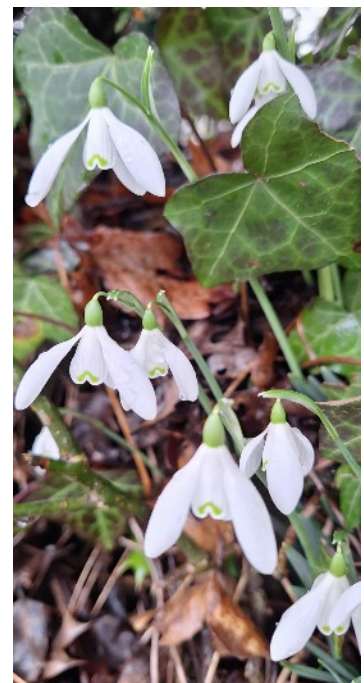
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Bible Study Group

The next meeting will be held
at The Cottage, Washfield
Monday 2nd March
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



PARISH DIARY

MARCH

- 4 Oakford St Peter's Book and Coffee Club 10.00am
- 6 Washfield Supper Club 6.00pm
- 7 Stoodleigh Coffee Morning in Village Hall 10.30am-12.
- 10 Washfield teatime@thehall 2.30pm-4.00pm
- 10 Loxbeare Parishioners Meeting in Village Hall 7.30pm
- 10 Cruwys Morchard Village Hall AGM 8.00pm
- 13 Stoodleigh Skittles and Supper in Village Hall 7.00pm
- 14 Loxbeare Community Soup Lunch 12.30 -2.30pm
- 14 Oakford Village Hall Six Nations Rugby
- 22 Oakford Red Lion Pub Quiz 8.00pm
- 26 Templeton Run
- 28 Cruwys Morchard Easter Fun Morning 10-12noon
- 28 Cruwys Morchard Easter Bingo Village Hall 8.00pm
- 30 Loxbeare Bingo in Village Hall 7.00pm
- 31 Withleigh Full English Breakfast in the hall 9.30am-11.00am
- 31 Templeton Village Hall Quiz Night 7.00pm

APRIL

- 2 Washfield Agape Meal 6.30pm
- 2 Withleigh Easter Bingo 7.30pm
- 4 Calverleigh Easter Vigil 8.30pm
- 4 Washfield Egg Decorating & Rolling
- 4 Stoodleigh Coffee Morning in Village Hall 10.30am-12.
- 8 Oakford St Peter's Book and Coffee Club 10.00am
- 10 Washfield teatime@thehall 2.30-4.00pm
- 10 Great Oakford Taste Off in Village Hall 7.00pm
- 11 Stoodleigh Spring Fair 10.30am
- 11 Loxbeare Cream Tea 3.00-4.30pm
- 11 Templeton Village Hall Bingo 7.00pm
- 12 Oakford Red Lion Pub Quiz 8.00pm
- 14 Washfield teatime@thehall 2.30pm-4.00pm
- 18 Washfield Film Night

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



Exe Valley Lunches



12.30pm - 2.30pm

Thursday 12th March - Calverleigh Court

Thursday 9th April - Oakford Village Hall

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

01884 250417

REFLECTION FROM REV. TIM GORRINGE

Jesus comes into Galilee preaching that the kingdom of God is near at hand; When his disciples asked him to teach them to pray He says: pray: 'May your kingdom come, may your will be done, on earth as in heaven'. This means that the kingdom is that situation where the will of God is done - but what is the will of God? We learn that in the same place that Jesus learned it, in the texts which we call the 'Old Testament'. The will of God is to do justice and love mercy (Micah 6.8; Amos 5.15). Every Lent we read:

Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them (Is. 8.6-7)

Just like today the ancient world was awash with refugees. The Hebrew word 'ger' means a migrant labourer. In Leviticus we read: 'When a migrant labourer resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the migrant labourer. The migrant labourer who resides with you shall be to you as a citizen among you; you shall love the migrant labourer as yourself, For you were migrant labourers in the land of Egypt: I am YHWH your God (Leviticus 19. 33-34). Effectively this is the appeal: 'There, but for the grace of God, go I'. It is a recognition of inter-human solidarity. The Gulf Stream is the reason we have a temperate climate in the UK; climate change is weakening it. It could switch off altogether, in which case we would become Greenland, and could not support a population of nigh on 70 million. People would be fleeing to more temperate climes. And others might say: 'Deport them! We don't want them...'

The demand to do justice is not about charity or being nice to my neighbours. Like all the laws in the Pentateuch (of which not one jot or tittle will be removed Mt 5.18) it is about how we structure our community, what values shape it. The Greek word for this community is 'polis', from which we get 'political'. We tend to think of politics as about the competition between parties but more fundamentally it is about how we set, and follow up, the priorities of our community. Some priorities are impossible for Christians: 'Jews (or any other group) are subhuman; let's destroy them'; Africans are less advanced than Europeans; human rights don't matter, we can dispense with them; it is fine for a tiny minority to accumulate more wealth than the bottom 50% of the world's people; we are free to trash the creation (which, if we are Christian, we believe is a gift to be treasured). Our faith calls us to oppose such views and practices. On the positive side it means we expect to see in our churches signs that we care about the homeless, about refugees, about the dangers of climate change. As Christians we are an engaged people! From our Scriptures comes the call: Awake you who sleep! (Rom 13.14; Eph 5.14)

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PARISH ROUND-UP

CALVERLEIGH

At the time of writing, we have been going through an extremely wet spell, but nevertheless there are signs of Spring around us. It has been lovely to see the sturdy little snowdrop popping up in the hedgerows and the woodlands, a very welcome sight with flashes of white to brighten the dreariness of the past few weeks and buds appearing on trees and bushes. The daffodil is emerging from the ground and in sheltered areas they have already been showing off their bright yellow heads. A sure sign of what is to come.

Looking back to the Christmas period, our Carol service was a busy one with over 60 people coming together from as far afield as Greece, to listen to and sing about the birth of Jesus. A number of our children sang Away in a Manger, the choir sang Silent Night and Tasha and Nikki became 'angels' to tell us about the birth of Jesus from their point of view. The service was followed by refreshments of cake, biscuits, mince pies and a hot drink or squash. Our thanks go to all those who read the lessons, prepared food, decorated the church in readiness for the Christmas period or just supported us by coming along.

We had a successful two nights of carol singing with the Loxbeare and Calverleigh carol singers trying something a little different this year. Instead of clogging up the country lanes it was thought to give a go to being "static". On Monday 22 December we met in the car park of Loxbeare church and had a good sing song working our way through the Bethlehem carol sheet

and were joined by some local residents as we did so. The evening was rounded off with a warming spiced drink, mince pies and biscuits served from the back of a car.

The very next evening we met at Calverleigh village hall car park. We began as a modest group but as the evening went on we were joined by more and more people. Between the singing we were entertained by some of the younger singers with Christmas cracker jokes. Again, we managed to work our way through the carol sheet and at the end of the evening we were treated to a supper that had been arranged by Maureen, Paul, Alison and Eric. This was very much unexpected but appreciated. A grand total of £382.50 was raised for Mid Devon Messenger (talking books and newspapers) for the blind and partially sighted. We went to a couple of homes on both nights of those who wanted to hear the carol singing but were unable to attend in person. Thank you to all who braved the cold on both nights, for the wonderful supper provided and to all those who donated so generously. We hope that we will be able to do it again this December.

Our Christmas Day Holy Communion service was led by Rev'd Christopher Rowley. Over 30 people, both local and from further afield, came together to celebrate the birth of Jesus in a lowly stable in Bethlehem. Thank you, Christopher for a great beginning to a day of celebrations and togetherness.

Over Advent a collection of dried or tinned goods along with toiletries was donated by many for CHAT. A good number of items were delivered to their office in time for distribution to those in

need before the Christmas period. Thank you to all who gave to this worthwhile cause. CHAT are always so grateful for these donations.

Plough Sunday was 11 January, which was a Group Holy Communion service and we were pleased to welcome Rev'd Steph Gordon-Jeffs and four members of Cruwys Morchard Young Farmers who brought along a plough that was blessed during the service for a good growing season ahead and plentiful harvest later in the year. Hopefully, the fields will start to drain and recover over the next few weeks so that farmers can get onto the land and begin to work it.

As you may know, there is an issue with an area of flooring in the church where there has been a partial collapse at the east end of the south aisle. Initial investigations have taken place and we are now at a point of moving on to the next stage of obtaining quotes from the specialist companies who will be stabilising the floor to prevent damage to more of the flooring and the inlaid tombstone. When these details are known we will be able to start applying for grants and organising more fundraising events.

Congratulations and best wishes go to those who have been celebrating a family event, a significant birthday or wedding anniversary. Many Happy returns to Dave who celebrates his birthday on Good Friday!

Many people have been unwell with various bugs/coughs and viruses recently and we trust that you are over the worst and feeling much better. For those who are awaiting treatment or recovering from operations we wish you well.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Our thoughts and prayers are also with all who are mourning the loss of a loved one either recently or longer ago.

Forthcoming Events

Please see the middle pages for Easter activities and services

Annual Day of Prayer - Saturday 2 May.
Time sheets and prayer suggestion sheets will be available in church closer to the date. A prayer sheet will be circulated closer to time and can always be downloaded from the website!

Monthly Prayer: You don't have to wait until May to pray, however, on the first Saturday of each month between 9am and 11am, we also pray at your home, at the church or wherever you are.

Saturday May 9: Coffee morning in the village hall in aid of 'Restore the Floor' 10.30am - 12.30pm. Draw, cake stall and competitions.

Our monthly Explore Service is a fun and interactive all age family friendly service starting at 9.15am with tea, coffee, squash and biscuits for a 9.30am start. The next Explore service will take place on 15 March. Do join us if you can!

Church cleaning rota:

2 Mar - 14 Mar:	Mrs M Furneaux
16 Mar - 28 Mar:	Mrs A Webber
30 Mar - 11 Apr:	Miss S Goldsworthy
13 Apr - 25 Apr:	Mrs A Balsdon
27 Apr - 9 May:	Mrs J Goldsworthy
11 May - 23 May:	Mrs S Greenslade

Mowing rota:

30 Mar - 11 Apr:	Mr A Goldsworthy
13 Apr - 25 Apr:	Mr D White
27 Apr - 9 May:	Mr K and Mrs C Hayes

11 May - 23 May:

Mr C Durnan

Alter Flower rota

LENT: No Alter Flowers

5 Apr - 12 Apr:

Mrs A Turner

17 Apr - 24 Apr:

Mrs T Pugsley

3 May - 10 May:

Mr M Ravnkilde

17 May - 24 May:

Mrs R Tapp

31 May - 7 Jun:

Mrs G Tucker

wish them a speedy recovery, and to those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Flower and Cleaning Rota

Mar 2 & 9

Lorna Warren (Lent - no flowers)

Mar 16 & 23

Jackie Mitchell (Lent - no flowers)

Mar 30 Decorators for Easter

Apr 6 & 13

Cindy Trick

May 20 & 27

Ali Vincent

CRUWYS MORCHARD

Church of the Holy Cross

As I write this the snowdrops are out and the arrival of daffodils show that spring is on the way, despite the constant rain.

Our Easter Fun Morning will be held this year on Saturday 28 March 10am - 12pm, at the Church and Parish Hall. Please come and join us for games and activities, and a catch up with your neighbours over coffee and cake in the hall. For more information, please contact Diana Vincent: 01363 860227.

The date for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting is yet to be decided. This meeting is an open invitation for all parishioners to attend to learn how the church continues to support the parish and what the PCC does to ensure the upkeep of the church, by following regulations and requirements to keep the church in good order for the future.

We are thinking of all those who are unwell or in hospital at this time and

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

Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall

The Parish Hall will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 10 March at 8.00pm at the Parish Hall. All welcome.

Easter Bingo on Saturday 28 March at the Parish Hall. Doors open at 7.00 pm, eyes down at 7.30 pm. Usual good prizes, plus raffle and prizes for the children. Bring the whole family!

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 Flower Show

The annual flower show takes place this year on Saturday 8 August 2026. Please check out the schedule, now available, with many new classes. Children's buckets and seed potatoes and "grow on plug plant" will be available from the secretary or chairman soon. If you are interested in entering either of these, please let us



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PARISH ROUND-UP

know. For more information, please contact Tracey Gillbard on 07871 300783 or traceygillbard@gmail.com

Cruwys Morchard YFC

Many thank to all who took part in, supported and helped at our Christmas Tractor run, this was an event to raise money for Macmillan. Our next event is a Fun Horse Ride to be held on Sunday 26 April, please keep an eye out for more information on posters.

We have kept busy recently as we prepared for the Group Entertainments competition.

All our hard work culminated in finishing 3rd against tough opposition, many congratulations to you all for your hard work, it was wonderful to see members old and new "get stuck in". Congratulations to Ed for his Best Actor win, to Liv for being shortlisted for Best Actress and to Nicholas for being shortlisted for Best Moment with his guitar.

A further congratulations to Oscar for coming 3rd in the Junior Member of the Year competition.

Looking ahead to the coming months we have Pub Sports competitions, other sporting events and Crealy Challenge. In Skills 4 Life we shall be doing a Pottery course. Whilst 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 7.30pm. 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!

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

We were delighted that Steph was well enough to lead the service on Christmas Eve and again it was lovely to join with people of all ages, as we celebrated the birth of our Saviour.

St Michaels & All Angels will be holding a Parishioners Meeting at the village hall on Tuesday 10 March at 7.30pm. Please come along to hear what has been happening with the church and bring your ideas for how your church community can help you.

Looking forward, everyone would be very welcome to join us in the village hall from 9.30am onwards on 15 March, for breakfast followed by an informal service for Mothering Sunday.

For details of other services, which will be held in the church at 10.45am, please see centre pages.

If anyone has any flowers or foliage or would like to help decorate the church on Saturday 4 April you would be most welcome and would be very much appreciated.

Please do come and join our service of Holy Communion as we celebrate with joy the good news of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Day, after the dark day of Good Friday.

We send our best wishes to Liz, Stephen and Cecil after their recent operations and continue to pray for their recovery. Our thoughts and prayers are with others who are suffering with the various viruses that seem to take a long time to "shake off" at this time of year, people struggling with long-term conditions and anyone who is down-hearted and for whom daily life is not easy.

Our thoughts are very much with folk who can no longer join with us in the community and we remember in our prayers Margaret, Marjorie, Muriel and others.

LOXBEARE

How cheering it is to see signs of spring with beautiful snowdrops and daffodils brightening the hedgerows. We look forward to some spring sunshine after the grey, wet days of winter.

By the time the magazine gets distributed, Christmas will have been many weeks ago, but a very big "thank you" to all who supported Loxbeare & Calverleigh carol singers in any way: joining to sing carols, donating money or providing refreshments. Grateful thanks from Mid Devon Messenger for £382.50 sent to them as a result of the 2 evenings that the singers braved the weather.

It was lovely to welcome all ages to the carol service and everyone enjoyed seeing the young children take part.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

We think of young people and the pressures they face in today's world and regularly pray for staff and pupils of local schools. We remember also in our prayers, teenagers preparing to take exams later in the spring and summer.

Congratulations to anyone celebrating a special birthday, anniversary or good news.

Community Events

The proceeds of £300 raised at the cream tea in December has been sent to Devon Air Ambulance.

£116 raised at the soup lunch in January has been sent to Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Thanks to all who supported these events.

There will be a cream tea on 14 February, and monies raised will be for the Exe Valley Market Bus.

On 14 March, there will be a soup lunch, and the charity will be the British Heart Foundation.

The charity for the cream tea on 11 April is to be confirmed.

Lunches are from 12.30 – 2.00 pm and cream teas are from 3.00 – 4.30pm.

There will be a bingo on Monday 30th March. Doors open 7.00pm, eyes down 7.30pm.

A warm welcome is extended to all for these events.

But no winter lasts forever and no spring skips its turn. (Hal Borland) and "Spring is nature's way of saying 'Let's party!'" (Robin Williams).

So with decorations in the hedgerows full of Daffodils, Snowdrops, Celandine and Primroses among freshening green foliage, music all around supplied by the orchestra of birds and new lambs, hopefully nature will send sunshine for party lighting and warmth. GET READY TO ENJOY.

Looking back on the last two months, In January The Moorland Club ladies kept fit with an hour of Flexercise, exercising legs, arms and chuckle muscles, a fun meeting. Thanks Lucinda. February was the popular annual club fish and chip night at the Dulverton Chippy.

The Books and Chat group took a break in January but were able to meet again in February with a supply of new books, chat about recently read books and a light hearted reading challenge. Anyone who is interested is welcome to come along. The group meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month, 10.00am in the community area of St Peter's.

The monthly quiz nights at The Red Lion are always fun and well supported. Held on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 8.00pm. It was nice to see a team from Dulverton joining the January quiz and supplying the quizmaster.

14th February - Six Nations Rugby was shown on the big screen in the Village Hall with the added treat of a Pie & Mash lunch. Thanks to the Village Hall committee for organising it.

Although the magazine goes to print in early February I am anticipating a fun night at the Village Hall on 28th February with the Bierkeller Boys and their Oompah band. (A report will be in the next edition of Today).

Now Dates for your diaries.

Saturday 14 March 4.00pm-7.00pm
Six Nations Rugby. There will be a licensed bar and food available.

Friday 10 April 7.00pm – 9.30pm.
The Great Oakford Taste Off at the village hall.

Enter your own homemade alcoholic or non alcoholic spirits and cordials, then taste and judge them all.

As always thoughts and prayers go to those who are unwell either in hospital or at home and to those who care for them.

Anyone celebrating a birthday or a special anniversary we send best wishes.

Also any village organisation wishing to advertise upcoming events please send copy to patsyphili@aol.com

The Lord's Larder - feeding hope

St Peter's, Oakford is joining hands to support CHAT. Every tin of soup, packet of pasta or box of cereal makes a real difference to families and people in need.

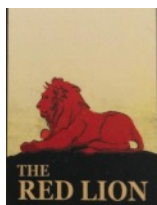
CHAT provides supplies to people facing difficult times. With your help, we can ensure that no one in our community goes hungry.

So, how can we help? Together we can share God's love in practical ways.

OAKFORD

The world is a gloomy place right now with storms both political and natural (thanks to Storms Gorette, Ingrid and Chandra).

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1 MARCH

The 2nd Sunday of Lent
(Purple)

Keep asking questions

John 3: 1-17
Genesis 12: 1-4a

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise
4.00pm Taize with Tim Gorringer

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Praise

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise and
Baptism with Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and David Edwards

RACKENFORD

10.45am Family Service

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

10.45am Holy Communion
Tim Gorringer

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

8 MARCH

The 3rd Sunday of Lent
(Purple)

9.30am Zoom Service

OUR MISSION COMMUNITY HOLY COMMUNION GROUP SERVICE

**is at
10.45am in**

WITHLEIGH

**Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and David Edwards**

Everyone is welcome

15 MARCH

The 4th Sunday of Lent
(Purple)

Mothering Sunday

1 Samuel 16: 1-13
John 19: 25b-27

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Holy Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs and
David Edwards

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Mothering Sunday

LOXBEARE

9.30am Breakfast in the hall
followed by a Mothering Sunday
service also in the hall.

OAKFORD

10.45am Mothering Sunday

RACKENFORD

10.45am Mothering Sunday

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Mothering Sunday

TEMPLETON

10.45am Holy Communion
Tim Gorringer

WASHFIELD

10.45am Mothering Sunday

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Mothering Sunday

29 MARCH

PALM SUNDAY
(Red)

Our 5th Sunday Special Service

**is at
CRUWYS MORCHARD
at
10.45am**

Steph Gordon-Jeffs and
David Edwards

Everyone is welcome

29 MARCH WITHLEIGH

**9.30am Poems, Prayer &
Praise**

22 MARCH

Passiontide
(Purple)

9.30am Zoom Service

OUR MISSION COMMUNITY HOLY COMMUNION GROUP SERVICE

**is at
10.45am in**

OAKFORD

Steph Gordon-Jeffs 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.

2 APRIL

Maundy Thursday

WASHFIELD

6.30pm Agape Meal

Please let the office know if you will be joining us.

3 APRIL

Good Friday

STOODLEIGH

10.00am Easter Reflections
Tim Gorringe

WITHLEIGH

10.00am Easter Reflections
Steph Gordon-Jeffs



CALVERLEIGH EASTER VIGIL

Saturday 4 April
8.30pm
with Holy Communion
Tim Gorringe

5 APRIL

Easter Day
(White)

Groundbreaking!

Jeremiah 31:1-6
Matthew 28:1-10

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.00am Easter Family Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Easter Praise

LOXBEARE

10.45am Holy Communion
Tim Gorringe

OAKFORD

No Service

RACKENFORD

10.45am Holy Communion
Christopher Rowley

STOODLEIGH

3.00pm Easter Reflection
and Egg Hunt

TEMPLETON

10.45am Easter Praise

WASHFIELD

10.45am Holy Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and David Edwards

WITHLEIGH

9.00am Breakfast in the hall
followed by Easter Praise

12 APRIL

The 2nd Sunday of Easter
(White)

Knowing together

1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

9.30am Zoom Service

**OUR MISSION
COMMUNITY
GROUP
HOLY COMMUNION
SERVICE**

is at
10.45am
in
OAKFORD

with
Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and David Edwards

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

19 APRIL

The 3rd Sunday of Easter
(White)

Baking bread

Luke 24:13-35
1 Peter 1:17-23

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

9.15am Explore Service
Tash, Julie & David Edwards

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Praise

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Holy Communion
Tim Gorringe

TEMPLETON

10.45am Family Service

WASHFIELD

10.45am Family Service

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Family Service

26 APRIL

The 4th Sunday of Easter
(White)

Gateway to life

9.30am Zoom Service

**OUR MISSION
COMMUNITY
GROUP
HOLY COMMUNION
SERVICE**

is at
10.45am
in
TEMPLETON

with
Steph Gordon-Jeffs,
Tim Gorringe
and David Edwards

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

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

PARISH ROUND-UP

Please consider giving - your kindness will bring hope and nourishment to our neighbours.

You will find a basket near the back of church where you can add your donated items. All donated items will be collected regularly and go directly to CHAT. There is a list of the most wanted items.

RACKENFORD

We need to reflect on last December before starting on this year.

Firstly, thank you to Liz and Tim for providing our Christmas tree again and decorating it so beautifully. Also thanks to Joy, Marilyn, Margaret and Hilda for decorating the church and to all those who brought flowers and foliage. We even had holly with berries which was quite a challenge!

Walking through the village, many family homes brightened up a dark and dismal evening - even the Christmas tree by the tennis courts could be seen from a distance. The shop, once again, provided a Christmas card box which is such a great help, thank you.

On December 14 we were delighted to welcome other parishes for our Mission Community Group Holy Communion Service with Christopher Rowley and David Edwards. It's always a pleasure to have Dave playing his guitar and leading us in song. It's always good to mingle with our friends after and chat while enjoying coffee and refreshments. Thank you to the carol singers and musicians singing and playing their way

through the village to give us some favourite carols. Not nice on a cold night but a pleasure for many. See you again this year we hope.

Our Christmas Eve our Lay Led Service was at 6:30pm. 'Oh, Come All Ye Faithful' and they did! A wonderful congregation with many coming home for Christmas to spend this special time with families and friends. Some of the congregation used to live in the village and attended Rackenford School. It's so good to see you all again. Our church was full and the carols sounded better for it. Thank you to our lay led team and those who read lessons at this special service for us all. Also thanks to Graham for all his work preparing the music for the service.

Now to the present! The continuous rain, winds, floods and discomfort it has brought to so many. Some of the fields look like lakes and others with huge puddles. Many farmers having to move stock and make sure they are safe and well fed at all times. Luckily for us Rackenford will not have to worry about flooding, but we sympathise with others.

Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Rosemary Dart who died on January 8. Rosemary's service took place on Friday 30 January. She was laid to rest with her late husband. Reverend Prebendary Christopher Rowley took the service.

We are sad to hear that Elaine Carter has died at home with her family. Elaine lived next door to the village shop where she once used to help and always a customer and friend to many. Our deepest sympathy to her sons Shaun and Mark and all her family at this difficult time. Elaine's service and

interment with her late husband Norman will take place on February 27 and may have taken place by the time you receive this magazine.

We are sad to hear that Daphne Weston has passed away. Daphne lived with David and Moy for 16 years, arriving there when she was 80 and departing to live in Northern Ireland aged 96. She celebrated her 100th birthday on September 4 last year but sadly passed away on 30 January 2026. Her funeral will have taken place on February 10 in Northern Ireland but David and Moy would like to organise a Thanksgiving Service for her in Rackenford in the late spring. She was a much loved person and will be greatly missed by David and Moy and her large family and step-family. On the Scott side she had seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. We remember Daphne well at Rackenford Church, who attended services regularly and was always willing to help with altar flowers. She also used to help in our shop. A very gentle lady and friend to many. We send our deepest sympathy to David and Moy and all her family and friends at this difficult time.

Our thoughts go to all those who are bereaved. At the time of going to print we pray for all those known to us who are suffering in a variety of ways - poor health, struggling with life, those with mental health issues, fragile, lonely or recovering from treatment. We pray for Jacques, Mary, David S, Herbert and our Steph.

We continue to pray for our church, that we can continue to keep it functioning. Thank you to all those who give donations and to all who help and support in different forms. Many hands, as they say! We are still hoping a volunteer will come forward to help with

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PARISH ROUND-UP

the upkeep of the churchyard. Cutting paths through certain areas when the weather allows, of course. Please make contact if you have any time to spare. Thank you.

We have nowhere to dispose of Christmas wreaths so could you please remove them please. It's now heading towards the end of February. The same applies to funeral wreaths please, when the time is right.

Thank you to Elliott, Annmarie and Eileen for leading us as a family at our service on January 4 2026.

Church Key Holders

Hilda, Ruth and Helen alternate in locking and unlocking our church on a monthly basis. We have NO set time it's when it's convenient to us. However, should you need the church, please get in touch and we will be happy to help.

Hilda Nott: 881248

Ruth Fennel: 881488

Helen Hyland: 881381

Other numbers you may find helpful

Mary Cann, Church Warden: 881696

Graham Fennel, Organist: 881488

Liz Paxton, Treasurer: 881331

Ruth Fennel, Secretary: 881488

Our Easter Sunday service will be on April 5, 10:45 Holy Communion with Rev Christopher Rowley. We will be decorating the church on Saturday April 4 at 2pm. If you can provide any flowers/foliage it would be a great help and can always be left in the church porch if that helps, thank you.

Please check the magazine for service details. If you would like to remember

someone in our magazine, please get in touch.

We continue to pray for PEACE.

STOODLEIGH

Hello and Greetings from Stoodleigh. We hope this new year finds you well....2026! Where do the years go? Can it really be 26 years since this new Millennium!

St Margaret's Church

Our PCC would like to thank all who came and supported the Christmas coffee morning at the church in December. £256 was raised for funds towards repairs and costs to our church, but aside from that it was good to catch up with friends prior to Christmas and eat mince pies whilst drinking coffee, and the thrill of an excellent raffle – what's not to like?

And again, lovely to see so many at our church carol service. The church was dazzling with Christmas flower arrangements, Christmas tree and twinkling lights, a real sight and sound with the organ accompanying the singing. We would like to thank Tim Hugill for coming to play and helping to keep us all in tune. St Margaret's was lucky enough to have a visit from two glamorous angels who sang the first verse of Once In Royal David's City, whilst walking up the aisle with halos lit and wings fluttering, and once the rest of us had gathered ourselves together and the laughter had died down, we all

joined in. "Very well done Angels", please come again next year.

Recently, we had a robin find its way into our church.....someone had left the door open (it wasn't me, honest!). They are such bold and inquisitive birds that obviously the invite was too much to resist. Now they do say that 'Robins appear when a loved one is near' and well, there are a great many loved ones in and around St Margaret's churchyard. And indeed in all our parish churchyards. But our St Margaret's churchyard holds many loved ones from our own village and local surroundings, and although perhaps having a bird inside the building isn't necessarily ideal, to know that robins are around our churchyard, I think, is rather comforting. The robins are a reminder that even if a person isn't with us sat at our table, they are still very loved and a part of our lives every day. Our little visitor was enticed out by Penny our Church Warden, laying a trail of mealworms towards the door to outside.....Bless them, long may they live in our churchyard.

And leaving you with a thought....another visitor to our church has written in our visitor book just days before Christmas 'Thank you for being open'. And our reply is 'You are very welcome'. Come and sit in the stillness, for however long, gather your thoughts and we hope, take away some comfort with you.

Easter

During Easter there will be two services at St Margaret's church and you are welcome to join us. Our Good Friday service at 10.00am will be taken by Tim Gorrington, and then a short period of reflection will be held on Easter Sunday

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PARISH ROUND-UP

at 3pm followed by an Easter Egg hunt for children of all ages – please do stay for tea and refreshments afterwards.

Church Flower Rota – there will be no flowers in St Margaret's throughout March because of Lent. Can everyone on the rota do their own flower windows on Saturday 4 April ready to celebrate Easter Sunday. Thank you. Note – if you live in Stoodleigh and are interested in joining St Margaret's flower rota, please do contact Mandy. You don't have to be a world class florist to join our team (although obviously we all are - not!) just have an interest in flower arranging and enjoy being part of the team.

Garden Club

Now well into this year, the Garden Club and many of its forty or so members have taken advantage of the wet weather to enjoy some crafting. In January a lunch get-together was held, to do some painting and make some useful little cards. A favourite subject seemed to be flowers! Then in March the sculptor Melanie Deegan, will instruct us on wirework.

The season of garden visits begins in February with a visit, on an NGS open day, to Elworthy Cottage to see their collection of snowdrops and the winter garden.

The full programme for 2026 is now available to view in the Garden Club section of the Stoodleigh website. Many of our events are open to all, but new members are always welcome. (See website for contact details).

Stoodleigh Parish Hall

Our Christmas Tree twinkled outside the Parish Hall during December and provided a bright welcome to those attending events at the Hall and to folk

passing by. Thank you to everyone who attended the 'December Tree Lighting' event and joined in the singing and enjoyed festive refreshments. We loved welcoming Father Christmas who, with the help of his driver on the red tractor, brought gifts for the children. So many of our community helped to make this event a success and it's a big thank you to all.

The Churches Housing Action Team thanked us for our support with our Food Bank Collection which helped to enable them to offer practical help, comfort, and reassurance to those struggling to make ends meet. The CHAT team said, "Your generosity is a reminder to the people we help that they are not alone, and that their community truly cares."

Events Coming Up

The Parish Hall team met for their first meeting of 2026 and the following events have been arranged.

Monthly Coffee Mornings on the first Saturday of each month - 7 March, 4 April, 2 May and throughout the year.

Skittles & Supper Evening - Friday 13 March at 7pm

Stoodleigh Spring Fair - Saturday 11 April from 10.30am til 1.30pm

Village Walk & Lunch - Saturday 9 May - timings available soon

Full details will be available in due course we hope that you'll be able to join us!

More events are planned during the year and will be published in due course.

Use of the Hall

Do you have ideas for community events? We'd love to hear from you! Or if you'd like to use the Hall for family or group social events or parties - let us know!

Contacts: Chair, Geraldine (geraldinetalbot@live.com or 01398 351391) or Secretary, Linda (linda.brice21@yahoo.com or 07818 433046).

For bookings, contact the Treasurer on rusianjan@btinternet.com or ring 07792 666049.

Stoodleigh 100 Club Winners

December: Mette Larsen, Graham Radford, Brenda Howlett and Clare Torrance

Christmas: Steven Radford, Paula Moore and Matt Hamidullah

Welcome to new residents, Wendy and Rob at Moss Cottage and Alexandra and Pete at Moor View. We hope you'll be very happy living in Stoodleigh

If you would like something mentioned in the Stoodleigh round-up please contact Mandy on mandy@exevalleyeggs.co.uk

TEMPLETON

Has it stopped raining yet? Traditionally, the old weather proverb "In like a lion, out like a lamb" is often trotted out at this time of year, indicating that if March begins with stormy, turbulent weather (the lion), it will end with mild, calm temperatures (the lamb), or vice versa. However, this year, we might be forgiven for expecting to see both lions and lambs in swimming costumes, with webbed feet and lining up two by two. Why didn't the animals play cards on the



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PARISH ROUND-UP

Ark? Because Noah was standing on the deck.

Templeton Snow Warden / Emergency Plan

Our Parish Council has a very informative website. Please check it out here:

<https://www.templetonparishcouncil.org.uk/> There is a link here to our snow plan. Our parish Snow Warden, Sara Stone, has been working hard to encourage everyone to know where their grit bins are, and whether they need refilling, so the village can be ready should we have any more ice or heavy snow. You can report an empty grit bin here: https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/map/map_src/gritbins/

There are several steep hills in Templeton which can make conditions quite treacherous, including the lane to Templeton Bridge and to the ford. Residents at Templeton Bridge joined together to purchase a gritter, to be towed behind a 4-wheel drive or quad bike. The gritter was tested during our recent January cold snap. Unfortunately, there was an issue with the flow of grit onto the road. Now the gritter has been fitted with a special vibrating attachment, which will hopefully provide satisfaction for the residents.

You can also report a pot hole here <https://webforms.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-pothole/> and the Parish Council encourages everyone to do this.

Defibrillators

In 2022, with financial support from Templeton Parish Council, the village acquired an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) which was set up at Templeton Village Hall. This was

followed by training on basic life support and how to use the defibrillator. The Parochial Church Council recently bought another defibrillator which will be placed either inside the church or in the telephone box so that it is easily accessible for everyone. A Bingo night fund raiser will be held to help cover costs for this. See below.

Laurel recently received the excellent news that the British Heart Foundation has agreed to donate a defibrillator and external cabinet to Templeton Parish Council, who suggest that it could be placed at Templeton Bridge by one of the properties there. Many thanks to the Parish Council for their efforts with this important addition to the village.

St Margaret's Church and Churchyard
Maintenance of St Margaret's Church and churchyard is constant. During the extremely wet weather recently, water leaked through the roof leaving the floor of the church saturated. Thanks to Rory's team, this leak has been repaired, and a dehumidifier was used to get rid of the moisture. Val's wet and dry vacuum has cleared the damp carpet.

Once the weather improves, we would like to hold a working group event and give the churchyard a very necessary spring clean to clear the brambles and ivy around the church. If you are able to lend a hand do contact our churchwardens William or Reg (contact details on page 2 of this magazine).

Services

The Sunday services for March and April are published in the centre pages. The Sunday services at St Margaret's Church, Templeton, are all at 10.45 am and will be held on March 1 (Morning Service), March 15 (Holy Communion), April 5 (Easter celebration with Easter Egg Hunt), April 19 Family Service, and

April 26th (Group service with Holy Communion). If you or your family have any favourite hymns that you would like included in any of the services, just let our churchwardens Reg or William know (contact details on page 2).

Past events

On New Year's Eve, Bob and Sonia hosted a New Year's Eve party at Templeton Village Hall with Karaoke and Disco. The bar was open, with snacks and light refreshments to enjoy. It was a great evening and many people, young and old, joined in with the singing, dancing, drinking, eating, and celebrating the New Year. Thank you, Bob and Sonia for all your work in decorating the hall and providing the music and karaoke.

On Saturday 31 January, Lynda's daughter and son-in-law, Samantha and Justin, hosted a Quiz Night for everyone at Templeton Village Hall. This also included baked potatoes with toppings and desserts in the interval. The scores were very close. The prize for the winning team was six bottles of wine; for the losing team it was six tins of baked beans! The event raised around £400 for St Margaret's Church. A big thank you to Sam and Justin for organising this fantastic event.

Future Events

Templeton Run

On Sunday 29 March 2026, the South West Road Runners and Exe Valley Rotary Club are once again organising their annual Charity Templeton Run with Templeton Village Hall providing refreshments for the runners and marshals. This run has expanded to a wide group of enthusiastic runners as a 10km and 5km run. The course follows a route from the village, through beautiful countryside into Cruwys

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Woods, ending at the Village Hall. If you would like to know more or take part, then please visit the South West Road Runners Website or book in at https://www.sientries.co.uk/event.php?elid=Y&event_id=16335

Deanery Sunrise Service

This service will be held at Bradleigh House, Templeton, EX16 8BJ at 06h20 on Easter Sunday morning, 5th April.

Easter Egg Hunt

Later, on Easter Sunday 5 April at St Margaret's Church, Templeton there will be an Easter Service for all the family, with an Easter Egg Hunt straight after the Service. Do come and join the service with the family. Great fun for everyone.

Bingo

On Saturday April 11 there will another Bingo Night at Templeton Village Hall, this time to raise funds for the defibrillator in the village. Doors open 7pm. Eyes down 7.30pm. Lots of great prizes. £10 per book. Snacks for sale at the interval and the bar will be open.

Sunday Roast

Do look out for village emails letting you know about the date of the next Sunday Roast Dinner at Templeton Village Hall. Sue and Shaun are aiming for a Sunday sometime in March or April. This is a great way for everyone to get together and have a lovely meal.

Bluebell Walk

With Spring on its way, our woodlands will soon be covered in a glorious carpet of bluebells. On May 10 Templeton Parish Council is organising a Bluebell Walk as part of the Footpath Scheme. Refreshments will be served

at different homes along the route. The bluebells are on William's land and the walk will involve using Templeton's footpaths. Look out for news of the route. This is a great event for all the family!

Plans for the next Panto

Would you be interested in taking part in the next Templeton Pantomime? Oh yes you would! Sue has the script for a panto called "Hickory, Dickory, Dock" by Norman Robbins which involves lots of characters, and there are other Pantos - Templeton Goes West, Aladdin and Cinderella, all of which we have scripts for! It would be great fun - but if we do go ahead, Sue will need lots of help, support, and commitment from us all to make it happen! If you're interested in taking part in ANY way then please get in touch with Sue at sueandregcoffin@fhsinternet.com or 01884 860246.

Regular Gatherings

Art Group: Every second Tuesday 10am-12 midday at Templeton Village Hall. The dates will be 10 and 24 March, and 7 and 21 April. No charge. Just come along. Coffee and cake provided.
Book Group: Templeton Village Hall. Second Wednesday of every month at 3pm. The dates will be 11 March and 8 April. 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: At St Margaret's Church on the last Friday of each month 10.30am to 12 midday. The dates will be 27 March, and 24 April. Bring any repair work, embroidery, crochet, knitting, or just come along for a cuppa and biscuits and a chat!

Garden Group. The garden group will be restarting this spring with lots of opportunities to meet and talk gardening, visit gardens, share ideas, and generally have a chat about any gardening issues over a cuppa. Contact Ginah at ginahpalmer@gmail.com for any more information.

Templeton Village Hall and Social Club: Come up on a club night (Monday and Saturday evenings from 8.00pm to 11pm) for a drink and a chat. Maybe you would like to have a game of darts, pool, table tennis or skittles? Annual club membership is only £2 and the drinks are very reasonably priced. If you would like to book the village hall for a birthday party, meeting, or any other event, contact templetonvh@gmail.com.

Thoughts, Prayers and Best Wishes

On Monday January 12 the funeral took place for Jill Childs of Lower Way Farm, Templeton at St Margaret's Church. Jill died at home on 9 December with all her family there. Jill and Michael had moved to Templeton from Dorset over 50 years ago and farmed at Lower Way Farm for many years. Jill was always kind, caring, supportive, a hard-worker, very strong, a great cook and all with a lovely sense of humour. She will be very missed by her friends, all her family and her many grandchildren who loved her so much. Jill is now buried in the Churchyard with Michael, who died on 12 March 2022. Our thoughts and sympathies go to all Jill's family at this sad time.

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



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PARISH ROUND-UP

Church Flowers and Cleaning Rota March and April 2026

Flowers and cleaning	
Val Hopley	22 Feb – 1 March
Flowers and cleaning	
Gloria Woollacott	8 March – 15 March
Flowers and cleaning	
Liz Walker	22 March – 29 March
Flowers and cleaning	
Lynda Newnes	5 April – 12 April
Flowers and cleaning	
Ginah Palmer	19 April - 26 April

The next film (Perfect Days) on 21 February promises to be as moving and beautiful, portraying wonderful Tokyo in a stellar movie. The April film night (film not yet chosen) is on Saturday 18 April. Keep an eye out for details of other events to be planned as the months move on and please keep taking part in these lovely events to support YOUR village.

Several interest groups also 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!

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

February 22/March 1	LENT
March 8/15	LENT
March 22/29	LENT
April 5/12	Mrs French
April 19/26	Mrs Bassano
May 3/10	Mrs Nicholson

WASHFIELD

March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers.

Let's hope not too many showers though, as we have had the 2nd highest rainfall recorded in the parish (9.07inches). The highest was in 2014 when we had 9.15inches. At what point does it stop being good for the garden??

The Social Club committee are, as always, planning events to bring our community together and entertained. Already they have launched a supper club on the first Friday of each month between 6-9pm. Social Club members can partake in a simple supper, and have a drink at the bar whilst meeting friends and neighbours at these club nights. The first one was very successful so look out for details of the next on 6 March.

We have also enjoyed one film night since the new year and enjoyed 'A man called Otto'. Well, I say enjoyed...to me that meant weeping through most of it!

Don't forget our time-honoured teatime@thehall is still as popular as ever. Held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month between 2.30-4.00pm. All ages are welcome to these friendly, chatty afternoons. Come along, you would be most welcome.

Look out for details of the customary Egg Decorating and Rolling on 4 April. It always garners a lovely crowd of excited children clutching their eggs with their parents in tow. Coffee in the hall afterwards.

We said a sad goodbye to Pat who left Brambles, Lower Washfield after many years of living there. Thankfully, she hasn't gone far so we still hope to see her at the Lunch Club meals each month. We wish you happiness, Pat in your new home.

In her place we welcome Fred and Clare who have taken residence there after making the move from Kent. We hope to catch up with you both soon in the village.

WITHLEIGH

These two months will cover so many things for thanking Mothers everywhere for their care and comfort and for Mother earth and the start of beautiful flowers raising their heads with lovely colours and the time of lengthening light and promise of summer to come.

We also celebrate Easter and have you ever heard of the statue of Christ of the Abyss which was placed in the Mediterranean sea in 1954 sculpted by Guido Galletti. It was placed near the spot where the first Italian to use scuba gear died. It depicts Christ raising his hands and head towards the surface and the sun to portray the moment when Christ rose from the Abyss of death on Easter morning.

Our Carol service 'with a difference' took place on the afternoon of Sunday 21 December. The service was led by Brenda, ably supported by Margaret, Pauline, Peter, Mabel, Dan and Paul. It

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PARISH ROUND-UP

was lovely to see everyone and to enjoy Mulled Wine, Mince Pies and Shortbread after the service.

This year we held a 'Welcome in Christmas' service, an informal service to see us into Christmas Day, at 11pm, led by Paul and Elizabeth. We are extremely grateful to Marjorie for coming over from Rackenford to play the organ for us.

During December Susie had once again provided a post box in church for cash donations to Hospiscare, this raised £201 for the charity. We are grateful to those who kindly donated to such a worthy cause, thank you.

Regrettably, our Holy Communion service on 4 January was cancelled due to the snow (the hill up from the main road to church was deemed too treacherous to chance going ahead).

The Village Hall committee held a Curry evening on 17 January. Thank you to Rachael who cooked the Currys, yes, we had a choice! Mild, medium or something a little hotter! Thanks also to the other ladies of the hall committee who helped by cooking the rice and providing the puddings. The evening ended with a game of 'Killer Skittles', it's OK, it's not as brutal as it sounds! Thank you, Duncan, for organising the Skittles. Thank you to everyone who came, and I must say enjoyed Rachael's Curry, we made £240 for Hall funds.

Our church Worship Team held a short meeting before our Family Service on 18 January to update our services through to the end of April. The service was then led by Margaret. Marianne had prepared a talk but was unable to give it due to loss of voice. Margaret read the talk for her.

A Full English Breakfast was served up on Saturday 31 January, thank you again to the ladies who always seem to be

there when there's food to prepare! There was a suggestion that we could come back the following week! Thank you to everyone who came and supported us, we made £250 for St Catherine's, Church funds.

Our Family Service on 1 February was led by Janet, with Brenda speaking about the feast of Candlemas, which is celebrated forty days after Christmas. Thank you to Margaret and Pauline for reading, and Paul who played his guitar and led the hymn singing.

Family service on 1 March will be led by Susie, supported by 'the two Paulines'. We will be hosting the Group Holy Communion service at 10.45am on 8 March.

March 15 is Mothering Sunday. Our service at 10.45am and will be led by Paul and Elizabeth.

Sunday 29 March, being the fifth Sunday of the month, will see our Poems, Prayer and Praise at 9.30am in the village hall, led by Susie

This year's Easter Beetle Drive will be Saturday 28 March, in the Village Hall @ 7.30pm. We have an Easter Egg for each complete Beetle as well as for the Top score and a Children's prize. We provide nibbles on the tables but do feel free to bring along your own drinks.

The Easter Bingo is on Thursday 2 April, in the Hall, Eyes down @ 7.30pm.

Our Good Friday service this year will be in church at 10am, taken by Steph, with David Edwards. The service will be followed by tea / coffee and biscuits.

On Easter Sunday there will be our customary breakfast in the village hall at 9am, followed at 10am by a service in church, led by Paul and Elizabeth.

Mention was made of our church sound system in the last magazine. At the time of writing the PCC have yet to discuss our

options, but, unfortunately, the present system is now not working at all.

Our annual church meetings will soon be upon us, but a date has yet to be set.

Congratulations to David and Janet on becoming Great Grandparents, to Rosie Elizabeth, daughter of Tom and Layla.

Flower Rota.

12, 19 & 26th April - Michaela Chown.

WOW

To launch the programme for 2026, in January, the WOW ladies enjoyed an excellent lunch at the Halfway House in Willand. We are now looking forward to our February meeting when Giles Edmonston-Low will be giving us an illustrated talk about Luxembourg. We meet once a month for a varied programme throughout the year and if you would like to join us you would be most welcome. Contact Susie on 258492."

We wish all those recovering from or awaiting operations our thoughts and best wishes.



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9.30	Black Cat	13.10	£7.50	£5.00
9.38	Stoodleigh Quoit at Cross	13.02	£6.50	£4.00
9.40	Stoodleigh Hill Crest	12.58	£6.50	£4.00
9.42	Stoodleigh Parish Hall	12.56	£6.50	£4.00
9.46	Pylemoor Cross	12.54	£6.00	£3.50
9.48	Courtney Cottages	12.50	£6.00	£3.50
9.52	Washfield Village Hall	12.46	£6.00	£3.50
9.54	Cotleigh Corner	12.44	£6.00	£3.50
By Request	10.05 Loxbeare Church		£6.00	£3.50
	10.07 Loxbeare Garage		£6.00	£3.50
	10.09 Leigh Bart		£6.00	£3.50
	10.13 Calverleigh Post Office		£6.00	£3.50
	10.20 Farleigh Meadows		£5.00	£3.00
10.05^	Morrisons – Kennedy Way, Tiverton	12.35	Drop off inward – pick up return only	
10.10^	TIVERTON MARKET	12.30		

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