



TODAY

The Parish Magazine
for the
Exe Valley
Mission
Community

MARCH - APRIL 2021

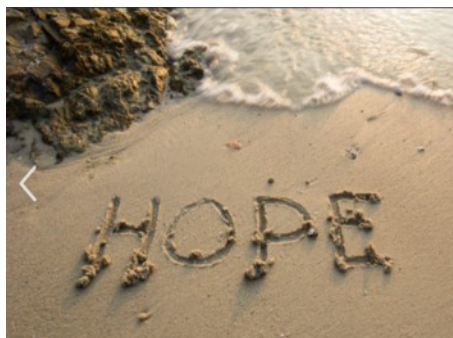
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GET YOUR WORDS RIGHT

We've had lots of new experiences in this unprecedented pandemic. Not least, most of us have had to come to grips with a new vocabulary. I am using words and phrases that hardly got an airing before we went into lockdown. Up until as late as last year a roadmap was something I kept in a pocket in the car along with my (moral) compass. I don't think it would have ever occurred to me to self-isolate or to try and come to terms with a new normal. I had no idea what an R number was. In fact, I had always been led to believe that R was a letter not a number. I had never been to a meeting which had to have an ID or a password which, in the early days, consisted entirely of numbers. I have become a tiny bit addicted to a daily fix of Chris Whitty, gently explaining stuff, punctuated by his rhythmic mantra, 'Next slide please', which I think might be about to be replaced by 'no earlier than'. And as for the word zoom, I used to sing about zooming in a nursery rhyme. It rhymed with moon and soon and ended with blast-off and had absolutely nothing to do with bombing.

Misinformation was misinformation; now it's infodemic. I may have been born within the sound of Bow Bells, but it took me a while to work out that I have now been vaccinated against the Miley Cyrus.

And there is another word which I have started to hear more and more. It's not a new word. It's been around for ages, but it is a precious word, and when you haven't got it, things look and feel very bleak.



The word is hope. It looks like we have hope; hope for the future, hope to meet with family and friends, hope to travel, hope to celebrate, hope to live. And the reality is, even when things were looking less hopeful than they are now, followers of Jesus always have hope.

That's the message of Easter. Jesus died and rose again to give us hope. The hope of knowing his presence with us, and the hope of eternal life.

There's a great song which has these words:

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength,
my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled and strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

*May you know the love of God
and the hope to be found in
Jesus,*

Steph

Please look at the website for any updates regarding health guidelines for churches.

Copy Deadline for May / June 2021 issue

Monday 5 April 2021

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**EXE VALLEY
WEBSITE**

www.exevalleychurches.org

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

A recent addition to the website is a monthly **Prayer Diary** with a topic to pray for, each day of the month.

EDITORIAL

Happy Easter
He is risen
Alleluia!

How wonderful we have finally been given a roadmap out of restrictions. We can look forward to meeting family and friends, to hugs and kisses, to parties and picnics, and to services in our churches again.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost loved ones and we look forward together with God's love to a peaceful future.

Dawn

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FROM STEPH



LENT AND HOLY WEEK
17 FEBRUARY - 5 APRIL



The Lent Course continues every Wednesday on Zoom or Conference Call at 7.30pm. This is a remarkable project from King's College called the Visual Commentary which brings together theology, biblical studies and art history. Please contact the church office for ID and password.

Palm Sunday - 28 March - 10.00am - Zoom/Conference Call - A Palm Sunday Celebration

28 March - 11.15am - Service of Holy Communion - See website for venue

Monday - 29 March - 7.30pm - Zoom/Conference Call - A Service for Holy Week

Tuesday - 30 March - 7.30 pm - Zoom/Conference Call - A Service for Holy Week

Wednesday - 31 March - 7.30pm - A Service for Holy Week including Lent Course

Maundy Thursday - 1 April - 7.30pm - Zoom/Conference Call - A Service for Holy Week

Good Friday - 2 April - 2.00pm - A Service of Meditation - See website for venue

2 April - 7.30pm - Zoom/Conference Call - A Service for Holy Week

Easter Sunday - 3 April - 8.30am - A Service of Holy Communion-See website for venue

Easter Sunday - 3 April - 10.00am - Zoom/Conference Call - An Easter Celebration

Easter Sunday - 3 April - 11.15am -A Service of Holy Communion-See website for venue

Contact the office for ID and password and to book a seat at any of the church services



'Thy Kingdom Come' - Thursday 13 May - Sunday 23 May

For the last few years, the days between Ascension Day and Pentecost have been designated as days of prayer across the world and is known as 'Thy Kingdom Come' We are asked to pray for five people throughout this time. We will be holding services throughout this time.

Updates will be posted on the Exe Valley Churches website.



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FROM STEPH



Sadly our buildings are closed at the moment, but the Church in the Exe Valley Mission Community is still very much open!

Please join us for Morning Prayer on Sunday morning at 10.00am to worship via Conference Call or Zoom. See the Exe Valley Mission Community Website for details. Also see page 3 for service information throughout Lent and Holy Week.

If you wish to receive Holy Communion, there is a service available at St Catherine's Withleigh at 11.15am. Booking is essential by Friday 12 noon. Please contact the church office by email or phone.

If you need help, or prayer please contact me.

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www.exevalleychurches.org*

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FROM STEPH

Weekly Services Online

Our Zoom/Conference call services are proving very popular. Many people join us from across Tiverton and our Mission Community – and beyond. Details how to access them are on our website. In addition, we will record each Sunday service, which should be available to listen to on the website on the following Monday. Click ‘Resources’ and a drop down box should appear which says ‘past services’. That’s where it will be!



EASTER FLOWER TRAIL

28 March - 4 April

Follow the trail of Easter rabbits and flower displays around the Churches in the Mission Community. Let’s explore the Easter story together.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Palm Sunday - Oakford | The Last Supper - Loxbeare |
| The Garden of Gethsemane - Rackenford | Peter’s Denial - Cruwys Morchard |
| Jesus’ Trial - Templeton | Jesus’ Crucifixion - Washfield |
| Jesus is Buried - Stoodleigh | The Empty Tomb - Calverleigh |
| Picnic on the Beach - Withleigh | |

He is Risen! Alleluia! - The Rectory

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

'TODAY' 50 years ago

April, 1971

(Notes from March 1971 were included in the last issue).

The April lead article focussed on resistance to change within the church, the 'old guard' being unwilling to accept the need to move forward, effectively stifling the gospel.

Calverleigh was arranging practices for maypole dancing.

The Oakford Guides had spent a weekend at the Devon Guide Cottage on Dartmoor during March, with heavy snow on the Sunday. There was some disappointment that the minibus managed to get through to collect them!

Plans were in hand to form a Brownie Pack in Rackenford.

There was much turmoil in Stoodleigh over the proposal to provide mains sewage, and the potential cost to properties if the take-up of those being connected was low.

Teams from both Templeton and Witleigh had reached the semi-finals of the Criss-cross-quiz.

Washfield's AGM had seen a presentation to Ron and Grace Herniman as they prepared for Ron to take up duties as Archdeacon of Barnstaple. The village outing was to be to Paignton in July.

Paul Iliff

NATURE NOTES

I was introduced to moss at a relatively early age during bob-a-Job. [Sorry kids, you will have to Google this] I had to clear a path armed with salt and a scraper and it took the best part of the day. The lady rewarded me with a bob and my parents thought it was child exploitation.

As the mists and the dampness rolled in day after day I was reminded of these times known to all who hail from the west of Britain. People from Northumberland to Kent know cold but they have little long term experience of the clinging dampness that chills or the humidity that can softly envelop.

The algae, moss and lichen have enjoyed the climate and clean air of Devon for centuries and it often takes visitors to remark on how vigorous the growth is.

Of course many industrial towns are now seeing the re-establishment of lichen as they now contend with only vehicle emissions rather than the sulphur dioxide which managed to defeat virtually all of the 130 varieties in the past.

By far the most striking in our locality is the bushy Oakmoss which is light green with small antler like fronds, and grows on the trees from which it takes its name. It is not uncommon to find balls of this on the ground as the rain and branches fall during the last throes of winter.

Lichens have the most exotic Latin names to perhaps make up for how little we notice them.

One that I associate with the brighter weather to come is the golden or yellow form that colonises ancient stones. I therefore think of limestone scars, dry stone walls, the coast and grand country houses or castles. These lichen seem to be a fitting adornment to the stone and a natural addition in a landscape that has remained the same for centuries.

I do not feel the same about moss and cannot avoid a feeling of discomfort when viewing trees and hedgerow branches permanently wearing a damp overcoat all winter.

I hope we get many florists visiting this summer for their holidays, and that they take some home.

Thomas More

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LIGHTHOUSE NEWS

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Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life".
John 8:12 (NIV)

Hello Everyone,

The March Bible Reading Notes are now available from Lighthouse. These are:

- Everyday with Jesus
- Inspiring Women Every Day
- Life Every Day by Jeff Lucas
- Daily Bread (including large print edition)
- Encounter with God

As we are still closed we are afraid that you can not collect them from the shop in person. We are therefore arranging to either deliver them where possible, or post them out to people living further away. Unfortunately we do not have addresses for all the people who have ordered the Notes. Could you therefore please contact us and let us know your contact details. The best way is by email, office@lighthouseiverton.org.uk which is monitored each day. Failing that you can leave a message on the Shop's answerphone 01884 255769, which is usually checked once or twice a week. Or you could post or pop a letter to the shop.

However you contact us, can you please leave your name, address, phone number and which Notes you would like. We will then endeavour to get your them to you as soon as possible.

When it comes to payment, we are running a Trust the Customer scheme. You can pay by either Bank Transfer (sometimes called BACS), sending us a cheque or waiting till we are open again and paying us next time you pop into the shop. Full details of how to pay will be included with the notes.

As we do not have the email addresses of all our customer, it would greatly help us if you could pass this information on to other members of your fellowship, especially any you know that take Bible Reading Notes. I have attached a poster that you can use if your fellowship is still meeting.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to serving you again when Lighthouse reopens when the lock-down ends. In the meantime keep safe and may God bless you all.
Rikky



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PARISH ROUND-UP

CALVERLEIGH

As the Today Magazine did not go to print in February, but was available online, the decision was made to use some of the same news as before especially for those not able to access it via the website. There are however a few additions. Those who did read it online can therefore play Spot the Difference.

The Nativity Trail was supported by residents of Calverleigh (the shepherds in their field) and Lurley (Mary and Joseph journey to Bethlehem), with the Wise Men following the star residing in the church porch. Our thanks go to all who helped to design and display them through December until Epiphany. We hope that those of you who followed the trail around the Mission Community villages enjoyed doing so, finding the hidden animals at the same time.

Thankfully our carol services were able to go ahead at Calverleigh. We had two, on 13 and 20 December, which were well attended (with all the necessary safety rules in place, of course!). Although the congregation were unable to sing the carols, suitable musical arrangements were chosen with voices included which added to the enjoyment of the services. Favourable comments were made about the choices. What we really missed was the social interaction afterwards where there would normally be refreshments. We look forward to being able to enjoy singing and fellowship next Christmas.

Christmas Day saw 13 people make an early morning journey for an 8am Holy Communion service to celebrate the

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PARISH ROUND-UP

birth of our Lord and Saviour, arriving as daylight was breaking. It was a lovely service led by Rev'd Steph Gordon-Jeffs. Our thanks go to Steph and also to all those who had decorated the church prior to the carol services, giving the church a warm Christmassy look.

We would like to send a very warm welcome to the Robinsons who, before Christmas, moved into Lurley. The previous residents, Annette and family, have moved to Tiverton. We hope that you are all happy in your new homes.

Our congratulations go to Daniel and Lorna Webber on the arrival of a son Sebastian Eric who was born in December, a baby brother for Evie. We hope that you are all doing well.

It was with sadness that we learnt of the passing of David Froom who lived at Lower Farleigh. Born in Hastings in 1930, David was evacuated at the age of 10 to the farm to live with his Uncle and Aunt where he remained there for the rest of his life. He married local girl, Stella Elston, at Calverleigh church in 1956. Apart from farming he enjoyed many pastimes over the years which included hunting, point to point, playing cards and watching football. The funeral service took place at Calverleigh Church on 17 December. David will be sadly missed by all his family and many friends locally.

In February we learned of the passing of Mary Walker. Mary had been unwell for many years and she had been in our prayers for all of that time. Our thoughts and prayers are with Geoff and family. Our condolences also go to all who are mourning the loss of a loved one. If you have been suffering from ill health over the past few weeks/months we

hope that you will be feeling much better soon.

Our monthly 2 hour time of prayer continues on the first Saturday of each month and the Annual Day of Prayer will take place on Saturday 1 May, with details to follow.

A date has been set for the church APCM which will be 26 April 2021. This will take place as a Zoom meeting and conference call. We will let you know more details closer to the time.

As time goes by more of us in different age groups will receive our vaccinations and we are hopeful that restrictions will be eased so that we will be able to begin arranging some social events. It has been a long, long time since we have been able to meet together in person and we have missed each other's company and fellowship. There have been plenty of opportunities to see people online but just to be able to be in the same room together enjoying a cup of tea and a slice of cake would be wonderful and very welcome. In the meantime if anyone has any inventive ideas for fundraising please contact Aubrey or Jackie, our Churchwardens, or any member of the PCC. Our church unfortunately costs a fair amount to run, so if you have any ideas please let us know!

On the subject of the vaccines, thanks must go to the NHS and the many volunteers who are working so hard to keep on track with the Government's plan. We have all been living through a very difficult year, with many of our parishioners shielding right from the outset of the pandemic, and it will be a relief when life can hopefully begin to return to some sort of normality with work and family life.

Please see the website (www.exevalleychurches.org/calverleigh) for any update information on services or activities. Remember, you can also send us details (including photos) of your news, events – online or otherwise. Please send them to Dave Burton by calling 01884 561499 or by email: calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org.

CRUWYS MORCHARD

Our Church is still locked and looking, I think, very sad. During February and March we have missed Candelmas on 2 February and Shrove Tuesday on 16 February, but I hope you did not miss the pancakes. Did you know that the Polish eat doughnuts on Shrove Tuesday. We celebrate Ash Wednesday on 17 February, with a service at Withleigh Church at 12.30pm. The beginning of LENT.

Yet to come: Mothering Sunday on 14 March, (posies) 29 March the start of Holy Week. Good Friday 2 April and EASTER DAY 4 April with Easter Monday on 5 April.

Update from Steph
We are looking forward to seeing and hearing you this week. We have become quite good at voice recognition! A shortened form of Holy Communion (no sermon, one reading) will take place each week at St Catherine's Withleigh at 11.15am. If you wish to receive Holy Communion please book your seat via the church office!



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PARISH ROUND-UP

Please join us on Sunday Morning on Zoom or Conference Call at the usual time of 10.00am.

Coffee Morning

We will continue to meet over a cup of coffee on Wednesdays at 10.30am. Come and join us – even if you haven't been before.

Bible Study

The Bible study continues on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm on either Zoom or Conference Call. To join the conference call from your phone, call 0330 336 0036 and enter PIN 586191. See website for ID and password.

Lent

The Lent course will start on 17 February at 7.30pm via Zoom and Conference Call. See page 3.

CHAT-The work of CHAT is invaluable in our town and in mid Devon. So far, since Christmas, CHAT has give out 100 emergency food parcels. However, donations of food have declined significantly, probably due to people not going into town or shopping at supermarkets. If you would like to make a financial donation to CHAT you can do so via the Exe Valley Mission Community (see details below) and reference your donation CHAT. If you have food, toiletries or cleaning products that you would like to donate, please telephone the church office and we will try and arrange collection.

Online Services

Don't forget you can listen to the Sunday service on the website. Once on the website, click on 'Resources' and then 'Past Services'. We will be recording every service from now on so you can catch up or listen again. See page 5.

We still need more photographs for our Mothering Sunday online celebration.

Please send a photo of your mum, or of a posy of flowers or anything related to those who have cared for and look after us. You can send them to either Dawn Williams or Stephen Roche.

How wonderful it is to see the sun streaming through the window this morning. Spring is round the corner!

If you would like to make a contribution to the work of The Exe Valley Mission Community please make a gift using the Exe Valley Bacs details. Please use the reference EVMC Services.

If you wish to make a donation to CHAT, please use the reference CHAT NatWest Sort Code 60-21-27 Account Number 54731690

THE ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW

It is hoped that the Annual Flower Show will go ahead this year on 14 August. Schedule will be the same as last year, this will be available to parishioners on Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall Website and also on the Cruwys Morchard Community site on Facebook. If you require a 'Hard' copy, please contact Pauline. Potatoes for the under 16's are also available now.

Also this year, we will have a scarecrow competition at the show to be entered by families/households in the parish. So you have plenty of time to get your ideas together and you could win a £20 prize.

Once again this year we will have the plant stall outside Chrissie's, near Pennymoor Timber. It provides an excellent opportunity to 'recycle' and exchange surplus plants. This was very well supported last year, with all donations towards the next Flower Show. Any queries to pauline.8@hotmail.co.uk. Stay Safe and Happy Gardening to you All.

CRUWYS ARMS GARDENERS. Despite our inability to hold monthly meetings. We are all pruning trees and shrubs, weeding our gardens and preparing ourselves for next season. Bulbs we planted before Christmas are all coming up, to be in flower shortly.

Ramblings from Oasis Westland, Cruwys Arms Gardeners

I have always fed the birds in a haphazard kind of way but motivated by the end of month RSPB Bird Count, the cold weather and, yes, lock down I took it to a whole new level.

My bedroom window feeding station is transformed. First off I cleaned the window, what an improvement! It has the traditional small panes, three sections or panels with the central one being the one that opens. (You know what I mean, the sort you see in Devon farmhouses and cottages everywhere) On the left hand section the peanut feeder hangs from the eaves, then there is the suction held transparent dish and on the window ledge itself a tray built up to glass level. The ledge is narrow and the tray takes up the full width. With the window closed the ledge on the first two sections acts as a landing strip for the heavier birds and when open it stops easy access for the never satisfied Wood Pigeons.

It is pre dawn and I have woken early. My bed is opposite the window and the curtains never drawn. I go down to make a cup of tea then back with it to my warm bed to watch the drama unfold in comfort.

The Robin is the first to appear. This makes sense, with their large eyes they can forage in dim light and it is a long way from full dawn.

continued on page 12

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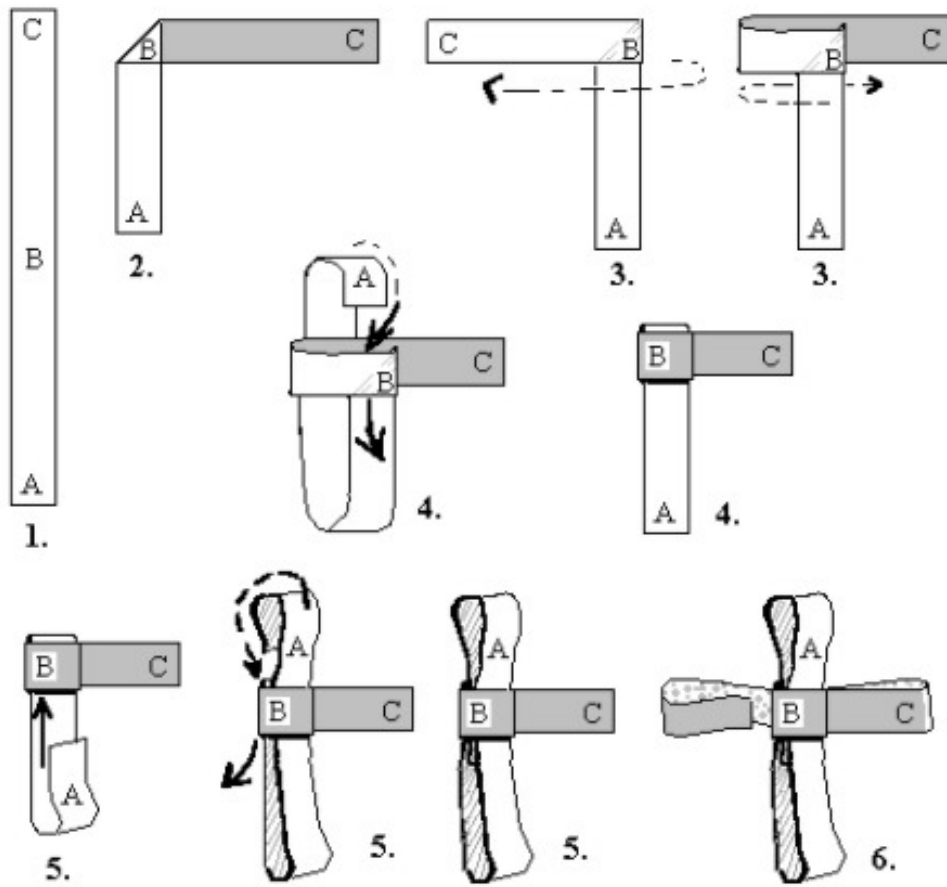
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HOW TO MAKE A PALM CROSS



CHILDREN'S PAGE

A Story for Mothering Sunday

Not many people are christened Clementina. I suppose it's hardly a fashionable name nowadays but this story is about a girl who was called just that.

Clementina was, on the whole, a very charming and likeable 11 year old. She could even be extremely kind and thoughtful on occasions, as you will see from my story; but alongside that there was also an ever so slightly devious side to her character.

Clementina lived with her mum, dad and two younger sisters in a pleasant suburb of a large city. In addition her granny lived close by and Clementina was particularly fond of her, so she was often round there on visits after school. At the time of this story it happened to be the week of her granny's 60th birthday. Clementina had decided that she would buy a present and she knew just the right thing to purchase. She had seen it in the corner shop. It was a large and very pretty box of delicious MacCrumbs homemade chocolate biscuits, wrapped up with a beautiful pink bow. Now you may think this was a strange idea for a present but the truth is that these were granny's favourites - and also, incidentally, they were Clementina's, but that had nothing to do with her choice, of course!

There was, however, one snag. This beautifully decorated present cost £5.99 and unfortunately Clementina had already spent all her pocket money that week. She hadn't been able to resist a bumper edition of her regular music magazine, especially as it carried a picture of her favourite celebrity on the front cover. But this meant she had no money left over. What was she to do? Clementina had a good think and then came up with her big idea.

After a week during which she was particularly and, I must confess unusually helpful around the house. Clementina sat down on Friday evening to write a letter to her mum. This is what it said:

Dear Mum,
 Here is my bill for last week's work:
 Cleaning shoes - 80p
 Helping with the shopping - £1.20
 Feeding the dog (seven days at 20p a day) - £1.40
 Washing up (sometimes) - £1
 Laying the table each night - 60p
 Tidying up my room - 99p
 Total - £5.99
 Love Clementina



She placed the letter in an envelope and left it on the sideboard so that Mum would see it after Clementina had gone to bed.

The following morning Clementina came down to breakfast and glanced over at the sideboard. To her delight she saw the letter had been opened and that another letter addressed to her lay there in its place. She opened it quickly and this is what she read;

Dear Clementina,
 Enclosed £5.99 and many thanks for all your help. Now here is my bill:
 Feeding and clothing you for 11 years - 0p
 Nursing you through measles, chicken pox etc - 0p
 Transport to Brownies, swimming, gymnastics, parties etc - 0p
 Cost of holidays and entertainment for 11 years - 0p
 Total - 0p

Suddenly Clementina felt humbled indeed and for the first time she realised just what her mother's love really involved and that it was all given free. Clementina learned a big lesson that day and the next time Mothering Sunday came around it somehow meant a great deal more to her than ever before, as she thought back to the letter her mother had written. It was a letter - rather like her name! - never to be forgotten.

PARISH ROUND-UP

He (or she) makes straight for the tray with a seed mix and, Robin heaven, meal worms. Then comes the tit family – Blue, Great and Coal Tits. They ignore the peanuts and go for the sunflower hearts in the 'grab and go' transparent dish. Just beyond the window is the observation and feeding post pear tree. The sunflower seeds are held on to the twiggy branches by tenacious feet and devoured. Coal Tits are the masters of this game.

Bang, crash, clatter the stock doves have arrived. They have been watching from the mature beech tree beyond. Everything else retreats to the pear tree. In a line two of them waddle up the runway and the first tucks in to the seed tray bounty. There is only room for one at a time so the other has to wait – what a long wait - - - The first rays of morning sun catches the iridescent mauve and turquoise patch on its neck – wow! O.K., that's enough, one flap of the duvet cover and they are gone.

Now the male Blackbird creeps up. He is nervous, a ground feeder by choice but oh dear, the cats and the snow. He sits on the runway for an age whilst the other small birds return. Then a fast approach, a meal worm and its off to the tree.

Now it is daylight and the House Sparrows turn up mob handed. Untidy feeders scattering seed everywhere including the path below where more of their mates are grateful recipients.

Last of all comes King, or is it Queen, Nuthatch. A total takeover bid – well just look at that beak.

He or she doesn't stay long, the preference is for the grab and go sunflower seeds but there are frequent returns and in the intervals the lowly small birds jump in, especially the tits.

Time to get up. I feel happy to have shared quiet time with my feathered garden residents. I would like to have others share it with me but with the lock down moratorium on indoor meetings, that is not going to happen but pleased that they can top up what food they find in the garden without expending too much energy. I look forward hopefully to a loud dawn chorus and a bountiful Spring of nestlings.

Clare Penney

Yoga is continuing on Zoom with Hilary, for all those already on the course.

Cruwys Morchard Young Farmers Club has been keeping busy with members being chosen to represent our area at the County round with Jess Parkhouse coming Third in Intermediate Brainstrust and Jessica Kingdom, Gracie and George Rice coming third in junior public speaking and George being awarded the best male speaker.

The club has still being active with charity work raising £112.80 for CHAT at the Halloween pumpkin fun evening and also donated numerous advent food bundles to CHAT for Christmas.

We have had fun with a couple of club quizzes via ZOOM, thanks to Sam Edworthy as quiz master.

The club has also been learning new skills via ZOOM we have done cookery, learning to cook cheesecake, brownies and more and did wreath making as well.

We are looking forward to what 2021 has in store, as the club can't wait for the fun and success to continue.

LOCK DOWN again, many of us are enjoying walking around the lanes in our local community.

Please consider wearing gloves and carrying a bag to pick up the cans, bottles etc dropped by an ignorant minority. Every small gesture helps to keep our neighbourhood as we like to see it.

Welcome to Chris and Sam who have recently moved to Riggledown.

CRUWYS ARMS PUBLIC HOUSE

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We have taken over the pub from Rod and Val, giving them a well deserved rest after so many years as landlords. We opened, very briefly, at the beginning of November (4 days) and again in December (20 days). Both of us would like to thank all of those who came and supported us during that short time. It was greatly appreciated. When lockdown finally ends we will be able to stay open permanently; once again giving the village a lively social meeting place and look forward to welcoming many more of you through our doors. We will have a basic menu, with "homemade specials" on offer each week, all posted on our Facebook page : Cruwys Arms - 2020 & beyond (not to be confused with any other Cruwys Arms Page!). Please also note the pub's new 'phone number 07369 207036.

We would both like to thank Rod & Val for all the support, advice and encouragement they have given us, from the idea forming, through Paul giving up work, to getting the pub ready for opening again, until the present day (and beyond!) with this new venture in our lives.

Paul & Carol McIlwrath

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PARISH ROUND-UP

It was with very great sadness that we said "good bye" to Jean Ellicott on 28 January 2021 in the newly decorated Church of St John the Baptist, Witheridge. Followed by internment at the Churchyard of the Holy Cross, Cruwys Morchard.

Jean and Tony had moved to Pennymoor in 1983, with two daughters, Heather and Sharon and two ponies. Today they have 5 grandchildren and one grandson. Our thoughts and prayers are with the whole family.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Bob Smith who's burial was in the Church yard on 28 January. Bob and Ann had lived in Pennymoor for many years before moving away to be closer to their daughter.

LOXBEARE

It is good to hear that the Covid cases in our area are coming down and we are very grateful that many of us have now received at least our first vaccination. May the supply of vaccine be available to cover all eligible groups which will help to slow the spread. Let's keep positive and hoping there will be an easing at least, if not complete lifting of restrictions soon.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Katie Barlow, Steven Radford and all who are feeling unwell and those who are recovering from Covid. Also for those who are finding this third lockdown very difficult and feeling very lonely. We pray for comfort to those who have lost loved ones. Obviously not much news again this time but hopefully by the next

magazine we will be able to start planning and able to hold services and village events.

We thank all those who have contributed to Church funds during 2020, and if there is anyone wishing to donate to the upkeep and expenses of the Church contact Carol Radford on 01884 881480.

The APCM will be on Zoom on 8 March at 7.30pm. This is an opportunity for any resident in the parish to discuss church matters. All are welcome to join the meeting. Contact Carol Radford to receive the link nearer the time.

We congratulate Anne Ackland's granddaughter Katie who has won the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers Dairy Student of the Year Award. Katie is in her final year at Harper Adams University. Well done Katie!

Happy Birthday to all with birthdays in March and April.

Loxbeare has moved to the year 2021 with Zoom socials. At present we have held cheese and wine, bingo and a scavenger hunt. We meet fortnightly on a Tuesday evening. The next event is on 2 March with a quiz. If you would like to join this fun evening contact Lucinda Rowle on 07769695550.

Keep safe, look after each other and enjoy the spring with hopefully warmer and sunnier days. Take a day at a time and as Captain Sir Tom Moore said, 'Tomorrow will be a better day'.

God has promised to be with us today, tomorrow, and always.

OAKFORD

March and April are here again bringing the promise of spring and green shoots. Time to get to grips with some serious gardening. At the time of writing nothing is certain but let's hope that the Moorland Club will be able to go ahead with the Flower & Produce Show towards the end of the summer. So be prepared and sow some vegetables and flowers with that in mind.

St Peter's is still closed due to the pandemic restrictions so there will be no services held on Mothering Sunday or possibly at Easter time this year. However it is planned to decorate the inner and outer porch as part of the Easter Trail throughout the Exe Valley Mission Community and ending at the Rectory depicting the nine Stations of the Cross. The floral decorations will be very beautiful and uplifting - well worth a visit. If anyone can contribute daffodils and/or greenery or would like to help please let Jean know (01328 351241). Thank you. P.S. You don't have to be Constance Spry to join in!

Mothering Sunday which falls on 14 March, the fourth Sunday in Lent, is traditionally the day to visit your Mother Church and to give thanks for your mother. Sadly we can't meet together at St Peter's but we can set aside a quiet time to reflect and give thanks at home or whilst in the garden or out walking.

Although the church building is closed the bell tower restoration fund certainly is not. As time goes by the urgency of the repair grows. Fundraising is in the forefront of the PCC's discussions.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

With this in mind there will be a plant sale held in the car park on Saturday 27 March between 10am and 12 noon. So if you are splitting perennials or sowing seeds or if you have extra seeds in their packets please spare a few for the sale. Jean (351241) can collect or they can be brought along on the day. Many thanks.

If we can persuade you to be generous, donations to the bell tower fund can also be made via the Parish Giving Scheme which entails pledging a small amount each month. A pack explaining how it works and how to sign up is available from Dawn (324035) or Mary (351154).

Otherwise a donation can be made directly using the following bank details: Oakford PCC NatWest Bank Sort code 60-21-27 Account 06510795

Yet to be revealed but very much going ahead are plans to build a community space within the back of the church. Think modern, warm, cosy and sociable. Exciting times ahead.

The Annual Parish Committee Meeting will be held on 22 March at 7.30pm via Zoom. This is an opportunity for any resident in the parish to discuss church matters. All are welcome to join the meeting. Contact Mary Shere (oakridgepork@gmail.com) to receive the link nearer the time.

Finally, we thank our church wardens Wendy and Dawn and our secretary Mary who spend many hours working tirelessly dealing with the detail of church business. An unbelievable workload exists behind the scenes. Their efforts to nurture and maintain a vibrant church within the community are greatly appreciated by many. Thank you to all of them.

Our thoughts and prayers are for all who are unwell, sad or feeling lonely. You have support and friendship through the church.

We reach out to you with love and invite you to renew your faith in Jesus and be healed.

RACKENFORD

Christmas and New Year celebrations seem a while ago now and Lent is upon us, the period preceding Holy Saturday which some devote to fasting, abstinence, prayer and reflection and remember Christ's fasting in the wilderness over 40 days.

Many of us have now received our vaccine (some perks for the elderly) and the vaccine is being rolled out at various venues. What a blessing for us all, so much to be thankful for as we are able to get the help we need to move forward and help protect our loved ones, friends and the world at these difficult times.

The passing of Captain Sir Tom Moore was sad news, but an inspiration to many who by his very presence inspired others to fund raise and be positive as he was. He alone raised over £33 Million!! for the NHS.

We also remember those we know closer to home who are not so well, Jacques, Mike, Joan, and not forgetting Vera at The Firs who's doing well.

On a happier note congratulations to all who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries. Some of course may be anticipating a surprise on February 14, Valentines Day, others may feel Shrove Tuesday is more appealing with

Pancakes, sugar and lemon juice on the menu.

MOTHERING SUNDAY MARCH 14

Mothering Sunday is when the church blesses and thanks mothers everywhere, but our church service will not be taking place this year. However, we (the PCC) have made arrangements to celebrate our mums. A box of small bunches of flowers will be placed in a container on the bench close to the church porch which will be easy to see as you walk along the church path. You might like to take a bunch to your own mum at home, to your grandmother, to someone who may look after you like a mum, the choice is yours. If the school and nursery are open on Monday 15 you may like to take a bunch as you pass through. Have a lovely day with your family with our love.

April 4, Easter Sunday, is too early to know how our churches are functioning but all details will be available on the Exe Valley Website www.exevalleychurches.org with many other items of information for you.

Things can change so quickly. One day at a time seems our way of life at the moment

Our APCM will be conducted via zoom or conference call and is on April 16 at 2pm.

Has anyone had any thoughts yet about volunteering to help or getting a team together to take care of our churchyard / grass cutting . With no fund raising we are unable to continue as before and the grass cutting / strimming time is coming closer. Every little helps, any ideas or suggestions please contact our churchwarden Mary Cann on 01884

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PARISH ROUND-UP

881696. Thank you with fingers crossed.

With restrictions in place at least we can walk and enjoy our beautiful countryside, weather permitting and if we feel well enough. Planning and planting in our own gardens comes to mind which gives such pleasure to many, always something to do in the garden. We can

talk to our neighbours over the garden wall, or when we walk and visit the shop. The shop volunteers continue to help us with all we need and do a wonderful job, what would we do without it?

Thank you also to Steph, Mary, Ruth and Liz for keeping us updated with various items we need to know about and the posters they provide.

However difficult life may seem we do have much to be grateful for.

STOODLEIGH

There is little to say this month! Stoodleigh in the midst of winter and Covid is hibernating, longing for spring and the awakening of community social activity.

St Margaret's Church.

As our tough time continues with endless lockdowns, it is difficult to know at the time of writing how to deal with closed churches. Although we have wonderful support from The Rector, it is remote and we all long to see her back with us in person taking services in our parishes.

Is there a hope that when we can reopen and have services with singing and no face masks our congregations will increase as parishioners come to

say 'thank you' to God that they got through one of the worst plagues in history?

As to Stoodleigh village, life goes on and we have all on the whole adapted to this new way of living. If you go out walking, you may meet others but it is not the same as meeting in church even if in the last few months it has seemed a cold damp and unloved building. How the bell ringers long to get back once the one metre distancing is removed because sadly our bell tower is small and the bells too close for us to ring them. Once restrictions are lifted, you will all hear the celebratory peal! (Please be tolerant if you hear some mistakes...the ringers haven't rung for a year!)

It seems curious to be writing in February with sleet, snow and mizzle for the Spring issue of Today but the snowdrops and primroses are out and the daffodils are struggling up.

We all hope that the magazine will return to hard copy and not presume that everyone has access to the on-line version. Let's hope we can celebrate Easter in our churches.

On a practical note, many thanks to Phyllis and Richard for providing and making a new door at the top of the church tower. An onerous job involving carrying everything up the winding tower stairs and standing or balancing on a very narrow step at the top. Thanks!

The Garden Club

The Garden Club continues on line with photos of spring flowers as they come into bloom and some quizzes. We have published a draft programme for the year, subject to restrictions, and all

information can be found on the Garden Club pages of the Stoodleigh website.

Parish Hall and Parish Council

We may be staying at home but residents are doing their best to keep in touch with one another on the phone and using the many social media platforms. Neighbours, friends and the Stoodleigh Community Help Network volunteers are pitching in by doing errands for those unable to get out or phoning those who just fancy a chat. If you need assistance, contact stoodleighweb@gmail.com.

Local Photos.

If you have photos of the local area and want to share them, send them to <https://www.middevonparish.co.uk/stoodleigh/stoodleigh-photo-gallery/>

Fly tipping

Sadly, there has been a lot of flytipping around our parish recently. Thanks to the Mid Devon District Council team for arranging for this to be collected promptly.

Please report flytipping incidents to <https://www.middevon.gov.uk>

A village litter pick will be arranged when restrictions allow.

Best wishes.

At the beginning of December, Gaynor lost her battle with illness; she will be sorely missed and we send our condolences to Brian, Mandy and Kim. It is hoped that once life settles back to relative normality, there can be a service in church to remember those who have died during 2020 so that we can all celebrate their long lives.

Gaynor Grimston

Sadly Gaynor of Valley View Farm passed away on Nov 29. Gaynor and

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PARISH ROUND-UP

her husband Brian moved to Stoodleigh in 1990 having purchased land from Steart Farm, where they set up a free range egg farm helped by their son-in-law John Widdowson and daughter Mandy. Gaynor was very much a homebird and loved nothing more than being at home on the farm where she enjoyed many years with her family. Both Gaynor and Brian were delighted when their oldest daughter Kim moved to Stoodleigh recently. Gaynor joined in with village events and looked forward to catching up with her local friends at Village Hall events and enjoyed flower arranging in the church. Her most favourite event was the Stoodleigh Dog Show where her beloved little Pug even won rosettes! Gaynor had suffered with her health during 2020 but bore her illness with enormous courage, faith and a smile. She passed away peacefully in hospital and will always be hugely missed.

Exercise Classes via Zoom!

Classes are unable to take place at the Hall for obvious reasons but our instructors are providing inspiring and uplifting classes via Zoom!

Pilates. Karen Sharp is a qualified APPI instructor and has been running successful classes for several years. If you are interested, please ring Karen on 01392 439660

Zumba. Kim Grimston takes three half hour sessions per week: Monday 10 am Wednesday 10 am and Thursday 6.30pm Contact Kim on 07773019564 or email kggrimston@gmail.com

Yoga. Claire Weeks runs two zoom yoga classes on Tuesday 6pm and on Friday 10am Each session lasts 40 minutes. When the rules and weather allow, we will recommend outdoor

classes at Down Farm. To book, please call Claire 07793289461

TEMPLETON

By the time this magazine reaches you, all our Templeton septuagenarians, and over, should have been vaccinated at least once against COVID-19! Hurrah! The National Health Service has proved exceptional in its huge efforts to achieve this protection against the virus. Hopefully, this is one step closer to the light at the end of the tunnel.

Village life here in Templeton as elsewhere, goes on, as neighbours continue to look out for each other, help with shopping, phone and grapple with video conferencing as well as socially distanced communication over the hedge to keep in touch. Lambing season is almost upon us and serves as a reminder that life in our beautiful part of the countryside goes on.

Church Services

Our church, St Margaret's Church, continues to be locked between services, but should you wish to spend some time in the church for private prayer, please contact Reg (860246) or William (251513), who will unlock the church and make sure that it is completely sanitised before and after your visit. As soon as it is safe to do so, St Margaret's Church, Templeton will be holding regular lay-led services, and Holy Communion Services led by Steph on a rotating basis within the Exe Valley Mission Community.

Many thanks go to Steph, Steve and Dawn for all their hard work in keeping everyone in touch with the various

activities going on within the Exe Valley Group of Churches. The regular weekly conference call and Zoom Sunday services, coffee mornings and Bible study evenings are circulated weekly by email, and are also available on the website: www.exevalleychurches.org.

Ultrafast Broadband in Templeton – an update. The recent road closures have allowed the tree trimming, pole replacement and cable laying to be completed. You may still see BNE (Barden Network Engineering Ltd) company vans around as they 'splice' all the fibres together and test them. The next step is for Openreach to install fibre from the new network into our houses and fit what is effectively a new Master Socket. Due to COVID restrictions and the engineers self-isolating, we don't have dates for this yet but the process will be underway shortly.

If you receive a letter or a phone call from BT about your existing 'slow' broadband service, please don't respond to it. It has been superseded by our Templeton Ultrafast Broadband project.

Templeton's public rights of way

The countryside around Templeton is beautiful. The footpaths, bridleways and byways in our parish have been so important, particularly over the last year. It is vital that we maintain and create walking routes so that the countryside and our towns and cities may be explored on foot. Over 49,000 miles of historic paths – enough to stretch around the world nearly twice – are missing from the official maps in England and Wales. More than a fifth of the lost paths are in the South West of England (over 9,000 miles) with Devon

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PARISH ROUND-UP

topping the list of counties with the most rights of way missing. These paths are a vital part of our heritage, yet if they are not reclaimed for inclusion on the definitive map (the legal record of rights of way) by January 2026, we risk losing them forever, as after this time, it will no longer be possible to add paths to the definitive map based on historic evidence.

Devon County Council has been carrying out a definitive map review of the public rights of way in the parishes across the whole of Devon, and Templeton parish is now their main focus. Please see poster on page 19.

Village Hall and Social Club Events.

The Village Hall and Social Club remain closed during lockdown, in line with the government COVID-19 guidelines. As soon as the guidelines allow village halls to open again, the committee will endeavour to find ways in which the local community can safely gather and socialise. The Village Hall committee has purchased a barbecue which hopefully will be put to good use before the year is over for a celebratory village event. Mike Pancherz and Martin Hill have kindly agreed to build the concrete base and brick surround for the barbecue.

For more information about future bookings, please contact Bindy Linden at 860655.

Farewells and Best Wishes

We say a fond farewell to Martin and Gill Rose who have left Templeton for Launceston, before house-hunting later in the year. We shall miss them and thank them for all they have done for the village over the years: helping to build the themed constructions for bonfire nights, setting off the amazing firework display each year, plumbing for the village hall, helping on the bar rota, and

taking part in all the village events. They will be greatly missed.

Our thoughts, prayers and all good wishes also go to the people in the parish, and beyond, who are unwell, in hospital, receiving or awaiting treatment, or going through a tough time.

Lynda is very happy for people to get in touch with her (tel: 881318) if there is anything concerning them, or just to have a chat (all completely confidential, of course).

There is no Flower Rota currently but Gloria will phone the volunteers on the rota as soon as the next service is allowed.

WASHFIELD

You can cut down all the flowers on earth but you cannot keep Spring from coming. When flowers bloom so does hope!

We do hope you were able to find the February edition of 'Today' on the <exevalleychurches.org> website. It was full of encouragement and hope at this very trying time. The photos of the Christmas Trail, too, showed the artistic talents of every village, including our much admired contributions.

As we suffer yet another 'lockdown', with short gloomy days of rain, we need hope and when the sun shines nothing seems so bad!

As a church we are being kept together and given hope by Steph and all the activities available. The Holy Communion Service at Withleigh each Sunday continues and many people join

the 10 am Service on the telephone or on 'zoom' and can hear friendly voices checking in and realize that we are not alone. We have celebrated Candlemass and taken part in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with all the Tiverton Churches.

There is a Service on Ash Wednesday at Withleigh at 12.30pm and a Lent course soon to begin each week.

Our village community is, as always, full of offers of help and cheer and we are all so thankful that vaccinations continue apace. We can begin to look ahead to a brighter future!

However, there are many who are struggling with ill health, anxiety and loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have recently been in hospital, who are in hospital at the moment and with those who are waiting for treatment and unwell at home. Not being able to visit them is very distressing for family and friends, but they are not forgotten.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting, usually quite a social event, when we can thank all our many supporters, will have to be on 'zoom' this year so please join us if you can. It is on April 15 at 7 pm. Bring your own wine! (ID and password available later.)

Thank you to the new volunteers who have offered to deliver the 'Today' Magazine. We are now looking for two more 'rounds' to be covered and would be very grateful to hear from anyone willing to spend an hour or so every two months doing this vital service of keeping us all in touch.

We are constantly thinking about the children in the parish who are still mostly doing their school work at home. We know it is sometimes difficult for

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PARISH ROUND-UP

these children (and their parents alike) to access and complete this work in the home environment. We hope that you will soon be back at school, when it is safe to do so, and can meet again with friends (as is normal).

With Mothering Sunday approaching we are thinking about ALL mothers in the parish. Although its going to be a 'stay at home' day this year we hope you still realise that you are loved and valued, as much (if not more) than ever. Happy Mother's Day to you all!

We send many happy moving wishes to Morley and Carol Bolt as they travelled a whole quarter of a mile to move into their new home at Mousebeare. We hope you are settling in to your new abode. On the flip side of that move, we bid a sad farewell to Angela Bolt who, after living all her life in Washfield, has 'jumped ship' and has made her way to Tiverton. We hope you too, will be very happy in your new home there and we know you will always be an integral part of Washfield.

We welcome Peter and Lucy Spreull into Courtenay Cottages and hope you soon settle in and enjoy living in Washfield.

With Easter arriving early this year we are not sure (at the time of going to print) if we can celebrate in our usual style with Egg decorating and Rolling etc but if we can't be together, we can maybe do this virtually.

Look out for more updates, positive news and villagers sharing useful information on the village Facebook page 'Humans of Washfield and Lower Washfield'.

WITBLEIGH

A shortened form of Holy Communion (no sermon, one reading) takes place each week at St Catherine's Witbleigh at 11.15am. If you wish to receive Holy Communion please book your seat via the church office. Everyone is welcome.

Another year, another Lockdown. C'est la vie! All our hopes of an early return to normality have, so far, been frustrated, but we hope and pray that the vaccines coming on stream will succeed in helping in the defeat of Covid-19. Some may well ask where God is in all the suffering, but that is precisely where he is – in it with us, suffering alongside us.

Christmas was certainly a very strange affair, with just one day on which we could meet up with a limited number of other family members. Feedback received suggests that members of our community were keen to abide by the rules, unlike some in other parts of the country.

Our Christmas Service here in Witbleigh was extra special this year, as it was the day we reopened our church after such a long time with the door locked. Our first attempt to reopen would have been for our Remembrance Day service, but of course the second lockdown put paid to that. We still have the church door locked during the week, and are sorry that we are closed for private prayer, but that is so that we can have a service on Sunday. Please see service times in the magazine or on the Mission Community website. Going back to our Christmas Service on Christmas Eve, it was so lovely to be

back in Church, We were few in number, but the simplicity of the Communion Service without any Carols gave us all a real feeling of that first Christmas so long ago. Cattle moving about in the background would have just set it off! Instead, thanks to Sara who put up the tree, and with candles in the windows, we were given the feeling of a Holy Christmas without the fuss. Thank you Steph for taking the service, which was really appreciated by all who attended.

Despite not being able to hold our usual Christingle service, a donation was sent to the Children's Society.

It had been noticed, back in October, that some of the mortar flashing had fallen from the church roof. Clearly the replacement of this was urgent, with winter almost upon us. The failed lime mortar has now been replaced with cement mortar.

Our grateful thanks go to Margaret who, prevented from selling her preserves and chutneys at both the summer fête and the craft fayre, has been selling them, along with hand-sewn items, from her doorstep, raising a magnificent £500 for church funds. Thanks also to Christine for her help in the production of the preserves and chutneys.

As we look forward to a return to something like normal as the year progresses, it is reassuring to see the snowdrops and primroses peeping through in the churchyard with, no doubt, the crocuses soon to follow. The sight of our churchyard's renewed floral display may be just a small encouragement in these difficult times, but it demonstrates that the pattern of the seasons is changeless.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Our children and young people are having to again face up to assessed results for their GCSEs and A-levels, and no doubt we can all sympathise with all who are struggling with the broad-band speed (or lack of it) that we experience in our area.

Celebrations, as such, may be off limits, but congratulations to any who have special birthdays or anniversaries.

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

And, to everyone, once again, stay safe and take care.

A thought for Easter

“I believe in Christ like I believe in the sun. Not because I can see it but by it, I can see everything else.”
C.S.Lewis

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.”
John 11:25

Belonging By Margaret Tidball

The World is large
The journey long
We need to know
That we belong.

Not to belong, is hard and cold,
The heart cries out
For love and care
The opportunity
Our love to share.

There's room for all
In God's wide world.
The young and old
And little child.

The black and white
And yellow too
O Lord help us
In all we do.

So if we within
Our Parsh grow
Together for God's
Love to know
Spread forth Hia love
And live in peace
And in time
All hate will cease.



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From February 2021 Devon County Council is carrying out a review of public rights of way in **Templeton** parish, Mid Devon.

For an explanation of the process and information about how you can get involved please see our website at:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/categories/prow/>
and then look for Templeton parish

Please forward any proposals for changes to Templeton Public Rights of Way (where supported by evidence) by 30th April 2021 to Tania Weeks as below.

For further information or to request that a copy of the presentation be sent to you

please contact Mrs Tania Weeks,
Public Rights of Way Officer - Definitive Map Review
Devon County Council | Telephone: 01392 382833
Email | tania.weeks@devon.gov.uk

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