



TODAY

The Parish
Magazine
for the
Exe Valley
Mission
Community

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023

Price £1.00

GRATEFUL THANKS

A very Happy New Year to you all!

Over the past weeks we have been wishing happiness to each other, asking each other what are you hoping to have or what did you get? Could it be that over this past year there have been certain times and people that have brought us deep joy and meaning?

By reflecting on these experiences that bring great joy, we occasionally get moments of revelation of the reasons why. Those times and places are often more about who you were with, what you appreciate about them and noticing a little of what you yourself might have also brought to the moment. Being with and delighting in relationships uplifts and strengthens all of us.

Having formed a choir in the Exe Valley last year, it has been so wonderful to hear what brought people joy from being a part of it. "It's an effort to get to the different churches to practise, but once there with everyone it's amazing and I come home really buzzing and so happy".

Something so deep and transformative happens when you sing out the name of Jesus "I

get goosebumps and well up at that point" said one person.

Members of the congregation at the Advent service said they were uplifted and wished church could always be like this. It can be! It is a foretaste of what is to come. We get glimpses of heaven during worship for which we are grateful. Maybe this year more of us will enter into everything that defines 'Church' and experience the lasting peace, hope and joy that is Jesus.



Last year both Steph and I conducted many funerals, there was a great deal of loss experienced in the Exe Valley. We have said thank you for the lives of those who have gone before us. We have shared the stories of those loved and now missed with many who come along to the Exe Valley lunches. Last month Tony brought some wonderful photos of years gone by to share at the

Calverleigh lunch, we laughed so long and hard as Tony relived wearing the tiger (a story for Tony to tell). See page 5 for photos and page 3 for dates for the January and February lunches.

There is a beautiful line in C of E liturgy that asks God to 'help us to use aright the time that is left to us'. Perhaps let's begin 2023 by being grateful for those around us, counting our blessings and answers to prayer. A wonderful answer to prayer has recently come to me. I'd been hoping to 'Pray-ride' around the Exe Valley villages and lanes since starting my curacy. God has recently answered my prayer and given me a gentle, kind and beautiful Highland pony called 'Bertie' (page 5) via a lovely local lady called Kim, to journey with me for as long as needed. So far Bertie has carried me to our churches to remember, to baptise, to consecrate and also to visit and pray with individuals. If you see us do have a chat, relationship is everything and prayer is the key, maybe you'll join in and give it a try this year.

Sending love to you all.
Claire

Please look at the website for any updates.

Copy Deadline for March / April 2023 issue

Monday 6 February 2023

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FROM STEPH

ANDY FLANNAGAN - Our 5th Sunday Guest Speaker at Rackenford 29th January 10.45am.

Andy is the Executive Director of Christians in Politics and former Director of Christians on the Left. He is a songwriter, a singer and an ex-doctor as well as an author. He now lives in the West Country as the odd one out with Jenny, Jesse and Jubilee.

"Andy consistently provokes and inspires in equal measures. His passion to play his part in the mission of God shines through." RUTH VALERIO A ROCHA UK

"Andy's passion, biblical insight and story-telling ability will convince even the most sceptical that they could and should be more than mere commentators on politics." GARY STREETER MP

Andy is reaching out, inspiring and equipping us to become engaged with a system that affects us deeply, and through which we in turn can effect radical and transformational change across our society." HIS GRACE, THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, JUSTIN WELBY

Come and join us for our Exe Valley Lunches 12.30pm-2.30pm

9th January at Templeton, 26th January at Calverleigh

9th February at Oakford, 20th February at Washfield

Transport available, please contact the church office 01884 250417 or Claire on 07873 575276 to book your place.



**Worship Retreat Day at Mill House
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PARISH ROUND-UP

NATURE NOTES

When you read this Christmas will be but a memory - bittersweet but hopefully as important and as cherishable as ever.

My memory became somewhat confused during Advent when I was informed that it had been discovered that winters can be cold - I am sure I was sent home early once from school at the end of November because of snow - you never forget getting out of school early. Corrupting your own memory is however allowed, and surely every Christmas is blessed with snow plus robin and plentiful holly and never mild.

Natural sights often feature in my retained memory and I carry forward from Autumn of last year the view of three large stags standing quietly together, when only weeks before they spent whole days roaring gutturally at each other.

Who will forget the summer sight of our London visitor who thought a slow worm was a snake? - surely every Christmas the tale will come up so even if he has tried to forget, it will not be allowed.

The soft fruit in our freezer reminds me of the heavily laden trees, so laden that the branches were as bent as hairpins.

Meanwhile the apple trees looked miserably on with little to show from a glorious summer.

The giant sunflowers also didn't agree and were no taller than me, but I loved them anyway, and I wonder whether time will make me forget even Devon was dusty dry.

It matters little whether my memory is accurate or chronologically correct as these pictures in my mind are reassuringly present.

I do not know if the wren that is always by the back door [or is it the robin that is just as neighbourly?] is the same one or the fifth generation. All I know is the value of these sights.

It may be said Fings ain't what they used to be but then neither is nostalgia.

I am sure Nature in 2023 will provide more memories for the bank.

Thomas More

Join us for our
Coffee Morning
via Zoom

This takes place on the
4th Wednesday of the
month at 10.30am

*Join us when you can
and leave when you
have to!*

On the second
Wednesday each month
in person at 10.00am

11th January and
8th February at Tiverton
Golf Club

Future venues around
Tiverton and the Exe Valley

Check out Steph's weekly
update or the website.

Ciara's Kenya 2024 Trip

Hello I am Ciara. I live in Church View, Templeton with my parents and younger sister. In 2024 I am going on a volunteering trip to Kenya with my school, where I will be assisting teachers in schools, coaching sports activities, and helping build facilities. I must fundraise for my place on the Kenya team, and the donations of items such as sanitary products that I will be taking with me.

I have already started my fundraising journey, and some of you may have seen me at the Templeton Bonfire night selling toffee apples and cupcakes. I will be carrying on with those small events like cake sales and raffles, and possibly plan some bigger events next year.

For a contribution to my fundraising, please contact me if I can help with small jobs. If you have a dog that needs walking on the weekends, small animals that need looking after, a car that needs washing, or any other small jobs that need doing, you can email me at: ciaraskenyaatrip2024@gmail.com

If you would like to find out more about my volunteering trip or sponsor me, please visit:
<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ciara-wilson-1>



Bertie and Claire



Claire's beautiful gift from her church family



Consecration of ground at Templeton Church with Bishop Jackie



Soup Lunch fun at Tatty Amory's!!



The Oakford Tree Elves



Exe Valley Choir on Advent Sunday

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PARISH ROUND-UP

CALVERLEIGH

HAPPY NEW YEAR and hoping that you all had a great Christmas and that it was all you wished it to be.

We were pleased to welcome Margaret, who grew up in Calverleigh, and her husband Dave to our service on 16 October. They were married in the church 40 years ago on that date. Our congratulations and best wishes went to them on the day and also go to anyone who has celebrated a significant anniversary or birthday in the past two months.

Mo and Paul would like to express their thanks and appreciation to all those who helped with, and supported the Bingo on 28 October 2022, be it attending, draw prizes and/or monetary donations. Special thanks to Carol and Stephen. £440 was raised for Calverleigh Church.

A Remembrance Sunday service was held on 13 November. The service, led by Julie, told of the origins of poppy wearing which was inspired by the poem 'In Flanders Fields' and how Thomas Sage of Tiverton became a holder of the VC for bravery during action. There was also a time of reflection while listening to music.

The Autumn Fayre was held on 19 November and was a very good day. There were the usual stalls and competitions along with light refreshments. A lot of dear friends from around the valley attended along with a few new faces. Our grateful thanks go to all who manned stalls, helped with setting up on the Friday or in the

kitchen on the day or contributed in any way. With some generous donations and spending on the day the event raised an amazing £1173.10 towards church funds.

We were pleased to hear the lovely news of the marriage of Mark and Victoria. Congratulations to you both and we wish you a long and happy life together.

Tiverton and District Girlguiding held their Christingle service on 1 December in church which was full of Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Guide Leaders and invited guests. A 'runway' of made of painted/decorated jars with tea lights, which had been made by 5th Tiverton Guides, led the girls across the green from the village hall to the church. During the service painted pebbles portraying the Nativity were displayed and stayed in church throughout the Christmas period. It was a lovely service and Steph gave a moving talk about Believing. Girlguiding brought donations of food items, toiletries and money towards CHAT. Thank you to all involved with the preparation of the church.

The following day, quite fittingly, there was a Memorial Service and burial of ashes for Pat Knapp who for over 40 years lived at Frogwell. Over the years she was a volunteer guide at Tiverton Castle and Knightshayes and was a Guide Leader with a Tiverton Unit. Representatives from Tiverton and District Guiding gathered around the graveside where Pat's ashes had been interred and sang TAPS, which was very moving. Her family were pleased to meet Pat's friends and neighbours; people they had heard much about.

Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one, whether recently or not so.

On 4 December we held our own Christingle service. The service was led by Nik who had hidden many household items placed around the church that represented different elements of the Christingle. When brought forward an explanation was given and a prayer suggestion offered for each item. Thanks were given to Doreen who provided the Christingles. We would also like to thank the team (you know who you are) who put the Christingles together which is no easy task when you have so many to do!

During the course of December, items for CHAT of dried/tinned goods and toiletries have been collected in church and delivered to their office early in the new year. (If this magazine is delivered early enough, you may still get a chance to donate, if you haven't already!). Thanks to everyone who has done so.

Cleaning Rota

19 Dec - 7 Jan:	Mrs J Goldsworthy
9 - 21 Jan:	Mrs M Furneaux
23 Jan - 4 Feb:	Mrs R Tapp
6 - 18 Feb:	Miss J Herniman
20 Feb - 4 Mar:	Miss S Goldsworthy

Flower Rota (tbc)

8 - 15 Jan:	Mrs N Burton
22 - 29 Jan:	Mrs A Webber
5 - 12 Feb:	Mrs L Thomas
19 Feb:	Mrs M Radford
No Flowers during Lent (22 Feb - 6 Apr)	

Do you have anything to share in the magazine or website (for last minute events or messages)? Please send

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PARISH ROUND-UP

your family notices, news, birthdays, anniversaries, photos, stories or anything else to Dave Burton by calling 01884 561499 or by email: calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org. We also have a Facebook page, so please like and follow us: www.facebook.com/calverleighchurch. Please see the centre pages of the magazine or the website (www.exevalleychurches.org/calverleigh) for any update information on services or activities.

CRUWYS MORCHARD

Happy New Year to one and all! Hopefully you've had an enjoyable Christmas and are ready for 2023 and all that it may bring.

New Year Blessing by Joanna Fuchs

*Here comes a brand new year,
Lots of new things to explore,
A clean, blank slate to write on,
Fun happenings galore.*

*To you we wish the best of things,
All the blessings a new year brings.*

Church of the Holy Cross

We thank Claire Curtis for leading our Remembrance service where we remembered the fallen of our parish and all those affected by war.

It will be lovely to get together during our various Christmas services and we would like to thank one and all for reading, leading, helping, attending and generously providing donations for

CHAT. Our donations are always gratefully received.

In October the Exe Valley Mission community's regular monthly Soup lunch was held at our parish hall. The event was well attended, we enjoyed a good lunch and the opportunity to catch-up and meet new faces. Please see the beginning of this magazine for information about future Soup lunches, a transport bus is available for those who need it.

Our Christmas Craft Fayre held in November was a great success with a good variety of stalls displaying expert crafts for sale, the usual popular hamper raffle and of course the homemade soup lunch. Many thanks to all who contributed and supported us on the day we raised a total of £926.50 for church funds.

Flower and Cleaning Rota

Jan 2/9	Cindy Trick
Jan 16/23	Denyse Standen and Jo Hilton
Jan 30/Feb 6	Sue and Pauline Guscott
Feb 13/20	Anne Gillbard
Feb 27/Mar 6	Lorna Warren

(no flowers, Lent)

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are unwell at this time and to those who have suffered a bereavement.

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

Christmas Tree Festival

Thank you to everyone who supported this event, be you a crafter, helper,

singer or visitor it was a joy to see our church lit up in such a festive manner.

Cruwys Morchard YFC

We ventured out for our annual Christmas meal on Saturday 3 December at the Red Deer in Crediton. A festive evening enjoyed by all.

At present members are practising for the Entertainment competition that will be held in January whilst also planning and preparing for the up coming Junior Public speaking competition. We have also many members who have gained their skills for life in baking, sewing and paper craft.

If you are interested in joining us our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month at Cruwys Morchard Parish hall, 7.30pm. We look forward to meeting you.

Congregational Churches

We look forward to seeing you at our warm space opportunities:

Coffee Morning on Tuesdays at Nomansland Chapel from 11am to 12.30pm.

Lovely Lunches first Saturday of the month 12noon to 2pm in Pennymoor Chapel.

Sunday services

2.30pm Nomansland chapel *

4.30pm Pennymoor chapel *

* Except for 3rd Sunday of the month, all join Way Village Chapel 2.30pm.

Please check Facebook or Notice Board for advertising. Alternatively contact Ruth on 01363 530013.

Cruwys Morchard and Puddington Gardeners

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The standard requirement is for annual testing - usually referred to as PAT (Portable Appliance Tests)

Chris Whitehead, who carries out tests for Stoodleigh Church, is prepared to carry out these tests for any church in the Mission Community which does not already have their own arrangements.

Contact details on page 2.

PARISH ROUND-UP

being the use of peat free composts. Samples of those commercially available were passed around and we were able to compare texture and price. We exchanged our experiences of using them in the past year and how they could be made more suitable for different needs by adding grit, sand and topsoil. Jonty Barlow from the biogas digester operation in Nomansland came to introduce himself to the group prior to giving a talk in Puddington Village Hall in December. We have formed links with neighbouring garden clubs to better share information and support each other's events. To this end, three of us attended a very interesting talk by the head gardener of Killerton in Tiverton. Our next meeting will be on February 4 in The Cruwys Arms, 8pm.

Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall

The Christmas Quiz held on Saturday 3 December was very well attended and raised over £500.00 for parish hall funds. Thank you to everyone involved in the event and congratulations to Mixed 'Erbs who were this year's winners.

Magazine Contact

If you would like something included in the Cruwys Morchard parish round-up please contact Ali Vincent on 07801 480806 or alisonpvincent@hotmail.co.uk

LOXBEARE

By the time we receive our magazine, we will have celebrated the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ, and held our Christmas services. We now wish everyone a Happy and peaceful New

Year. With much uncertainty and suffering in our world may we not forget the many who have so little and those who have lost so much.

It was good to meet together at the Advent Group Service at Oakford on 27 November. We thank them and all who took part including the Exe Valley Choir and Steph who led the service. It was a lovely service and the choir sang so well.

Thank you to all who took part in our Remembrance Service as we remembered the bravery and sacrifices, some with their lives, of all in our forces and give thanks to them. A sum of £225 was given to the Royal British Legion from the Loxbeare Community.

A PCC meeting will take place on 24 Jan at 19.30 in the Church.

Please see the middle pages for dates, times and places for our services.

Many thanks and much appreciation to those who have kept the Churchyard so neat and tidy during the year and for any general maintenance of the Church etc. Also thank you to all who have supported and contributed in any way to the running of the Church. For time and commitment given by those who have taken and helped in various ways in the Church services.

We thank all those who have given financially over the past year. But our outgoings, at present, are exceeding our income. If any would like to support the Church with regular donations or a one-off gift we would be very grateful. Please contact Carol on 01884 881480 if you are interested.

A Flower and Craft Festival is being planned in the Church over the King's

Coronation weekend. More details in the next magazine.

Thank you to Jean for organising and holding a Coffee Morning on 29 October in aid of Blythwood Shoe Box Appeal, which with donations raised £340. Many thanks to those who supported and gave including those who gave shoeboxes already filled.

We pray for and remember Stephen and all who are feeling unwell, having treatment, or waiting for appointments/treatments.

Happy Birthday to all who have birthdays in January/February and anyone who will be celebrating special occasions.

There will be a Christmas/New Years' Party on Saturday 14 January in the Village Hall at 18.00. There will be a Bring and Share Supper. Come along and join in.

The January cream tea will be later than usual in the month on Saturday 28 at 15.00-16.30. In February it will be back to the second Saturday on Feb 11.

So as we go through the winter months of Jan/Feb we trust the weather will be kind. May we not forget those who are on their own during the long dark nights, feeling lonely and not able to get out as much.

OAKFORD

Here we are again at the start of a new year, 2023..... where did 2022 go? planet earth has surely accelerated.



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PARISH ROUND-UP

This report starts by looking back on all that took place at the end of 2022.

A Children's Halloween party in the Village Hall organized by Georgina, Sid and a team of mums raised funds for the Village Community area.

The Community Area was also supported by all who went to the 70's, 80's 90's Disco held in the Village Hall. A great evening of music, food and fun in a fabulous disco atmosphere which raised over £1000. Thanks to John, Julia, Paul & Jennie and all who helped with this event.

The Murder Mystery Supper Evenings presented by Oakford Players and the Village Hall Committee were brilliant, another great event at the village hall. Thanks to everyone involved.

The Remembrance Service was held on Sunday 13th November around the Memorial and afterwards in St Peter's Church. Thank you to all involved.

On 27th November the bells of St Peter's, Oakford rang out to call villagers of the Exe Valley Valley Mission Community to a group service for Advent. The church was beautifully decorated, every pew in the church was full and each member of the congregation held a candle lit from the Advent candle.

The Exe Valley Choir sang 'Songs for Advent' followed by readings by folk from the 9 Parishes. After the service everyone enjoyed mulled wine, mince pies and sausage rolls.

A huge thank you to our amazing Sarah who leads the choir with a magic touch and to Rosie who provided the accompaniment on the piano. Thanks also to Steph, Dave and Dawn and

everyone involved in making the service truly joyful.

At the beginning of December the village was decorated with Christmas lights on Rookery Hill and Crosspark Hill. Individual houses were also alight with sparkling lights and the Village tree was erected and beautifully decorated by a the usual loyal band of elves.

The Moorland ladies and guests enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner at the village hall. Many thanks to super chef Julia and Ellie and Dawn for waitressing.

Carols around the village tree and a Carol service in the beautifully decorated church (thank you ladies), and Holy Communion early on Christmas Day completes Oakford's Christmas Season.

Now to 2023 and dates for your diaries. The Quiz at the Red Lion 22 January and 19 February

Moorland Ladies.

19 January - 2.30pm at the village hall, Craft & chatter afternoon.

9 February - 6pm for 6.30pm - Fish & chips evening followed by games, organised by Sue.

Anyone interested in joining the Moorland Ladies contact Chairperson Jennie Chappell - 01398 351666

Parish Council.

When weather permits the Parish Council will erect a dog proof fence around the children's swings to enable all members of the community to enjoy the Village Community Area.

Oakford Players

This brilliant group would like to welcome new members. Anyone

interested in joining them should contact Tony Holmes 01398 351665

Oakford Village Hall

The hall is used for various events by individuals and organisations.

To hire the village hall contact Dawn 01398 324035

A Village Community freezer.

This winter could be hard for a lot of people so the suggestion has been made to have a village community freezer. Donations of meals, microwave meals, puddings, cakes etc could be made in portioned sizes (labelled with contents and date) and could be stored in the freezer and used by anyone in need of a ready prepared meal. There is a freezer ready at Blue Hayes, Oakford. For more information contact - Sid on 07799 417453 or Julia 01398 351682

We send best wishes to Donald, Ken and Lesley and anyone in the parish who is poorly at this time. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Best wishes also to all who have birthdays or special anniversaries in January and February.

RACKENFORD

Our Christmas will probably be over by the time this issue is delivered. We hope you will have enjoyed the festive period and the rejoicing at this very special time. We sang praises at our many church services and throughout the Exe Valley with your family and friends.

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1 JANUARY

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Morning Worship

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Prayer

LOXBEARE

No service

OAKFORD

See Stoodleigh

RACKENFORD

See Stoodleigh

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Holy Communion
Georgie Bell

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

3.00pm Evening Prayer

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Family Service

8 JANUARY

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

See Washfield

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Prayer

LOXBEARE

See Washfield

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

9.15am Explore
Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and Dave Edwards

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

TEMPLETON

No service

WASHFIELD

10.45am Holy Communion
Claire Curtis
with Dave Edwards

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Plough Sunday Service

15 JANUARY

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

9.30am Family Service
with Steph Gordon-Jeffs and
Dave Edwards

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Templeton

LOXBEARE

10.45am Service of the Word
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

OAKFORD

No Service

RACKENFORD

No service

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

TEMPLETON

10.45am Holy Communion
with Baptism
Claire Curtis and
Dave Edwards

WASHFIELD

No service

WITHLEIGH

See Templeton

22 JANUARY

9.30am Zoom Service

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR
OUR MISSION
COMMUNITY
HOLY COMMUNION
GROUP SERVICE
at
10.45 am in
STOODLEIGH**

Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and Claire Curtis
with Dave Edwards

Everyone welcome

29 JANUARY

WITHLEIGH

9.30am Poems, Prayers and
Praise in Village Hall

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

29 JANUARY

**OUR
MISSION
COMMUNITY 5TH
SUNDAY SERVICE**

is at

**10.45 am in
RACKENFORD**

**WITH GUEST
SPEAKER**

**ANDY FLANNAGAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF CHRISTIANS IN
POLITICS AND ALSO
SINGER/SONGWRITER**

Steph Gordon-Jeffs,
Claire Curtis and
Dave Edwards

5 FEBRUARY

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Morning Worship

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Prayer

LOXBEARE

No service

OAKFORD

10.45am Holy Communion

*Steph Gordon-Jeffs
with Dave Edwards*

RACKENFORD

See Oakford

STOODLEIGH

See Oakford

TEMPLETON

No service

WASHFIELD

10.45am Morning Prayer

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Family Service

12 FEBRUARY

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Holy Communion

with Baptism

*Claire Curtis
and Dave Edwards*

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Family Service

LOXBEARE

See Calverleigh

OAKFORD

No service

RACKENFORD

9.15am Explore

Claire Curtis and Dave Edwards

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

See Calverleigh

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Morning Worship

19 FEBRUARY

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

9.30am Family Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Withleigh

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

10.45am Morning Prayer

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

TEMPLETON

See Withleigh

WASHFIELD

9.30am Toddlers and All Ages

Family Service

Claire Curtis and Dave Edwards

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Holy Communion

*Steph Gordon-Jeffs
with Dave Edwards*



22 FEBRUARY Holy Communion with Ashes

12 noon at
Stoodleigh
Claire Curtis

Baptism and Confirmation

We have had a wonderful number of Baptisms booked in this year. What a joy it is to welcome so many families into our churches.

Do please get in touch, if you or your child, would like to be baptised. Maybe you have been baptised but never confirmed. If you are interested in being confirmed and would like to find out more, do please contact the church office and speak to Steph.



26 FEBRUARY

9.30am Zoom Service

**OUR
MISSION
COMMUNITY
HOLY
COMMUNION
GROUP SERVICE**

is at
**10.45 am in
TEMPLETON**

*Steph Gordon-Jeffs,
Claire Curtis
with Dave Edwards*

Everyone Welcome

PARISH ROUND-UP

To add to the joy, Father Christmas may have come and the carol singers may have arrived in your area to wish you a Merry Christmas too. Not forgetting the Christmas lunches we may have enjoyed.

We give thanks for the Exe Valley, our Explore services with Steph and Claire leading our worship and for the children and parents who take part. We give thanks for our Lay Led services with Mary and Liz and Graham at the organ, for the readers and all who help.

Sometimes there is a delay in what is mentioned in the magazine because of the dates magazine notes need to be forwarded etc.

On October 5 the schoolchildren held their Harvest service and prior to this brought a wonderful amount of gifts to be displayed. All of these gifts were later taken to CHAT food bank in Tiverton who were so grateful to the children and parents for their generosity.

On October 9 Claire took our Explore service. Lovely to have Dave too. The children had games to enjoy, trying to remember all the items Liz had displayed on a tray. Very well remembered. Books made by Claire were given to the children referred to as "Me Books" to write what they are thankful for. Thank you to Elliott and Margot for readings, read so beautifully with no practice. The children played hand bells and we talked about what bells were originally rung for.

Tea, coffee and squash was enjoyed along with the biscuits passed around by the children.

Do come and enjoy our Explore services, so many things to take part in.

As always we thank Fred, Brian and George for all the hard work involved in cutting back our church hedge and making it look so tidy once again. We really appreciate all you do for us and know how much of your time it takes up.

On October 14 the Harvest decorating was completed. Thank you to all who gave their time, brought flowers and foliage and made it look so colourful. Our Harvest Thanksgiving service took place on 16 which was Lay Led, we gave thanks in hymns and prayers. Many thanks to Graham also and to all of you who joined us in worship and praise for all we have to be grateful for on our land.

On October 19 we had a scaled down version Harvest Supper at Rackenford Club where we were made so welcome by Debbie, nothing was too much trouble, a lovely fire welcomed everyone. All who supported us enjoyed the traditional supper, a wide variety of desserts, cheese and biscuits, coffee /tea. Drinks from the bar were also available. Many thanks to Ann for running our draw, and to all who donated draw prizes. Thank you to you all for coming to support us. Not forgetting all the delicious desserts given by PCC and friends, a £319.67 profit was made, such a good amount. Without Rackenford Club this event would not have been possible.

We would like to take this opportunity to send our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the late Stafford Sampson. Stafford auctioned our Harvest for many years and worked hard for us and always such good fun.

October 31 saw the young children in the village dressing up and having fun visiting us at Halloween. It was such terrible weather but the children along with parents were not deterred. The children were so polite and grateful for the treats received, hope you enjoyed them. You looked amazing in your costumes.

November 5 soon arrived and the common was full of people keeping warm by the Bonfire, enjoying refreshment and watching the spectacular display of fireworks lighting up the sky. We hope it was a good evening. Thank you to the village shop and to all who contributed in any way.

We were so thankful to Jackie for taking our Remembrance Service at the War Memorial on November 13 at 10.50am and to all who attended to pay their respects to the men that gave up their lives for us. Thank you for all the detail researched for this service and the names of men lost from this parish. It means so much to us. We will remember them. Thank you Sharon and the Rackenford Rascals for playing, it means so much to us. Also so poignant hearing you play The Last Post, Sharon. Many thanks to Richard and Christine for organizing the wreath and to Christine for laying it this year. The collection of £150 was sent to The Royal British Legion. The service concluded with the National Anthem.

It was good to see Derek and Mary and we pray your health continues to improve.

This is our first opportunity to send our deepest sympathy and prayers to John, his family and friends on the death of his wife Margaret (Maggie). We were

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PARISH ROUND-UP

sad to hear of her passing. You are very much in our thoughts.

Our continued prayers to our families, friends and those in our parish who are not well, awaiting appointments, surgery or feeling a bit lonely or depressed. We think of you Jacques and are always pleased to see you out and about with Mary and your carers. Please let us know if you would like a mention or know of anyone who is unwell.

Pleased to report we had a positive outcome on our church organ inspection, no work needed and also after an inspection by Ian Smith and Ian Campbell and Belfries Advisors from Guild of Devonshire Ringers the bells etc were found to be entirely sound and safe to ring. Such a relief to hear.

Many thanks to Glenn for keeping an eye on our church clock and making sure its on time. We really appreciate all you do. Liz has been able to give an update on our sponsored walk, we (YOU) have helped us raise £2, 295 so far, with more still coming in and Gift Aid to be claimed. How amazing is that.

A great time was had by all at Crediton for Claire's ordination and again at Cruwys Morchard when Claire was presented with a beautiful Communion Set made by local potter Tilly Young. It was a privilege to share your joy Claire.

The church was full at Oakford on November 27 for the Advent service at 10.45am. The Exe Valley Choir were a joy to listen to and were all rehearsing for months. Sarah Milne was the choir master and Rosie Bruce played the piano. Steph took this service which

was so enjoyable and uplifting. Good to see some from all parishes attending the service. We all enjoyed Mulled Wine and Mince Pies after.

A few people have been asking why we are no longer including surnames of some people mentioned in our parish. This is entirely due to Data Protection rules we have to follow. Special permission would have to be sought each time.

Now we are into darker nights the church will be locked earlier (BEFORE DARK). There is no set time for it to be UNLOCKED unless requested, which we already do for the school and cleaning. Any request please ring Hilda.

We held a Christmas Fayre on December 3 and we would like to thank all those who worked so hard setting up, delivering boards for table tops, items to be sold, to all the stall holders, especially the new people that joined us. To all who made delicious cakes, mince pies etc and manned the stalls and draw prizes donated and thanks Ann for running the draw. We hope you were pleased with your purchases.

Lovely of you to play carols in the background Graham in the light of the beautiful Christmas tree given and decorated by Liz and Tim, thanks also to all who help and gave foliage to trim up for Christmas.

Thank you to all the volunteers for keeping our shop running and helping us all with so much.

Several amongst us, children and adults have still been experiencing this nasty Covid bug. Hope you are all well

again. Wishing you all a very happy and healthier 2023.

STOODLEIGH

Report from St Margaret's

It is sad to report that we have lost our lovely friend and PCC member Enid Hamadullah. She was a truly unique person with some amazing experiences. In spite of her long illness, she remained cheerful right up until her death. She will be sadly missed.

Two pieces of good news: Thanks to some very determined fund raising by the bell ringers and their friends and equally determined letter writing to possible donors by Nick, we will soon be able to get the treble bell mended and rehung, returning the tower to its full complement of six bells. Secondly, we have raised the money needed to replace the flag pole. Many thanks to everyone who helped, particularly Paul, Jeannie and Will for their determination to get the idea turned into reality.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Coffee Morning on 17 December and our Carol Service on the 18 December. By the time you read this, Christmas and the New Year will have been and gone, so I hope you all had a lovely time and I wish you a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Parish Hall News

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year – looking forward to welcoming you to events at the Hall in 2023.



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PARISH ROUND-UP

It was great to see you all at the Autumn Fair on 29 October. Thank you Stoodleigh and the wider community for your support. Thanks too - stallholders, cooks, bakers, gardeners, volunteers and everyone who contributed. Fabulous!

At the Parish Hall AGM on 15 November, members of the Management Committee for 2022/2023 were elected. We are very grateful to the volunteers who have agreed to continue. The notes of the meeting are on the parish website. At the first meeting after the AGM, Viv Menear was elected as chairperson for a second year. You may be new to the village and just want to meet some fellow villagers or find out about what goes on or you may be looking to get a little more involved. New ideas and new faces are always welcome so please get in touch. Contact the secretary on geraldinetaibot@live.com

Christmas arrived at the Christmas Tree Lighting on 2 December. A crowd of villagers joined in for the countdown to the lighting of the magnificent tree after which they tied on their decorations. Great carol singing around the tree, accompanied by Claire on the keyboard, mulled wine, hot chocolate, refreshments and Christmas songs were enjoyed. Profits were shared between the Churches Housing Action Team (CHAT) and a separate collection for food boxes and cash donations to CHAT was opened and ran until Christmas. Thanks to everyone who made this event possible.

The Hall kitchen refit is due to take place in were January after much planning and discussion. It's hoped the work will be completed within a couple

of weeks and without interfering with regular village classes and bookings. We'll let you know when the new kitchen is ready to share and hire. Watch out for the news on community email and the parish website. The Hall is available for your use so if you would like to hold events or parties, please contact the treasurer, Janet on rusianjan@btinternet.com

Dates for events in 2023 will be announced in the New Year and it's hoped to include regular monthly coffee mornings, new soup and sandwich lunches and the various annual events. Stoodleigh email group: stoodleighweb@gmail.com
Parish website: <https://www.middevonparish.co.uk/stoodleigh/>

Welcome
To Tony and Shirley to Finistere and Liz and Steve to Court Gardens. We hope you enjoy living in Stoodleigh

Garden Club
The Garden Club enjoyed a coffee morning and seed swap in the Autumn, raising money for The Children's Hospice South West. Plenty of new plants will now be growing around Stoodleigh. The club also held their AGM in November, an interesting and enjoyable meeting. Following suggestions from members, plans are now being put in place for next year's programme. The schedule for the coming Annual Show in August has been finalised and can be found in the Garden Club section of the Stoodleigh website. Plenty of time to get growing and crafting for those wishing to enter the classes. There are plans to hold some activities for families during the

year to encourage more children to take part in the Show.

100 Club
Recent winners
October Shirley Blake, Doreen Wyatt, Richard Hill, Linda Brice
November Sheila Norman, Willy Knowles, Andrew Rigamonti, Di Honors, Church Flower rota
1st Jan to 14th Jan Phyllis Hill
15th Jan to 28th Jan Penny Norman
29th Jan to 21st Feb Angela Hill

TEMPLETON

Happy New Year

Happy MMXXIII everyone. Now that the festive season is over, this time of year can seem like a bit of an anti-climax. However, as can be seen from all the activities in November and December last year, there is a lot going on in Templeton. We are so lucky to have St Margaret's Church and Templeton Social Club as both are a great way to meet the neighbours and the wider community. We are also looking for new ideas for new clubs and activities. If you would like to get involved, the church services are published in this magazine and all the clubs below welcome new members so why not come along? We look forward to seeing you.

St Margaret's Church and churchyard
During 2022, there was an effective team effort by many people from the village to prepare the churchyard and the newly extended area ready for the Bishop of Crediton's visit on December 1st to consecrate the land. Thanks to all

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PARISH ROUND-UP

the local help and support, a beech hedge and a copper beech tree were successfully planted, the churchyard was cleared and a perfect spot found for a solid wooden bench to allow visitors to sit in quiet contemplation and enjoy the peace. More recently, Adrian Hunt and his team have expertly stripped and re-plastered the back wall of the church. We are also very grateful to Lynda and Chris who organised the purchase of a new rope for the third bell in the bell tower. More work will be carried out in the year ahead. St Margaret's is a church for our community and it is comforting to know that it is there for us and that it is being looked after.

Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday was held on 13 November. The congregation paid their respects to all those who have died in conflicts around the world, and observed the two minutes silence at 11am. Reg Coffin took the service and recalled, in his youth, having met a First World War veteran, who took the time to talk to a young Reg about his personal experiences, the horrors of the trenches, and his luck at surviving the war. It is so important that these memories are shared and retold and not forgotten by future generations.

Christmas Eve Service

We are very pleased to welcome Steph to St Margaret's on Christmas Eve. Steph will lead our Carol Service and this will be a wonderful, and much missed opportunity to come together as a community and celebrate by singing our favourite carols and to create treasured memories again.

Sunday Services

The Sunday Services for January and February are published in the centre pages of this magazine. January 1 will be a lay-led service; January 15 a Cluster Communion Service with Steph and Dave Edwards; February 12 a morning service and February 26 a Group Service with Holy Communion with Steph, Claire and Dave Edwards. All services are held at 10.45 am.

A special thank you to our organists.

We would like to thank Marjorie and Eleri for their time and expertise in supporting us so wonderfully by playing the organ for our church services over the past year. Live music is wonderful so Marjorie and Eleri are much appreciated.

Templeton Firework Display and Bonfire Night on 5 November

This was a wonderful evening to remember. The weather was kind to us on the night, the bonfire was impressive and the firework display was spectacular. The hot dogs were delicious, and the bar was packed. Everyone had a great time. So strange to think that the last time this event took place was 2019. A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved in making the event such a success; including those who provided the wood and the cardboard for the bonfire, helping to build the bonfire, preparing and serving food and other refreshments, stocking the bar and serving drinks, selling tickets, organising the gate and car parking, and those who organised, arranged and set off the fireworks, and cleared up afterwards! It takes a village to put together an activity like this and we are so lucky to have such a community spirit in Templeton.

The Children's Christmas Party on December 17.

The highly anticipated and always wonderful Children's Christmas Party will be organised by Tony Loosemore for the children of the village and will include a disco and party food for the children plus tea and coffee and the bar for the grownups. The children always love the magical visit from Father Christmas, who gives them all a present. Thank you, Tony for your many years of putting on this lovely family event.

Hornets: The Gentle Giants - talk on December 15

On December 15 Stephen Powles was due to give a wonderful talk entitled Hornets – the Gentle Giants, at St Margaret's Church, which sadly has had to be postponed due to the freezing weather conditions. It will now be held on Thursday 19 January 2023 with mulled wine and mince pies!! This talk has been triggered by the many hornets visiting our church last year. Stephen knows everything there is to know about these fascinating insects. A former vet, Stephen changed career to pursue a lifelong passion for wildlife, including wildlife photography, filming and conservation. Stephen's work has featured in the national press and on TV on a number of occasions and he has won major awards for doing what he is so passionate about. His photography concentrates on interesting and challenging wildlife subjects, many of which live in or close to his home. This will be a fascinating and entertaining talk which Stephen provided free of charge. There was a collection at the end of the evening to support St Margaret's Church repair fund, and Stephen's wildlife cards were on sale.





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PARISH ROUND-UP

Automated External Defibrillator (AED)
Last year, Templeton Village Hall and Templeton Parish Council purchased an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Matthew arranged for his colleague Lee Dyer to provide basic life support training for us, which Templeton Village Hall paid for. There were four training sessions, and, to date, 42 people in Templeton have received the training. There will be refresher sessions in the future. There is also a lot of interest in also running first aid courses in the future. Many thanks to Matthew for arranging the sessions and to Lee for his excellent and informative training.

World Cup Football

They think it's all over – it is now. Templeton Village Hall opened in the evenings from late November until mid-December for football fans to come up and watch the World Cup matches on TV. Many thanks to Mark for organising this. There was great community spirit as everyone enjoyed the beautiful game although it was strange to be doing so in the dark. At the time of writing, England had just got through to the knock out stage so it is safe to say that whatever happened next was an emotional roller coaster.

Annual Christmas Bar Games

Every Saturday evening from 3rd December until the grand final on 17th December, the annual Christmas Bar Games were held. These games included table tennis, pool, darts and skittles - always great fun for everyone. Many thanks to Mark for organising this.

Future Events for 2023

Safari Supper – Saturday March 11

A safari supper is a great social event where different courses of a meal are eaten at different people's houses. In

this way, the cooking is shared, and it's a perfect way for people to meet up with neighbours. So put the date in your diary now!

Templeton Tractor Run

Roland and Reg will be arranging a Tractor Run for some time over April or May. This is a fund-raising event when tractors, old and new, are invited to take part, and the owners drive their tractors along a planned local route, often with lunch and refreshments served before or after the tractor run. As soon as a date has been finalised, we will let you know more details, including the time and the route.

Templeton Trail - Sunday March 27th

The popular annual Templeton Trail will again be held by Exe Valley Rotary Club on Sunday March 27 2023 – with runners setting off from Templeton Village Hall. Last year's event was a great success with 50 runners for this exciting cross-country fun run, and feedback was positive about the experience. Individuals, families and fellow runners are all invited to take part and will hopefully help make this year's event bigger and better than ever. Once again, the event will be mainly off-road, principally using the attractive private (and otherwise inaccessible) woodland roads and tracks of the Cruwys Morchard estate. If you visit the Rotary Club's website nearer the time you will find more details about the run.
Soap Box Run – date to be confirmed
Templeton Village Fete - August 12
Harvest Supper Saturday - October 30

Templeton Garden Club

This club has been running for over a year now with a growing number of people who love to grow plants, meet up monthly and talk about gardening

over a cuppa and cake! More information will be circulated when the group restarts in the spring.

Templeton Book Group

This club meets on every 2nd Wednesday of each month at 3pm at Templeton Village Hall with coffee, tea and cake. The group has doubled in size since it started a few years ago. However, there are a couple of spare places if you are interested in joining. Each member of the group selects their reading choices from a wide range of books available from Tiverton library. A small annual payment is made for the monthly loan of the books from the library. Please contact Julie on 01884 233507 if you would like to know more. The next dates for book group are Wednesday 11 January and Wednesday 8 February.

Templeton Knit and Natter

This popular club is held on the last Friday of each month at 10.30am to 12 midday, in St Margaret's Church, Templeton. Bring any of your repair work, knitting, or embroidery with you or just come along for a cup of coffee, biscuits and a chat. The next dates for Knit and Natter are Friday 27 January and Friday 24 February.

Templeton Village Hall and Social Club

This is your village hall so please come up and use it over these winter months for a game of table tennis, darts, pool or skittles. Everything is there for you to enjoy, or for a family get-together! Just call Bindy on 01884 860655 if you would like to use the hall, and we can check that there is not already a booking. The Social Club is open every Monday and Saturday evening from 8pm to 11pm – with a wide range of



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PARISH ROUND-UP

WASHFIELD

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Protect our dogs – and livestock

In November, there were reports of people in a car in the North Molton area trying to steal dogs, which is a sobering reminder for everyone to keep their animals safe.

There have also been reports of dogs running loose near farmland in the Templeton area. This is of concern to farmers who have to spend time checking their livestock for fear of their animals being attacked. Please can everyone be sure that their dogs are secure and kept under control when they are near any farmland. It is a criminal offence if someone's dog "worries" livestock. And of course, although we live in the countryside, please be sure to 'bag it and bin it'.

Thoughts, prayers, best wishes and farewell

Our thoughts, prayers and best wishes go to anyone in the parish, and beyond, who is unwell, in hospital, receiving or awaiting treatment, or going through a tough time.

We also said farewell to Kate and Andy who moved to Cornwall but have promised to eat their cream teas the correct way. We hope you will be very happy in your new home but we will miss you.

St Margaret's Church Flowers and Cleaning Rota

Flowers and Cleaning

1 Jan/8 Jan	Teresa Pancherz
15 Jan/22 Jan	Gloria Woollacott
29 Jan/5 Feb	Ginah Palmer
12 Feb/19Feb	Bindy Linden
Liz Walker	Lent begins 22 Feb
No flowers	26 Feb/5 March

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky, the flying cloud, the frosty light:

The year is dying in the night; ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new, ring, happy bells, across the snow:

The year is going, let him go;

A Happy and Peaceful New Year to you all and welcome to news of St. Mary's. We hope you are keeping warm and well in this sudden realization that winter has come!

Remembrance Sunday, as always, was marked by a solemn Service of thanksgiving for those who lost their lives in two World Wars and the many other conflicts which have happened since. Maurice Balment read the names on the Memorial and laid the poppy wreath and for the first time for seventy years we sang 'God Bless the King' and we do indeed ask God to bless him in these difficult times. Steph's thoughtful and inspiring emphasis for our worship was on reconciliation and peace. The collection at this service was sent to The Royal British Legion

We started to think about Christmas at the Christingle Service on December 4, with a celebration of Jesus coming to be the light of the world. Christingles were adopted by The Children's Society, when the custom arrived from Moravia, as a way of being thankful for light and to raise money for their work with destitute children. Those of long memory will recall that they were once called 'Waifs and Strays'. Since the late nineteenth century they have worked tirelessly, and at the present time are fighting against the 'grooming' and

exploitation of children as drug-runners. The collection of £60 at our Service will go to the Society.

We would like thank those who helped and who gave generously at the church coffee morning at The Cottage on December 3. A happy time was had by all and the amazing sum of £211 raised for church funds.

We are looking forward to welcoming young children, -and all other ages, to a short gathering, with stories, music and other fun activities on Sunday, February 19 at 9.30am. Claire Curtis, our Curate will be with us, and it would be so good if we had some young people helping on the third Sunday each month - even if only now and again. There will be drinks and biscuits! This is a new venture and we need to help our children to get to know Jesus.

Firstly, we need to celebrate the amazing contribution of parishioner, Colin Radford, who has retired from driving the EVMB (community bus) after 34 of service. He has consistently ferried its passengers on their round trips to Tiverton and back each Friday plus has taken them out on day trips and private hires also. We salute you Colin, for your dedication to this very worthwhile cause. Well done from us all.

With Christmas just around the corner, we hope you had a good festive season. The Social Club and Hall were busy. Firstly, getting a beautiful Christmas tree installed outside the hall (as has become the norm). The Social Club then laid on a wonderful children's Christmas party with games, a disco, buffet tea and Father Christmas himself who switched on the tree lights and distributed the gifts amongst the children. Villagers also put decorations

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PARISH ROUND-UP

on the tree and made and hung garlands on the edge of the village green (a wonderful idea). There was also a festive Christmas Lunch Club with turkey and all the trimmings for all the diners followed by Carols. Happy occasions.

Slightly further back (on a Saturday in October) the Social Club put on two events simultaneously: The culminations of two competitions.

The first was the Pumpkin judging when, after many months of caring for, nurturing and growing the seeds they had purchased, the grand weigh in took place. There were twenty pumpkins brought to be weighed so. It seems, a very good year.

The smallest was 4.5lbs but there were several whoppers who took the plaudits. 1st was Kipper Heywood with 68lbs 2nd was the Wych Family with 65lbs and 3rd was Paul Crease with 50lbs. The prettiest pumpkin award went to Gill Juleff.

A wonderful supper was put on by Peter and Rachel and the proceeds of £151 went to the Disasters Emergency Committee towards the Humanitarian efforts in Ukraine. Alongside this activity was the announcement of the winners of the Photographic competition to give a flavour of the village through the 2020s.

The results were impressive and there were several outstanding photos scooping prizes.

John Burton's image of Michael Kerslake going about his work on gardens in the village summed up all that is special about Washfield and won the People's Choice hands down and took pride of place in the calendar produced later. Making the front cover of the calendar was a stunning aerial shot (from a drone) of the village in the summer heatwave. Also featuring were lots of wildlife (including kingfishers, bees and a deer) plus children of the

village enjoying our stunning parish, swimming, walking and reminding us of just how wonderful it is to grow up here. Well done to the Social Club (and Kath) for organising this project.

The next planned event is an Indie Folk Band music night on Saturday 21st January. Tickets are £10 from the Social Club. Please pay your membership (just £5) of the Social Club as it is a vital part of keeping our village relevant and our community together in the changing times all around us.

Don't forget that teatime@thehall is still as popular as ever and is held, as always, on the second Tuesday of each month between 2.30-4.30pm. All age groups are welcome to pop in for tea, cakes, chatter and support.

We send farewell wishes to Matt and his girlfriend Toni as they leave Washfield (the place of Matt's birth and home to his mum and grandad), to make a new life together with other family members near Cairns, Australia. Their beloved Bengal cat, Peanut, is to join them soon too but in the meantime is keeping Maurice company. We wish you both well as you settle on another continent and in another hemisphere! We know you will be missed here though.

We wish all those with special celebrations and birthdays our sincere wishes and, if you are not well, are having treatment or awaiting operations, we wish you many get well wishes for a speedy recovery.

Church Flower Rota

Jan 8/15

Jan 22/29

Feb 5/12

Feb 19

Mrs Jones

Mrs Harding

Mrs Pannifer

Mrs Bassano

WITHLEIGH

By the time you read this, Christmas will, no doubt, have come and gone, and another year past. So may we wish you all a Happy New Year, and every blessing in 2023.

Our Community Lunch on 11 October was enjoyed by 51 people. We not only enjoyed lunch together but also raised £156 for Bristol Children's Hospital. Thank you one and all for your support, with special thanks to those who provided food, we could not put on the meal without you.

We have decided to hold the next Community Lunch on Tuesday 17 January, the same format as usual 12.30pm for 1pm. This will be a two course meal followed by Tea or Coffee £6 each. Please order your meal by calling Christine on 01884 257571 or Brenda on 01884 252431.

Thank you to Susie for another thought-provoking "Poems, Prayer and Praise" held on 30 October, and for all her preparation. Susie's theme was "All shall be well", taken from a quote by Julian of Norwich - "All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well." Several people took part with various readings, and Paul accompanied the hymns on his guitar, finishing with a Taizé chant. We were pleased Steph was able to join us.

We held a Songs of Praise on 6 November, and thank you, Janet (S), for stepping in at the last minute to lead the service. Thank you to all those who had chosen their favourite hymn, and to those who gave a short explanation for their choice, and our thanks to Janet (R) and Paul for accompanying the hymns. Refreshments were enjoyed at the end of the service.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Our Safari Supper, which was held on Saturday 12 November, was a really enjoyable evening. Congratulations to all of our hosts who put on the most splendid meals. Everyone who took part said how much they had enjoyed the food and the evening. It's a credit to all the wonderful cooks that we have here in Withleigh. Thank you all so much for inviting us into your homes and making everyone feel so welcome. Thank you also to the people who came and enjoyed the evening, driving from house to house and finally to the Village Hall where we all enjoyed the lovely desserts and saw Stephen P's pictures of our celebrations of the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Oh how long ago that seems now! So much has happened since June! But it was great to look back, and Stephen even tested our memories by putting in a few pictures of celebrations from a few years ago, thank you Stephen. Thank you also to those who provided the desserts. We raised £555 which has been shared between St Catherine's Church and the Village Hall. Well done everyone and thank you for your support.

Our Remembrance Sunday Service was held on 13 November. Thank you, Giles, for playing your bagpipes. Harry placed the wreath on the war memorial, and lit a candle as the names of each of those who made the ultimate sacrifice were read out. Thank you, Harry.

During the Cluster Service on Sunday 20 November, in St Catherine's, when Claire officiated, Sophie, daughter of Richard and Becky, was baptised. We welcome Sophie into our church family and pray God will bless her, her family and godparents.

Congratulations to Colin and Helen on the birth of their daughter, Imogen, a granddaughter for Brenda and Nigel.

There was a 'full house' for our Christmas Bingo on 1 December, with £196 being raised for Village Hall funds.

Our Christmas Fayre was held in the Village Hall on Saturday 3 December, from 10.30am to 3.30pm. There were various craft and seasonal stalls, cakes, produce, two raffles (one taking place in the morning and one in the afternoon), cake draw, and hamper draw. Our grateful thanks go to all who supported the event by coming along, including the stallholders, those serving refreshments throughout the day, and those who donated prizes for the raffles. Provisionally, the total sum raised for church funds was an amazing £2,160.85.

Christingle seems to be as popular as ever, and our service on 4 December saw technology to the fore once again, thanks to the efforts of Stephen with his Powerpoint display which ran throughout the service. Our grateful thanks go to Stephen and Margaret for leading the service, and to all who took part. There was a retiring collection for the Children's Society.

The village ladies' group, 'WOW' continue to meet every second Thursday of the month, usually in the evening. All are welcome. Please ring Susie on 01884 258492 for information.

As ever, get well wishes go to all those known to us who are receiving treatment, recovering from operations, or who are unwell at the moment.

Forthcoming Events:

Sunday 9 January – A Service for Plough Sunday at 10.45am in church.
 Tuesday 17 January – Community Lunch in the Village Hall, 12.30 for 1pm.

Flower Rota:

January 1, 8 - Margaret Gale
 January 15, 22, 29 - Brenda Tucker
 February 5, 12, 19 - Sara Kittow
 February 26 - LENT (Please remove flowers)

His Unfailing Presence

Another year I enter
 Its history unknown;
 Oh, how my feet would tremble
 To tread its paths alone!

But I have heard a whisper,
 I know I shall be blest;
 "My presence shall go with thee,
 And I will give thee rest."

What will the New Year bring me?
 I may not, must not know;
 Will it be love and rapture,
 Or loneliness and woe?

Hush! Hush! I hear His whisper;
 I surely shall be blest;
 "My presence will go with thee,
 And I will give thee rest."

Author Unknown



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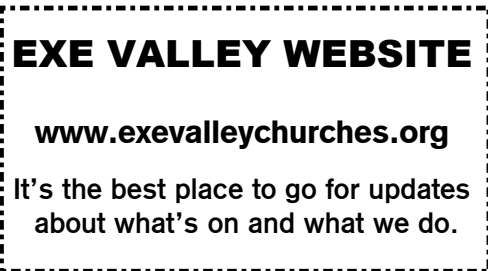
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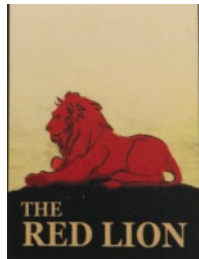
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