



# TODAY

The Parish Magazine for the Exe Valley Mission Community

MAY - JUNE 2021

Price 50p

## WHO AM I ?

I know it happens a lot. In fact, it's probably happened to you. But recently someone was pretending to be me and they were rather convincing. In fact they managed to convince several people that they were me, and although the whole thing was sorted and reported, it took up a lot of time, and a great deal of emotion.

And I know it is just one of many, many scams, but it got me thinking. Who exactly did they think they were pretending to be? A vicar? A reverend?

A woman with a double-barrelled surname? A former teacher? A wife? A mother?

A grandmother? A lover of all things theatrical? Someone who likes to cook?

A wearer of dangly earrings? Which version of me did they think they were being? Well, I think I know the answer. I understand that vicars are being deliberately targeted – but even so.

There are many, many versions of me that have been played out over the years. Some versions you would recognise, and some you would not. Some of them

would shock you. Some would make you laugh. Some you would find disappointing, some make me feel ashamed and some I keep very closely hidden. And I know the same is true for each one of you. The same is true for all of us.



The Bible tells us that God sees us and knows all about us – and all the different versions we play of ourselves.

'O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.' Psalm 139 1-6 ESV.

Interestingly the Psalmist doesn't find God's knowledge of him as a threat. Quite the opposite. It's a relief! He doesn't have to pretend about anything. He is free to be himself, knowing that God loves him – warts and all! It's a wonderful thing and it is the work of the Holy Spirit.

And it is the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives that we celebrate during the coming season of Pentecost. Do please join us as we pray Thy Kingdom Come, and come and celebrate with us on 23 May at our Pentecost Picnic.

*May you know the presence and power of the Holy Spirit at work in your lives.*

*Steph*

Please look at the website for any updates.

Copy Deadline for July / August 2021 issue

Monday 7 June 2021

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Stoodleigh, Templeton,  
Washfield and Withleigh  
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**EXE VALLEY WEBSITE**

[www.exevalleychurches.org](http://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**

Spring has well and truly arrived. The weather has been dry with hardly a cloud in the sky, if a little chilly first thing!  
The hedgerows have been a riot of colour with primroses, violets and now bluebells.  
I feel very blessed to live in such a lovely place and now with the lifting of some restrictions I am looking forward to seeing the sea!

**Weddings**

We are so pleased that Weddings are beginning to happen in our churches. Our wedding couples have had a difficult time of it, so please pray for those who are planning on getting married as restrictions lift.

Dawn

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**FROM STEPH ... ..**



**'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'. It is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. It began in 2016 under the direction of the Archbishop of Canterbury and has grown into an international and ecumenical movement. Please use this time between Ascension Day (13 May) and Pentecost (23 May) to pray for people to come to know Jesus. There will be a focus for prayer in each of the churches in our Mission Community. Please look at the Exe Valley Churches website for further details.

Join us for our weekly  
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**FROM STEPH ... ..**



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.

If you wish to receive Holy Communion, there are services available throughout the Exe Valley Mission Community at 11.15am.

Please see middle pages 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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**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!

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## NATURE NOTES

During these extraordinary times it is hard not to yearn for a return to normality but we are warned to curb our impatience and control our expectations.

As we watch the changing seasons and the usual great uplift from sight of spring bulbs and lambs, the comfort provided from the start of nature's cycle has been very reassuring. Then again nothing is ever quite the same.

During the early decades of my life I had never even seen a peacock blue butterfly let alone the numbers I saw before April had begun.

The silly wood pigeons always nest at head height in a shrub not far from the washing line but they have decided not to provide frightening flaps this year [that make you drop the clothes' pegs]. Instead they are in the steep sloop above the house in what could only be described as caves that have formed in the roots of undermined trees at the lip of the bank. It is said no-one ever sees baby pigeons – no wonder these are monsters!

Another sight has been the early arrival of bee flies. They only ever appear in the south of England but it must be a sign of global warming that they are now as common as they are in France. I particularly like their hovering flight and sword like proboscis that refreshes the parts other bees cannot reach. Not that they are wholly welcome as their larva are parasitoids

thus their eggs are often laid in the burrows of solitary bees.

The slow worms have also shown early signs of life, if it can be called such, as the biting cold has not given them much energy. Their young curl up like baby eels in the shelter of fallen leaves, rocks and other debris and it is hard to tell if they welcome being uncovered in the watery sunlight. At least they know to keep off the lawn which has had two cuts before March was out – this is a record, so times are indeed a' changing.

*Thomas More*



### Baby & Toddler GROUP

Bickleigh-on-Exe Church of England Primary is a school for children aged 2-11. We are offering all members of our local and wider community the opportunity to attend our free Baby and Toddler Group. Our group will meet every Wednesday morning 9:30am – 11:00am from 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

Call 01884 855357 to book your place.



We look forward to meeting you soon!



### Take on an Incredible Hike for Children's Hospice South West

CHSW is asking people to take on an incredible hike and raise some vital pounds for the charity this May. To celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021, the charity has lined up 30 inspiring walking routes across Devon, Cornwall and Somerset for people to choose from – or they can simply pick one of their own.

It's free to register to take part and if you raise more than £30 in sponsorship we'll send you a very special commemorative CHSW 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary medal.

Just visit the CHSW website to register, pick your route and start your Incredible Hike adventure. The charity needs around £11m a year to run its three children's hospices and around 85% is raised through voluntary donations.

The Incredible Hike is kindly sponsored by Thomas Westcott chartered accountants. Participants are asked to ensure they stay safe by following Government guidelines and announcements from Public Health England.

For more information or to register, visit [www.chsw.org.uk/hike](http://www.chsw.org.uk/hike)



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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)

At last, the news we have been waiting for, official confirmation that non-essential shops can open again next Monday, 12th April. That will allow us to reopen the book shop, with a few restrictions, but still great news after being closed for just over 3 months during the third lock-down. Opening hours are:  
Monday - Friday 9.30am - 2.00pm  
Saturday 9.30am - 1.00pm

We can also reopen the second-hand book section and make the toilet available. To maintain social distancing, we will still have to limit the number of customers allowed in the shop at any one time and face masks must be worn. We will also ask you to use the hand-sanitizer before touching any stock.

Unfortunately, we cannot reopen the café yet, that will have to wait a few more weeks and when we do reopen it, we are not sure exactly what restrictions might still apply.

Hopefully, it will not be too long before we can get back to normal, or as near as we can get in the circumstances.

Some more good news - we are in the process of obtaining quotations to pave the back garden to make it suitable for additional outside seating for use by our café customers. We hope this might be ready sometime during the summer.

Can you please pass all this information on to others in your fellowship, thank you.

In the meantime, thank you for your support and prayers. Thankfully, due to the generosity of our supporters and some government grants, we have been able to weather the storm, praise the Lord.

We can now get back to the real reason that Lighthouse is here, to spread the Word of the Lord and to be a beacon of Light in the wilderness. Praise be to God for His provision and guidance in this work.

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Trustee, for



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## PARISH ROUND-UP

### CALVERLEIGH

Another Easter in lockdown, who would have thought it this time last year that Coronavirus would still be restricting life as we used to know it. Thankfully a large majority of all our parishioners will now have been offered the vaccine and be well on their way to receiving their second dose.

Even though we were unable to meet in the same way Rev'ds Steph and Robert (St. Peters'), through Zoom delivered a thought provoking Lent course through artwork, some modern pieces and some more traditional. It has been lovely to share worship with fellow Christians from other local churches and further afield. Holy week also used some of the same artwork that received positive comments and interest. Thank you Steph and Robert for all your hard work in arranging this and for the spiritual, faith filled 'goody bags' that were circulated.

The porch at Calverleigh church was decorated as part of the Mission Community Easter Flower Trail running from Palm Sunday to Easter Monday, which depicted the 'Open Tomb'. The area was beautifully decorated, with flowers around the door, along with vases of flowers on each of the seats either side of the porch. The tomb was erected using stones collected from the churchyard within which were the folded grave clothes and a jar of spices. Thank you to all who contributed to the display and for all the positive comments that were received for it and the other displays around the nine churches. A very good idea so that we could all interact with the last days of Jesus even though we could not meet together at this important time in the Christian calendar.

Thank you to all who took part in the Quiz competition that was arranged by Rita and Dave. In total there were 137 questions to

continued overleaf ➔

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

answer that were put into six different categories, covering logo brands, celebrity, dog varieties to name but a few. What a tricky quiz it turned out to be! From the 19 sets of entries that were returned we are pleased to announce that there were joint winners. In joint first place were Lorna & Geoffrey and Maureen & Paul who gained 131 points. Our congratulations go to them. Both couples are to receive a voucher for an Afternoon Tea at Elsie May's. Runners up were Steph & Robert and Rachael & Charlie (129), Mary (Rose and Crown stables) with 124 and Ken & Valerie and Nikki, Dave, Shirley & Mandy (113). A total of over £200 has been raised to date for our general church funds.

Thank you also to those who didn't return entries but chose to send a donation anyway. We are very grateful at this time of being unable to fundraise in the same way as usual.

It is hoped that we will be able to hold a fundraising event on Saturday 26 June at the village hall when all the current restrictions on gatherings should have been eased. More details/posters will follow closer to the time when we definitely know what is allowed to happen.

Produce Show August 28 - It is also hoped that this can take place in some way or another at the end of August. Again more information will be available at a later date.

We send our congratulations to all who have celebrated a birthday/anniversary or birth over the last two months. It is good to know that weddings are able to take place once again in our churches and our best wishes go to all who arranging a life event in the coming months.

Condolences go to those of you who have been bereaved recently. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this most difficult of times.

We send our good wishes to Lucy, Dan, Bella and Sydney, as Dan's career has taken the family from Lurley to Scotland.

Welcome to any new residents to the parish. We hope that you are settling in well to your new surroundings and we look forward to when social events are able to resume and you are able to meet and get to know your neighbours/fellow villagers. We welcome the return to Tiverton of Jess, James and Chester who have moved back to Devon from London.

At the time of going to press we should have been able to open the church doors for services once again and although they will still be taking place with social distancing, masks etc we give thanks that we can join together inside our buildings for fellowship. Unfortunately we are still not allowed to sing indoors as yet. The Zoom and conference calls continue in the usual manner and we are so grateful to Steph and Robert that we have been able to join together online or on the phone for a time of prayer and fellowship with others around the Mission Community, town churches, from further afield and even abroad.

When the warmer weather arrives we can look into having an open air service where we will be allowed to sing hymns/songs as long as we are in the churchyard.

Our monthly time of prayer continues on the first Saturday of every month from 9 - 11am. Details of which are available on the Exe Valley Mission Community website, under Calverleigh.

Do you have any good photos of the village? From past events, or from lockdown that you'd like to share on the website or in a forthcoming magazine? Please send your photos, news, birthday messages, anniversary congratulations (or anything else) to Dave Burton by calling 01884 561499 or by email: calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org.

Please see the website ([www.exevalleychurches.org/calverleigh](http://www.exevalleychurches.org/calverleigh)) for any update information on services or activities. Please see the website ([www.exevalleychurches.org/calverleigh](http://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](mailto:calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org).

## CRUWYS MORCHARD

It is with great sympathy for Her Majesty the Queen, upon the death of her husband of 70 years, from us all, as we remember Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and what he has done for us all.

Spring is nearly gone, Summer nearly here, and our Church is still locked as I write.

Easter was wonderful though, the Church was opened for the traditional Easter Communion Service at 8 am (with a little difference) we SANG the first hymn OUTSIDE, "Thine be the glory" Then we all went inside for the said Service of Communion, to finish the service we SANG outside again, "How great thou art" with the sun shining and the sound of the organ being played by Jennifer, from inside. It was a lovely way to begin EASTER DAY.

On Good Friday many of us went to Templeton Church at 2pm for the last hour's service of Music, Readings and Reflections. It was a very moving hour.

We have services in our Church arranged for 9 and 16 May and on 13 June.

### THE EASTER FLOWER TRAIL

We were pleased to take part in the Easter trail, thank you to all those who helped, arrange flowers, knit, craft and assemble the display in the church porch and lychgate.

continued overleaf →



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## PARISH ROUND-UP

It was good to visit the other churches and see the variety of arrangements displayed. Well done to everyone. I do hope that many of you visited the other Churches as well, we were very taken by the hard work and talent which had gone into the displays, thank you everyone.

### LADY DAY

"Do you know the White Cliffs of Dover?" I once heard somebody ask at a crowded cocktail party in London. "Oh, yes", came the reply, "We were having dinner with them only last night". Which reminded me of a remark made by the late lamented Victor Borge when referring to the concert hall in Kensington where he was performing as "coming to us by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hall".

But there is one title with which you fool around at your peril, and that is that of Lady Day. If the name sounds at all familiar it is probably because you were brought up in the Proper Faith and recognise the common name for the Feast of the Annunciation, which marks the moment when traditionally the Angel Gabriel informed the Virgin Mary that she was going to have a baby. It was the kind of news which must have come like a bolt from the blue for her, particularly when you consider her status, but there was not a lot she could do about it, and nine months later to the day she gave birth to a baby boy whom we have come to know and love as Jesus.

These two milestone events, Lady Day and Christmas, have come to be known as "Quarter Days", and they have two running mates in the form of Midsummer and Michaelmas, giving us 25th March (Lady Day), 24th June (Midsummer), 29th September (Michaelmas) and 25th December (Christmas), which last named is the easiest one to remember of the lot, and incidentally the date on which my late mother long ago fixed for renewing all her insurances. Curiously enough, she chose to die in the middle of December, which meant that we buried her on Christmas Eve, a date that is now burned into the memory of the

family. You might almost call it perfect timing!

Since time immemorial quarter days have had a commercial aspect, and to this day, even in this age of technology, they mark the four points of the year when rents become due. Within a day or two they mark also the Winter Solstice, when the nights are at their longest and the Summer Solstice when the days are at their longest and are celebrated by crowds assembled at Stonehenge, correspondingly they mark approximately the Equinoxes, when the days and nights are of equal length, triggering with similar elasticity the beginning of British Summer Time, when the clocks go forward in the Spring and are put back in the Autumn.

Global warming may have brought chaos to the ordered seasons, which sometimes give the impression of being a little out of joint, and regardless of the efforts of the Emperor Augustus or those of Pope Julius and all their scribes, the calendar is still governed by the movements of the celestial bodies, and it will continue to wind like a well-oiled clock well after we have finished wrecking this planet and have gone in search of another home to spoil.

Thinks: What would Eden have been like today if we had been allowed to stay?

### 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 the Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall website and also on the community site on Facebook. If you require a hard copy, please contact Pauline at 5 Moorview. Potatoes for the under 16's are also available now. Once again this year we will have a plant stall outside Chrissie's, near Pennymoor timber. It provides an excellent opportunity to "recycle" and exchange surplus plants. All donations towards the next Flower show. Any queries to pauline.8@hotmail.co.uk Stay Safe and Happy Gardening to you all.

Also this year we will have a SCARECROW competition at the show to be entered by families/households in the parish. There is a £20 prize for the winner.

### PLANT SALE with CREAM TEAS and SECOND HAND TACK SALE TABLE.

On Sunday May 30 between 2-4.30pm at Wringsland House, Pennymoor, Tiverton. EX16 8LH by kind permission of the Notley's. Any donations of plants eagerly and gratefully received. Contact Charlotte on 07773966992 or Sonia on 07783512049

### CRUWYS ARMS GARDENERS

We have not met since July, remember the first Wednesday in the month at 8pm is when we meet, do come when you can complying with Corvid regulations.

YOGA is continuing on Zoom. Ring Hilary on 01363 866245

### THE CRUWYS MORCHARD YOUNG FARMERS


The young farmers have been busy with meeting happening via zoom. We welcome two new members. Members have joined in the fun with county activity evenings also had an enjoyable evening via zoom with Roborough YFC and are planning to meet up in real time in the future.

The club have taken part in many skills for life, gaining knowledge in sign language, Japanese, soap, candle and bath bomb making and have got basic sheep husbandry planned in the near future.

Congratulations to Jess Kingdom for coming first and Jess Parkhouse in being place second in junior member of the year.

We also did a virtual tour of Eweleaze Farm which is a Dorset dairy farm with their very own milk and milkshake vending machine.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, please watch their notice boards in North Street for future arrangements.

continued on page 12 

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**4 MAY**

**10am Zoom Service**  
*Robert & Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

**CALVERLEIGH**

No service

**CRUWYS MORCHARD**

No service

**LOXBEARE**

11.00am Morning Worship

**OAKFORD**

No service

**RACKENFORD**

No service

**STOODLEIGH**

No service

**TEMPLETON**

10.45am Morning Worship

**WASHFIELD**

**11.15 Holy Communion**  
*Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

**WITHLEIGH**

10.45am Morning Worship

**9 MAY**

**10am Zoom Service**  
*Robert & Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

**CALVERLEIGH**

3.00pm Evening Prayer

**CRUWYS MORCHARD**

11.15am Morning Prayer

**LOXBEARE**

No service

**OAKFORD**

**11.15am Holy Communion**  
*Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

**RACKENFORD**

No service

**STOODLEIGH**

11.00am Morning Prayer

**TEMPLETON**

No service

**WASHFIELD**

No service

**WITHLEIGH**

No service

**13 MAY**

**ASCENSION DAY**

**OUR  
MISSION  
COMMUNITY  
GROUP  
COMMUNION  
SERVICE**

**is at**

**10.30 am in  
WITHLEIGH**

***Steph Gordon-Jeffs***

**Everyone welcome**

**Please come and  
join us !!**

**16 MAY**

**10am Zoom Service**  
*Robert & Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

**CALVERLEIGH**

3.00pm Evening Prayer

**CRUWYS MORCHARD**

**11.15am Holy Communion**  
*Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

**LOXBEARE**

No Service

**OAKFORD**

**6.00pm Holy Communion**  
*Georgie Bell*

**RACKENFORD**

No service

**STOODLEIGH**

No service

**TEMPLETON**

10.45 am Morning Worship

**WASHFIELD**

No service

**WITHLEIGH**

No service

**23 MAY**

**PENTECOST**

**10am Zoom Service**  
*Robert & Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

**OUR  
MISSION  
COMMUNITY  
COMMUNION  
SERVICE**

**is at**

**11.15 am in  
CALVERLEIGH**

***Steph Gordon-Jeffs***

**Everyone welcome**

**Please come and  
join us and bring  
a picnic**

**30 MAY**

**10am Zoom Service**  
*Robert & Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

**CALVERLEIGH**

No service

**CRUWYS MORCHARD**

No service

**LOXBEARE**

No service

**OAKFORD**

No service

**RACKENFORD**

**11.15am Holy Communion**  
*Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

**STOODLEIGH**

No service

**TEMPLETON**

No service

**WASHFIELD**

6.00pm Evening Prayer

**WITHLEIGH**

No service

**PENTECOST SUNDAY  
23 MAY 2021**

***A PICNIC FOR PENTECOST***

To celebrate Pentecost Sunday we will be having a Group Service of Holy Communion at 11.15am at St Mary's Calverleigh.

We hope to have some live music at this service!  
Booking is essential via the church office.

Immediately after the service, weather permitting, we will have a picnic lunch in the church grounds.

Please bring your own chairs and picnic!  
Unfortunately we cannot provide refreshments.  
We hope to be able to sing at the picnic with the help of some live music.

If you can't make the service, please come along for the picnic.

**Everyone is welcome!**

**6 JUNE**

**10am Zoom Service  
Robert & Steph Gordon-Jeffs**

**CALVERLEIGH**  
3.00pm Evening Worship

**CRUWYS MORCHARD**  
No service

**LOXBEARE**  
3.00pm Evening Worship

**OAKFORD**  
10.15am Morning Prayer

**RACKENFORD**  
No service

**STOODLEIGH**  
11.00am Morning Prayer

**TEMPLETON**  
**11.15am Holy Communion  
Steph Gordon-Jeffs**

**WASHFIELD**  
No service

**WITHLEIGH**  
10.45 am Morning Worship

**13 JUNE**

**10am Zoom Service  
Robert & Steph Gordon-Jeffs**

**CALVERLEIGH**  
No service

**CRUWYS MORCHARD**  
11.15am Morning Prayer

**LOXBEARE**  
**11.15am Holy Communion  
Georgie Bell**

**OAKFORD**  
No service

**RACKENFORD**  
No service

**STOODLEIGH**  
No service

**TEMPLETON**  
No service

**WASHFIELD**  
No service

**WITHLEIGH**  
No service

**20 JUNE**

**10am Zoom Service  
Robert & Steph Gordon-Jeffs**

**CALVERLEIGH**  
No service

**CRUWYS MORCHARD**  
No service

**LOXBEARE**  
No service

**OAKFORD**  
10.15am Morning Praise

**RACKENFORD**  
No service

**STOODLEIGH**  
**11.15am Holy Communion  
Georgie Bell**

**TEMPLETON**  
10.45am Morning Worship

**WASHFIELD**  
No service

**WITHLEIGH**  
10.45am Morning Worship

**27 JUNE**

**10am Zoom Service  
Robert & Steph Gordon-Jeffs**

**CALVERLEIGH**  
3.00pm Evening Prayer

**CRUWYS MORCHARD**  
No service

**LOXBEARE**  
No service

**OAKFORD**  
No service

**RACKENFORD**  
No service

**STOODLEIGH**  
No service

**TEMPLETON**  
No service

**WASHFIELD**  
6.00pm Evening Prayer

**WITHLEIGH**  
**11.15am Holy Communion  
Steph Gordon-Jeffs**

## PARISH ROUND-UP

Welcome to everyone who are new to the village, it will be so nice to meet you all when we can have events again, and of course the pub open.

Welcome to Marcus and Emma Snow and to Carol and Richard Harris.

Goodbye and good luck to Marilyn and Terry, also Dave and Di who move to Weymouth soon.

Our love and prayers to all who are sick and grieving.

## LOXBARE

These notes are being written up over the Easter Weekend. We are enjoying the lovely sunshine, beautiful flowers and shrubs, especially the abundance of daffodils brightening the days. Easter gives us hope as we reflect on Jesus' death, celebrate his resurrection and give thanks for His great love to us.

There was a group Easter service at Loxbeare on Easter Sunday, which was taken by Rev Ian Johnston, also the following Sunday and the Group service is planned for 11 April.

Thank you to those who contributed various items for the Easter display in the Church porch, depicting the Last Supper, including the children's participation. Well Done

Hopefully soon we will have some dates for services and activities, although a service is planned for 2 May at 11.00am in the Church and one in June.

It is good to feel there is light at the end of the tunnel with the Covid pandemic. How thankful we are for the vaccinations with many in our parish having received one jab and some have had both. May this continue. We are glad too that we are now able to meet with up to six others, or two

households, albeit outdoors again and for the lovely weather to do so. We pray the lockdown still continues to ease and we will all feel some freedom at last.

The APCM was held by Zoom on 8 March when Ron offered his resignation from being Church Warden after approximately 48 dedicated years, with the help and support of Margaret. Tributes and many thanks were given in appreciation of all the work and commitment they have both given. At a future date there will be a special time of being able to meet and share together for us all to express and show how much they been and still are valued in the Parish. Ron has always been keen to encourage and include everyone in various ways, including the children. He was the innovator of Sunday Special 30+ an Interdenominational Young Peoples get together each month which included YP's from some Tiverton Churches as well.

He enjoyed running sports at Holiday Club and Harvest Festivals, taking services, organising the Carol Singing each year and men's breakfasts and groups to keep up the maintenance of the Churchyard.

We could say so much more about Ron and Margaret's ministry in various ways in Loxbeare and their desire to see many follow and love our Lord Jesus and for the gospel to be always preached. They were and still are always ready to help, support and pray for others including whoever was Rector/Vicar over all these years. We are sure they will continue to be supportive to the Church in the coming days. Thank you both of you and may God richly bless you each day.

We pray for Jean Heard as she 'stands solo' as Church Warden for the time being. Other roles within the Church remain the same apart from Linda Heywood who wishes to step down from the PCC. Thank you to everyone for fulfilling their positions and serving the Church community so well.

It is with sadness to hear the sudden passing away of Michael Lear's sister, Margaret Rabjohns. Our thoughts, prayers and sympathy are with all the family at this difficult time.

It is good to hear that Steven Radford is recovering well after his operation. We pray for his continuing improvement. We also remember those who are waiting appointments, treatments and all who are feeling unwell.

Congratulations to Colin and Margaret Radford who will be celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 10 May. We wish them every happiness on their special day. Grandson Graham and Abi are planning to go ahead with their wedding in May. We trust this will be a lovely day for them and their families. We wish them much happiness in their future lives together.

Happy birthday to all with birthdays in May/June. We welcome the new people just moved in to Loxbeare Barn and hope you will soon settle and be happy living in Loxbeare.

Take care and look after each other and keep hoping and trusting.

## OAKFORD

At long last the church is now open again for services. The next one is Holy Communion with Steph on 9 May at 11.15am and we'll be welcoming the Rev'd Georgie Bell on 16 May for a service of Holy Communion at 6pm. Booking for these services should be done through the church office. It's planned to resume lay led services on the 6 and 20 June at 10.15am. Remember to book ahead with one of our church wardens, Wendy (351383) and Dawn (324035). A warm welcome awaits.

continued overleaf →

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

The Annual Parish Committee Meeting had to be cancelled on 22 March. It will now take place via Zoom on 30 April at 7pm. All are welcome to join this meeting. Contact Mary Shere (oakridgepork@gmail.com) to receive the link.

Many thanks to the enthusiastic residents of Oakford who lifted our spirits with a joyful show for Easter – bunting, a decorated Easter tree and the Easter trail floral display in the church porch. Special thanks to Patsy and Connie who helped Jean stage the Palm Sunday scene and to all the visitors who donated towards the Bell Tower Restoration Fund.

At just after midday on 23 March a single bell was rung by bell tower captain John Philips to mark the anniversary of the first lockdown following the outbreak of Covid-19. It was a sober reminder of all the lives lost in the past year. May they rest in peace. John Phillips and Geoffrey Williams also tolled the bell 99 times on the 10 April in respect for the life of Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh.

### PLANT AND GARDENING SALE BELLTOWER FUNDRAISER

Plants, flowers, vegetables – anything to do with gardening - will be offered for sale on the morning of Saturday 22 May in the church grounds. Let Jean know if you can donate plants etc. (01398 351241 or barvanjack@aol.com). We can collect. Thank you.

### VILLAGE FETE

If the government's roadmap out of Covid goes to plan, it's hoped to have a low-key village get together on the playing field soon after 21 June. Watch out for posters. If you are able to help with this event Kelvin Holdom would like to hear from you (01398 332039).

### MOORLAND CLUB

**THE ANNUAL FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW** – preparations are underway to hold this popular village event on Saturday 28 August in the village hall. Schedules will be circulating in mid-May. If you need further information contact Chris Holdom (01398 332039).

**BBQ** – It is hoped that the Moorland Ladies can re-unite at a BBQ sometime in July. The venue and date are to be confirmed.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have been unwell or who have suffered a recent bereavement. Especially we pray for Geoffrey Williams, a member of the PCC, whose brother's wife Anne, passed away on 22 March. Sincere condolences to Clifford, Anne's husband, and to all the family.

It's been a long winter and spring but the glorious months of May and June bring hope of warmer days and greater freedom. Take it slowly everyone. Be careful for yourselves and considerate of others and let's enjoy being together again safely.

We received Holy Communion from Rev Steph Gordon-Jeffs, in our seats, who gave us a warm welcome back and it was good to worship together.

Thank you to those who brought flowers and foliage to decorate our church with beautiful daffodils to add a touch of colour and spring to our service.

These are in abundance this year along with primroses in our country side.

As the vaccines continue we pray for our future and reuniting with family and friends.

Our prayers continue for Margaret, Jane and The Mills family who we know have all had covid, suffered severe poor health, and some have been admitted to hospital.

We also send very best wishes to those who are suffering ill health, gladly some on the road to recovery, Joan, Frances who has broken her arm, Richard and Christine, not forgetting Jacques of course, you are in our thoughts.

Sadly we were unable to open our church for Mothering Sunday service, however we put our thinking caps on, with posters in various places to announce our plans we offered children and adults the opportunity to help themselves to posies of flowers given and prepared by the Parochial Church Council. These were left on the seat by the church porch during the Sunday and the following week hoping the school children would see them, we were thrilled to see them gradually disappearing and we hope your family's were pleased.

Thank you Ruth, Frances and Les for giving your time to work in the churchyard, planting a huge amount of bulbs for us all to enjoy in the future and give us some colour.

Our thanks to Dennis for ringing our church bell on 23 March 2021 to remember all those who have lost lives and marking that a year has passed since this cruel virus hit

## RACKENFORD

All Saints Church was delighted to open its doors on a beautiful Easter Sunday morning to welcome friends to our Holy Communion service. It was a treat to be able to sing even though our two hymns were sung outside with Marjorie playing the organ in the background, with masks off for that short time it was a good opportunity to recognize a face again because with masks on and the majority with longer hair now we sometimes thought, 'Who's that?'

Masks back on and returning to our seats our prayers, reflections and hope for the future continued, remembering all those who lost their lives due to Covid and those suffering from depression and loneliness due to restrictions.

*continued overleaf* ➔

Painful Feet ?



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## PARISH ROUND-UP

us all so hard. We are most grateful to you Dennis.

Our school is now open again for everyone. It was good to witness children going off happily to meet up with their friends to catch up and no doubt some happy parents too I expect. Difficult times for many.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Mike Lane. Many of us chatted to him as he walked from home to the shop, often followed by his beloved cats. We will miss his presence in many ways. Our love and thoughts to his wife Helen, Fred and Tamsin, Ruth and Simon and all family and friends.

We also remember Frank Turner who passed away peacefully at home on 10 March 2021. Frank was born at Broadclose Farm, Rackenford and spent most of his life there before retiring to live in Tiverton. He is sadly missed by Ann his wife (they had been married for 67 years) his two sons Christopher and Philip, grandson and great granddaughter. We send our deepest sympathy to Ann and all the family and friends at this difficult time.

At going to print we received the sad news that Vera Sutton of The Firs had passed peacefully away. Our deepest sympathy to sister Olive and all the family. (more in the next issue)

Congratulations to Matt and Amy on the birth of their baby boy Bowan, a welcome brother for sisters Leela-Ray and Sia. We hope you are all doing well.

We are most grateful to the donors (who wish to remain anonymous) for donating bollards to the church, this will be a great asset for funeral and functions when access to the church path is needed. Thank you very much.

The Easter Flower Trail took place from 28 March to 4 April.

Did you follow the trail of Easter rabbits and flower displays around the churches in the Mission Community ?

The Garden of Gethsemane could be found in Trinity Well. Very many thanks to Ruth, Liz and Sharon for all the work you put into this and for everyone to view on their journey.

How lovely to notice the grass and bank areas cut around the village, unpaid work! and much appreciated, lovely to see it being cared for, for us all to enjoy. We don't always see you in action so thank you.

Thank you also to Glen Hookins for keeping our clock on time, again an unpaid kindness.

All being well when we receive this magazine Mary and Jacques Cann will have at long last moved into our village and into Trinity View. (Mary is our church warden) It will be a joy to have you in the village with us and we pray you will be happy amongst us and closer to your friends. We send you a warm welcome and our prayers for the future. Remember Zoom services and conference calls are still available and all information is available on Exe Valley Churches website.

Many thanks to Steph, Robert and Dawn for everything you prepare for us all to participate in.

To all celebrating birthdays and anniversaries enjoy your day, we pray we can all look forward to a brighter and safer future.

A warm welcome if you have moved into Rackenford village and if you are not receiving a church Magazine, call Hilda on 881248 and we will try to get it organised for you.

hedgerows and in gardens and leaf buds are bursting out everywhere!

The Easter Trail was great fun, visiting the nine parishes and finding ways along the lanes trying not to retrace steps. It was a lovely morning and all the churches put on splendid displays...what a variety.

We had a lay-led service on 21 March. At last the church was open and a congregation dotted around the pews. Easter Day saw an afternoon service led by Peter Broadbent.

To the future:

Group Holy Communion Services at Stoodleigh at 11.15 on 18 April and 20 June (booking via the church office).

Other services:

9 May 11.00am Morning Prayer  
23 May 6.30pm Evensong  
6 June 11.00am Morning Prayer  
Remember masks and social distancing!  
Thanks to Steph and Robert for all they do to keep everyone in touch.

Parish Hall

We hope to be able to re-open the Parish Hall mid/end May...depending on government guidelines.

Thanks to our class instructors for their zoom classes!

The Management Committee have already made some preparations to get the Hall ready and we will ensure that we meet all the necessary regulations. Confirmation about dates and events in due course on the parish website and the community email.

Stoodleigh Website:  
<https://www.middevonparish.co.uk/stoodleigh>

Community email:  
stoodleighweb@gmail.com

Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting is due to take place on Wed 26 May at 7.00pm at Stoodleigh Parish Hall and is open to all electors of the parish. Local organisations in the parish report on last year's activities

*continued overleaf* →

## STOODLEIGH

It is difficult to believe that we are again completing the entry for the Today magazine. The months seem to whizz by. Spring is definitely here! Daffodils, primroses, violets along the



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## PARISH ROUND-UP

and plans for the future. It provides a forum to debate any current issues in the community and a chance for residents to share their views about what they think is important in the village.

More information in due course when government guidance is clear.

Welcome to Andy and Emily who have moved into Jessamine Cottage. We hope you will be very happy here.

### The Garden Club

The club is making arrangements for the Show to take place on Saturday 21 August at Stoodleigh Parish Hall, subject to government guidance. To find out what classes are available for you to enter, please go to the Garden Club page of the Stoodleigh Website. Entry forms will be available in due course.

<https://www.middevonparish.co.uk/stoodleigh/parish-groups-organisations/garden-club/>

Seed potatoes for the 'Potato in a Bucket' class can be obtained from Shirley (351126) at 30p

Recently the club planted some snow drops at the western entrance to the village following the refurbishment of the signposts. Let's hope we can meet up more often this summer!

And finally...news from The Stoodleigh Inn! Hope you are all keeping well and looking forward to life returning to 'normal'.

I am hoping to open for outside trading only from Monday 12 April.

Monday/Thursday/Friday/Saturday 3.00 to 7.00p.m.

Sunday 12-7.00pm.

Obviously these hours are weather permitting! Updates will be posted on our Facebook page and by the community email or just call.

No substantial meal will be required.

Individual track and trace compliance is compulsory from the Government and usual Covid guidelines must be followed.

All very strange but we made it work last time and will do so again now. Feel free to bring blankets and brollies!

See you soon!

## TEMPLETON



### The future is bright

**H**opefully, we are now on the Road Map to fewer restrictions, more travel, and warmer weather – the future looks brighter!! But, given the events of the past year, we shall remain cautiously optimistic about future planning.

Church services are gradually returning to the parishes.

The Easter Services at St Margaret's Church, Templeton included a Group Good Friday Meditation Service and a lay-led Easter Sunday Service. These services have remained distanced and masked, with no singing of hymns, even though we have so enjoyed listening to the music being played on the organ by Martin Strong. We look forward to singing the hymns with Martin before too long.

Templeton's Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held on the 24 March, via Zoom, where innovative suggestions to move forward with the Church were discussed. The PCC thanked Steph for ensuring that the regular weekly events, such as coffee mornings, Bible study and Sunday Services, have continued through the year with the use of zoom and conference calls, while St Margaret's

Church has been closed and services limited. Reg Coffin and William Withers have agreed to continue as Churchwardens. Lynda also agreed to continue as Safeguarding Officer. Many thanks to them for the time-consuming work they do for our parish. Even though the churches are gradually reopening their doors, zoom and conference call services will continue.

### Future Services at St Margaret's Church

It is likely that there will be two lay-led church services each month, and one group communion service at one of the nine parishes within the Exe Valley each week. If you would like to know more about the services at Templeton, please phone William (251513) or Reg (860246).

### Maintenance of the Church

While St Margaret's Church was closed temporarily there were no church services in Templeton and therefore no income from collections, but the expenses continued as usual. We need to raise, on average, £5,000 each year to cover insurance, heating, and ongoing repairs etc.

St Margaret's Church is our focal point within Templeton Village and, as well as church services, is regularly used for book club meetings, coffee mornings and 'Knit and Natter' – or was before Covid-19 affected our lives. Our church is a beautiful historic building with a long history. The original Church of St Margaret, built in 1335, formerly belonged to the Knights Templars, and the present church was rebuilt in the same style in 1886. If you would like to know more about its history there is a booklet available at £3 a copy - please contact William or Reg.

If you would like to support the upkeep of the church building, there is always the option of a donation, direct debit, or parish giving which helps with financial planning. For more information about these options, please contact William (tel: 251513 or email [william@williamwithers.co.uk](mailto:william@williamwithers.co.uk)), or Ginah (tel:253552).




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## PARISH ROUND-UP

### The Churchyard Extension

Many parishioners, as well as Templeton Village Hall and Social Club, and Templeton Parish Council, have contributed generously towards the church fabric and the churchyard extension. Templeton PCC has now successfully completed the purchase of much-needed extra land to extend the churchyard as only one plot remained in the existing churchyard. All that needs to be done now is to remove a hedge, erect a fence, plant a new hedge and get the area landscaped, and then finally, the area will be consecrated by the Bishop of Crediton.

### Ultrafast Broadband

The Ultrafast Fibre Broadband rollout is progressing well. Properties on the Witheridge Exchange are now enabled and many parishioners are now connected or have appointments booked. The work for the Tiverton Exchange properties is nearly complete and for the properties on the Rackenford Exchange, vouchers have been submitted and we're waiting to hear when work will begin. Many thanks to Parish Councillor David Leeming for keeping us all up to date.

### Templeton Village Hall and Social Club Events

The earliest date for reopening Templeton Social Club could be the 12th April although club members would still have to meet outdoors in groups of up to six people, or two households of any size. No earlier than 17th May, a maximum of six people (or two households) can meet at the social club indoors and then after 21st June, it is hoped that events at Templeton Village Hall and Social club can be re-established.

To celebrate the ultrafast broadband finally reaching Templeton, and the reopening of Templeton Village Hall, a barbecue event for the whole village is planned, which includes the construction of a new, permanent barbecue. Thank you so much, Mike Pancherz and Martin Hill for agreeing to build the barbecue and base. This will be

for everyone's use and will hopefully attract additional bookings as it can be used by anyone booking Templeton Village Hall.

We are also hoping that Templeton can still run its popular annual village fete in August! Of course, all this depends on the vaccine rollout going to plan.

### Our thoughts and good wishes

Sadly, we heard of the recent death of Mr George Fry who used to live in Templeton. Although George and his wife moved away from Templeton, his daughter Caroline and family still live in the village. Our deepest sympathy goes to all the family.

Our thoughts also go to the people in Templeton who are unwell, or who are awaiting, receiving, or recovering from hospital treatment. We hope that you will be on the road to recovery soon.

Lynda (tel: 881318) would like everyone in Templeton to know that she is on the end of the phone for anyone who would like a chat or has any concerns (all completely confidential, of course).

### Flower and Cleaning Rota May to June

Julie Dent	25 April / 2 May
Phillida Strong	9 / 16 May
Ginah Palmer	23 / 30 May
Sue Coffin	6 / 13 June
Gloria Woollacott	20 / 27 June

more, we could actually sing Easter hymns outside at the beginning and end of the Services!

Holy Week was marked by a Service of Compline every evening, and Good Friday was remembered at Templeton church, as always. Following some relaxing of Covid restrictions it is now possible to have Holy Communion at all our churches, in rotation. Please see details on the Exe Valley Churches website. It is still necessary to book in with the Office. Many Lay-led Services are starting again with booking in with the Churchwardens of the respective church.

The Easter Trail was very enjoyable, with every church depicting part of the Easter story - all very cleverly thought out and artistic. You no doubt saw the very telling and stark Cross by the lychgate. We thank Hugh and Juliet for this, and Denise for supplying the wood.

We send our love and prayers to all those who are unwell, bereaved, anxious and unable to see their families at this time. They are all in our thoughts. Easter and all the signs of Spring give us new hope.

We are happy that the children of the parish are now back at school and, with the easing of restrictions, their sports and other interest groups are now able to re-start. It is so good that they are now getting back to more normal times and activities. Parents and other adults too, are now feeling able to travel to see family and friends (albeit outside at the moment).

Our hearts are lifted also with the sunny, spring weather (although we have sometimes had cold winds and even a scattering of snow!) The bluebells are just beginning to show themselves and we have seen house martins so, once again, we take nature's lead as it begins to show the positivity of opening up and re-birth. Hopefully, at the next step in May, we will

## WASHFIELD

*The beautiful spring cometh and, when nature resumes her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also.*

**W**hat a beautiful, sunny and celebratory Easter Weekend! It was so good to have Holy Communion Services taking place in four of our churches, as well as Morning Prayer on 'zoom' and 'phone for those who could not get to them. What is

*continued overleaf* ➔

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# PARISH ROUND-UP

have even more freedoms and feel brighter and more confident to proceed with our lives.

Easter brought some of the warmest weather so far this year and the children who took part in the Easter egg hunt/word search around the village were happy to be out in the sunshine for the trail. Easter eggs were their reward and well received. Thanks to the Memorial Hall committee for funding this event in the absence of the traditional Egg decorating and rolling (which we were sadly unable to hold).

We send heartfelt condolences and sympathies to Liz and Roger Arnold and their family as they mourn Liz's mum's sudden death in April. Margaret Rabjohns was an amazing mum to Jennifer, Liz and Richard and a wonderful Grandma to their children and a great Grandma too. She will be sorely missed by them all; in Washfield and across all the other parishes in the Exe Valley Group as she was widely known and greatly admired. Our thoughts are with you all at this sad time.

As things open up in the village keep a keen eye on the Parish website <https://www.middevonparish.co.uk/washfield> and the Facebook site for the village 'Friends of Washfield and Lower Washfield'

## WITHLEIGH

The perpetrator of the Withleigh parish notes clearly had a rush of blood to the head when submitting those for the March / April magazine, in that what was submitted was, in fact, the February / March notes again!

To further complicate matters, the Withleigh notes in the February magazine were written at the beginning of January to cover both February and March, before the decision was taken to make the February issue for one month only!

With the lockdown and restrictions having continued, there is not much to record once

again. We are all missing so much the personal contact to which we were accustomed, but now at least, with the roll out of the vaccine at such a phenomenal pace, we can look forward positively to better days ahead. Patience, rather than patients!

Our Annual Church Meeting took place on the evening of Monday 15 March, but, as last year, this was a virtual affair by Zoom and telephone conferencing. Thanks were expressed to all who had, and continue to play a part in the life of St Catherine's. Brenda and Paul were re-elected yet again as churchwardens, and the PCC membership remains the same as that elected at last year's annual meeting in October. Despite the church having remained closed for so long, St Catherine's managed to meet its financial obligations, due in no small part to the generous donations of church members. Our Common Fund payment was, once again, made in full, and a letter of thanks has been received from the Diocese.

Being still under lockdown restrictions at the time, Easter was celebrated in a much lower key than normal. Our thanks go to Rev. Ian Johnson for taking our service of Holy Communion, sandwiched between two hymns sung outside, and accompanied by Paul on the guitar.

By the time you read these notes, our church will be open again for Sunday services, initially on the first and third Sundays of the month at 10.45am – see the centre pages for details. ( Holy Communion Services are available every Sunday throughout the Exe Valley Mission Community)

We were sorry to hear of the death of Mary who lived in Withleigh for many years. She was buried and united with her husband, Dan, in Great Bradley Cottage Burial Ground after a service in our Church. Our thoughts are with her family who live in Dorset. Our sympathy to Christine on the sudden death of her sister, Margaret.

A warm Withleigh welcome to the new occupants at Kestrels Gate and Hunters Moon, also to Mike and Dale at Withleigh Farm. We hope you are settling in and look forward to seeing you at events in the village when restrictions allow.

Congratulations to Stuart and Debbie on the birth of their son and also to Alan and Charlotte on becoming grandparents again.

Once again, 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, especially any who have tested positive for Covid.

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

*Coronavirus has turned our world upside down, leaving many of us trying to work out a completely new way of life for ourselves and our families. It's unsettling, stressful and lonely. We simply don't know how long this season of challenge and change is going to last. But we do not journey through uncertainty alone. God, "our ever present help in trouble" is with us and in us. Even now, even as we walk this long road, He is holding us in His right hand. As long as we are held by the hand of God, we cannot get lost. We are having to cope with a new normal here on Earth, but nothing has changed in God's Kingdom; so we can face each day with confidence as we hold our Father's strong hand.*

[Based on a prayer booklet published by Our Daily Bread Ministries]





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# CHILDREN'S PAGE

## PENTECOST

Reading from the Bible  
Acts chapter 2

LANGUAGES I CAN SPEAK

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

(CONTINUE OVERLEAF)

FIRE

Things that fall over when it's windy

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_


3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

5 \_\_\_\_\_

Why the hurricane sound, fire and different languages?

your ideas here



What seemed to be tongues of fire come to rest on each of them... It sounds like a violent gale... they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in languages from all around the world...

OR

How do you imagine the scene?

I spend time listening to \_\_\_\_\_ but I would prefer to listen to \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to speak to \_\_\_\_\_

what happened before this story?

I would like it if the spirit helped me to...

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer:

Flying a kite

sailing

chasing leaves

My hair on a windy day

MARKS OUT OF 10

ornate fireplace

fire alarm going off


fire engine

firefox

bonfire night


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I stepped through the gateway onto the grass and felt the soft earth beneath my feet. Each blade of grass was blessed with a sparkling diamond where Mother Nature had scattered a billion dewdrops. As I trod the sheep path across the field, I suddenly realised what it meant to have farming blood in my veins. This is what my father missed. Feeling one with the earth, aware of buds awakening on oak and ash, hearing water running over stones in the ditch, individual bird song, lambs bleating, noticing the colours and scents changing with the seasons and the sense of meadows and trees enveloping him, keeping him in their world.

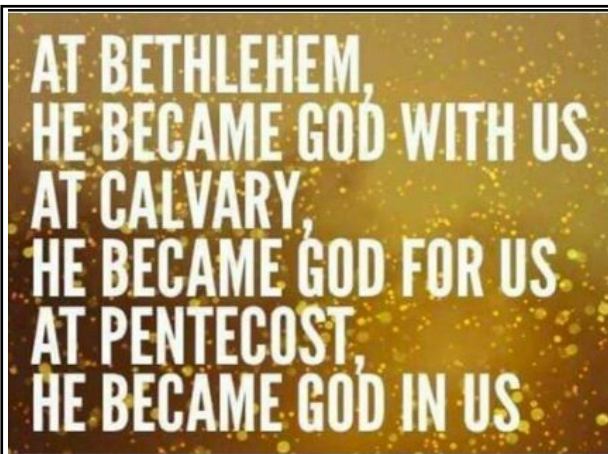
Dementia had robbed him of his lifetime's work, had uprooted him and dropped him in a bewildering, strange place where his skills and knowledge were unrecognised and he felt useless.

How glad we were to bring him to Devon where he was surrounded by fields, farms and farming folk who were happy to talk of sheep prices, cattle, market and memories of their fathers' shire horses, threshing machines, homemade cider and little grey Fergies.

Caring for someone with dementia is not easy, but help was at hand. Devon Carers were able to advise and support, providing information about dementia, signposting to support groups, events and availability of equipment. Their training courses ranged from Mindfulness, Stress Management, First Aid, and Resilient Relationships to many others.

Devon Carers support unpaid carers; not just those caring for someone with dementia, but anyone caring for someone who is frail, disabled, ill, struggling with a mental health problem or an addiction. Sometimes all you need is a chat, sometimes you need more than that. Devon Carers helped me to find what I needed to ensure my father's life with dementia was one of fulfilment and joy.

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