



TODAY

The Parish Magazine for the Exe Valley Mission Community

MAY / JUNE 2023

Price £1.00

LET'S CELEBRATE - AGAIN!!

As we move into May, with the joyful celebration of Easter now behind us, suddenly the Coronation of King Charles III is upon us.

Coronations are rare beasts which come along only very rarely, but I'm sure there will be some readers of this magazine who have their personal memories of the last Coronation 70 years ago.

I remember my own parents telling me all about it. Like thousands of others, they were quite captivated by Queen Salote of Tonga who cheerfully kept the top of her carriage open, despite the rain.

Once again, the Coronation this month will be a historic moment in the life of our nation, a time to reflect on our history, celebrate who we are and look to our future.

At its centre is a Christian service in which His Majesty will be anointed as King. It will be rooted in longstanding tradition and Christian symbolism. We offer our prayers for King Charles III and the Royal Family at this significant moment in their lives.

We remember, too, the many others who will be called on to

play their part on this important occasion. Not just those like the Archbishop of Canterbury who will be centre stage in Westminster Abbey on the day, but those who will be outside keeping the streets safe, and the great numbers of people involved in all the planning and preparation.



Last year we celebrated the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee and remembered her coronation where she was crowned with gold and anointed with oil, the outward and visible signs of a vocation accepted and embraced for the rest of her long life.

Jesus made the nature of kingship clear to James and John, that the cup they would drink as his disciples would not always be sweet, and that to sit upon the throne is more about humility than greatness, more about serving than being served.

King Charles has said that he intends to follow his late mother's example and learn the lessons that Christ, the Servant King, would teach us all.

As King Charles's coronation approaches let us pray for him, and his family. There are plenty of services throughout our Mission Community to mark the occasion.

Or join the Exe Valley Choir (see page 5) who will be helping to lead our worship at Pentecost.

Or make a note of the dates of the Bible Study (see page 3)

Or the Blessings Course (see page 11).

Or join me on Zoom to mark the ten day period of prayer for Thy Kingdom Come (see page 3 and the Update or website for log in details). There's plenty going on.

Whatever we choose to do let us follow the example of Jesus and and apply the tenets of his kingdom to our lives.

*With my love and prayers
Steph*

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Oakford, Rackenford,
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Washfield and Witleigh
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Join us for our

Coffee Mornings in person

These take place on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10.00am

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

The next one is on 10th May at St Peter's Tiverton

Future venues around Tiverton and the Exe Valley



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HOLIDAY CLUB 2023

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FROM STEPH



***Your Five a Day for Ten Days!
18 - 28 May***

To celebrate this time, Steph will be leading a short Compline Service and time of prayer at 6.00pm every day between 19 - 27 May, but not on Sunday 21 or Tuesday 23 May.

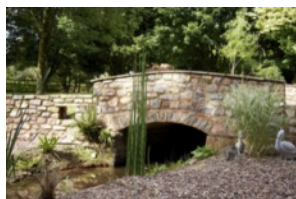
This service will be on Zoom and the log in details will be the same as for the Sunday Morning Zoom Service. Everyone welcome.

BIBLE STUDY

What we call 'the Bible' is actually a transliteration of Greek 'ta biblia', 'the books'. In our Bible there are 66 books (Protestant) or 72 (RC - with the Apocrypha). We are starting a course of Bible study which will meet for two hours, monthly, and work through the complete book, beginning with Deuteronomy. After that we will alternate between Hebrew Bible and Messianic Writings ('New Testament')

The first two meetings will be held at Parkhouse Water, Stoodleigh, EX16 9PQ: 2pm May 15 and 2pm June 12.

If you fancy coming please ring Tim Gorrige on 01884 230533, so that we have an idea of numbers.



**Worship Retreat Day at Mill House
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on Saturday 17th June 10.00am-3.00pm

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PARISH ROUND-UP

NATURE NOTES

Crisis, what crisis” or should it be “Crisis, which crisis”? There seem to be so many. Arguably, the climate and biodiversity crises are the most serious in the long term. All too often the enormity of the challenges we face leaves us feeling powerless to act and change things for the better. As individuals our impact may well be limited. However, there is good news when it comes to the climate and biodiversity crises - collectively we have the power to make a real difference.

A recent World Wildlife Fund reported that the world’s biodiversity (all the living things on our planet – from the smallest bacteria to the largest animal and plants) has declined, on average, by a staggering 69% since 1970. The UK is said to be one of the worst performers when it comes to the decline in biodiversity, largely because of habitat loss.

To help reverse the decline, virtually all of us can help by creating habitats in which nature will thrive. At its simplest, this could be by planting bee-friendly flowers in a window box. Those lucky enough to have a garden, small holding or farm have more options. Anything is better than nothing and the bigger the habitat created the better.

Using as few herbicides and insecticides as possible is a good start. Manicured lawns and intensively managed fields have their place but do nothing for biodiversity. Leaving part of a lawn or field untouched for the summer will allow the grass and wildflowers (aka “weeds”!) to thrive, providing both shelter and sustenance for wildlife. Creating a mosaic of wild areas that might include a pond, heaps

of decaying wood, standing dead wood and piles of stones will give a home to a variety of creatures including amphibians, reptiles and a multitude of invertebrates.

How about going wild this summer, leaving both you and the planet better off for it?

Stephen Powles, Fiona Bladon and Dale van der Watt (Withleigh Wildlife Group)

The Wildlife Warden Scheme is a support scheme for volunteer groups and offers training, networking, talks and information for local people wanting to protect wildlife, work on local environmental projects and generally boost the natural world in the local places and spaces that they live in.

Exe Valley Afternoon Tea 2.30pm-4.30pm



Monday 22 May - The Rectory
Thursday 15 June - Bradleigh House
with Elderflower Cordial Making
Contact the church office to book
01884 250417

Liz Langdon

Hello! I am looking forward to being on placement with you this summer as a trainee Lay Minister. I have been living in Hemyock since 2020. My husband, Piers and I, and his elderly mother moved from Clovelly where we had been farming for thirty years. I was brought up on a farm near Barnstaple and attended Grosvenor Church. I trained as a Physiotherapist in London and when married we lived in Wiltshire and Devon. Now we have three married children and several grandchildren. In Hemyock we started attending the Parish Church and felt settled and welcomed. Piers and I both felt we now had the time to study more and were able to complete a foundation year with Exeter Diocese. Since then we have both been accepted on the Lay Ministers training which we really enjoy doing together. We have met so many Christians from different walks of life and church backgrounds which has really broadened our experience and hopefully will enable us to bridge gaps comfortably across different denominations. So I look forward to being part of the team for a short while in the summer!

East Devon and West Somerset Country Link

Would you like to join a friendly social group with similar interests to you. We organize group events, walks, meals out, skittles, quizzes to name a few. If interested contact Christine on 07948 484821 or Email on Flowercottage53@gmail.com

Asking the same question

over and over again. over and over again. over and over again. over and over again. over and over again. over and over again.

It's not called getting old, it's called getting ill.



Dementia Action Week 15-21 May

FROM STEPH

The Exe Valley Choir

Sarah Milne has kindly agreed to be our Choir Conductor again and Tim Hugill to play the organ, so the choir will be singing at Pentecost, Sunday 28th May in St Mary the Virgin, Calverleigh at 10.45am



All rehearsals are on a Thursday and start at 7.30pm

27 April - Withleigh

4 May - Templeton

11 May - Oakford

18 May - Rackenford

25 May - Calverleigh



Sunday 28 May 10.45am Pentecost at St Mary the Virgin, Calverleigh.

Everyone is welcome to join the choir so please come along.

Please contact Claire Curtis on 07873 575276 for further details.

Professor Emeritus Tim Gorrige

We are very pleased to welcome Tim to join our team in the Exe Valley and by way of an introduction here is a brief CV.

Hello, I got ordained in 1972, having read Theology at Oxford. I married Carol the same year. We had three children and they have two children each. After six years as a curate, in Leeds and Oxford, I went back to teach theology in India for seven years then came back to teach in Oxford (at St John's College) for nine years, before going to St Andrews for three years, then coming to Exeter as Professor in 1998.

Carol died of cancer in 2004, and I married Gill, who has two children and two grandchildren, in 2008. Gill and I ran a smallholding on the edge of Dartmoor for fourteen years until last April. We have ended up in Tiverton and I look forward very much to getting involved in the Exe Valley Team.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

CALVERLEIGH

Hallelujah! Christ has Risen.
Hallelujah!

How lovely it was to celebrate the rising of our Saviour Jesus Christ together, either on zoom or in person, and how grateful we were for the varying fellowship opportunities through Holy week and on Easter Sunday. Thank you Steph and Claire.

At last, the weather is settling down with warmer days and lighter evenings where we can venture into our gardens or further afield and enjoy the wonders of God's creations.

Our Mothering Sunday service on 19 March was led by Jackie. Although held at an earlier time than usual, lots of you were able to join us at the service which gave us a chance to celebrate, not just our mothers, but grandmas, great-grandmas, aunts, and any other women who have been, or still are, a part of our lives. Jackie gave a thought-provoking talk, then handed out a posy and card to all ladies at the service – and passed on to some that couldn't make it in person too! Thank you to everyone who provided flowers for the day.

Donations of dried or tinned goods and toiletries were collected during Lent up until Palm Sunday and delivered to CHAT in time for the Easter weekend. Thanks to all the very generous people that donated. A good selection of produce was handed over and CHAT were extremely grateful.

Our condolences, thoughts and prayers are with anyone who has lost a loved one, whether recently or longer ago. If you have been feeling under the weather lately we pray that you will soon be fit and well again.

As exam time approaches, we wish all those who are due to take GCSE's, A levels or Degrees the very best. We hope that revision time and your exams go well and are not too stressful.

Congratulations to anyone who is celebrating a significant birthday, anniversary, birth or any other significant life event. Happy Birthday to Elijah who celebrates his first birthday in May. We'd love to wish you a happy birthday too, but you didn't send us your details ;)

Future events

A special service to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III will take place at the church on Sunday 7 May at 10.45am. This will be followed by a bring and share buffet in church or outside if the weather is favourable. Celebration cake and a toast to the King will be provided along with tea or coffee. You are very welcome to join us.

The Annual Day of Prayer which entails 12 hours of continuous prayer from 9.00am - 9.00pm, split into half hour time slots will take place this year on Saturday 13 May. Those taking part can pray wherever they feel comfortable. A timesheet is available on the font if you would like to choose your time of prayer. Prayer suggestion sheets will be handed out before the day – and will also be available on the website. This is a special time where the congregation of Calverleigh, friends from around the Exe Valley and further away take part. Prayer is powerful!

The church Annual Parochial Church Meeting takes place on Sunday 14 May following the service, which is Holy Communion at 10.45am. All parishioners and all on the Electoral Roll are invited to come along. The meeting will begin at approx. 12.15pm.

We look forward to the Exe Valley choir singing at the Pentecost group service in St. Mary's on Sunday 28 May starting at 10.45am.

There will be a Coffee Morning at Calverleigh Village Hall on Saturday 3 June, from 10:30 until 12:30 in aid of FORCE Cancer Support in memory of Graham Webber. Marcus would love your support please (contact 07967 989 724 for details).

Our Annual Produce Show is scheduled to take place on Saturday 26 August at 2.30pm. Schedules are available now from the Church or by contacting Maureen & Paul Furneaux (mo.furneaux@hotmail.co.uk / 01884 258770). Entry forms must be in by Fri 11 August for those wishing to enter.

Flower Rota

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 30 Apr - 7 May: | Mrs T Pugsley |
| 14 - 21 May: | Mrs R Tapp |
| 4 May - 4 Jun: | Mr M Ravnkilde |
| 11 - 18 Jun: | Ms L Carrey |
| 25 Jun - 2 Jul: | Mrs G Tucker |
| 9 - 16 Jul: | Herniman Family |

Cleaning Rota

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1 - 13 May: | Mrs M Furneaux |
| 15 - 27 May: | Miss S Goldsworthy |
| 29 May - 10 Jun: | Mrs N Burton |
| 12 - 24 Jun: | M & J Herniman |
| 26 Jun - 8 Jul: | Mrs A Balsdon |

Mowing Rota

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 - 13 May: | Mr C Durnan |
| 15 - 27 May: | The Webber Family |
| 29 May - 10 Jun: | Mr K Hayes |

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PARISH ROUND-UP

12 - 24 Jun: Mr A Hancock
26 Jun - 8 Jul: Mr D White

Do you have anything to share in the magazine or website? Please send your family notices, news, birthdays, anniversaries, photos, funny stories, observations 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

This weekend sees King Charles's accession to the throne marked by his coronation. Please come along on Sunday 7 May to the Parish Hall to celebrate this momentous occasion, everyone is welcome! We are having a Bring and Share food afternoon (2pm to 6pmish), where there will be tea, coffee and squash a plenty! Bring your own booze and a plate of food to share with your neighbours. At 5pm we will end the afternoon with a Children's Boogie!

For more information please contact Sarah Waterman on 07960 483203.

Church of the Holy Cross

Thank you to those who made posies for our Mothering Sunday service which was led by Steph.

The Annual Parochial church meeting will be held at Cruwys Morchard church on Wednesday 10 May at 7.30pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend to learn how the church continues to support the parish and what the PCC does to ensure the upkeep of the church, by following regulations and requirements to keep the church in good order for the future.

We wish Sonia & Roland every happiness in their new home in Berkshire. They worked so hard for our parish over the years. Sonia helped with fundraising and always welcomed new people as they moved into the village. Roland co-ordinated the work needed to maintain and improve the fabric of our church, raising enormous amounts of money for the screen, re-hanging of the bells and the heating system. We will miss them.

Flower and Cleaning Rota

week beginning: Monday

April 24 & May 1 Carol Chisholm and Jackie Mitchell

May 8 & 15 Diana Vincent and Val Randerson

May 22 & 29 Marian Kingdom

May 5 & June 12 Cindy Trick

June 19 & 26 Sarah Cruwys

July 3 & 10 Claire Miller

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.

Defibrillator Training

There is the possibility of free defibrillator training available in May,

spaces are limited. The training will be provided by the Devon Air Ambulance. If interested please contact Viv Ray at: cruwys.morchard.pc@gmail.com or 01363 866728.

Defibrillator Donations

I give below the names of those that very generously gave a donation which funded the defibrillators in the phone box outside The Cruwys Arms and another situated at Way Village Chapel porch:

Tiverton Freemasons, Cllr Squires – Locality Fund, The Cruwys Arms cream tea event, Harvest monies, Bevis Harlan, Parishioner collection and donations, Pub Quiz, and Pennymoor Timber.

There were further monies raised towards a new defibrillator at Nomansland as follows:

Biogas (Menchine Farm), Witheridge Garage, Thelbridge Parish Council, Other Donations and collections.

The Parish Council wishes to thank all the above for their kind donations.

Flower Show

The Annual Flower Show will take place at the Parish Hall on Saturday 12 August. Schedules are now available, from the church, the Cruwys Arms or 5 Moorview, Pennymoor. Please grab a copy and have a look to see what you can enter. New exhibitors are always welcome, we look forward to, and encourage, new faces to come forward with their entries. Please try and support us, as this event has been going for over 80 years. Children under 16 are asked to grow a potato, bucket and seed potato are provided. If you would like to get involved, please contact Pauline: email pauline.8@hotmail.co.uk or call 07968101121.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall

The Parish Hall Committee are holding an Afternoon Tea on Sunday 30 July at the Parish Hall. More details to follow in the next edition! All welcome to attend.

Cruwys Morchard Fete

The Fete will be held this year on Saturday 8 July at the Parish hall, details to follow in the next edition.

Cruwys Morchard and Puddington Gardeners

The Cruwys Morchard and Puddington Gardeners met in February for the first time in 2023 at The Cruwys Arms and agreed on a programme of topics, visits and talks for the coming gardening year. The discussion for our March meeting was about sowing and planting, requested by members developing a new garden. It was good to get advice from everyone based upon the experience of working with our clay soil.

Our April meeting was in Puddington Village Hall where David Leach, Dartmoor Ranger, gave a talk illustrated with slides on the South West Peatland Restoration Project. South West Water and Exeter University are co operating in the project with the university monitoring the results. We all came away with a greater understanding of the importance of peatlands to biodiversity and carbon capture as well as some historical perspective on the loss of peat in the UK and globally.

Next month some of us are off to Ashmoor Nursery for a demonstration in the art of making hanging baskets. Those not participating will meet in the Cruwys Arms as usual on Wednesday 3 May at 8.00pm, so feel free to come along if Spring has put you in the mood for gardening.

Cruwys Morchard YFC

Members have recently taken part in the County Crealy Challenge, where teams run the soft play area as an obstacle race. We planned a ten pin bowling evening for the Easter holiday, and members have played Mixed netball as part of a Group team at County Round, we also entered club teams into the pub sports evening. The club attended a farm walk and talk at Hosegood's Farm which was really enjoyed.

The club has done fund raising in running a local bingo and we did refreshments for the Tiverton rugby club bingo. We have also been learning new skills in Sheep showing preparation and we plan to do some lamb stock-judging, horse and sheep podiatry. Members are preparing their stock ready for the County Show and sale at Exeter Market. We have our monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall at 7.30pm.

Congregational Churches

Please join us for Tea and Cake at Nomansland Chapel, 3-4pm every Friday.

Sunday services

2.30pm Nomansland chapel *

4.30pm Pennymoor chapel *

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

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

Magazine Contact

If you would like something included in the Cruwys Morchard parish round-up please contact Ali Vincent on 07801 480806 or

alisonpvincent@hotmail.co.uk

LOXBEBARE

It has been good to enjoy the lovely spring flowers and see the shrubs and trees beginning to bud, although some suffered with the wind and rain of recent weeks. But a couple of Swallows already making their appearance at the end of March. A sign that summer is on its way.

Mothering Sunday was a time of sharing and enjoying the full English Breakfast cooked by the men. Many thanks to all who contributed and to those who cooked and served etc. Also thank you to all who led and took part in the service afterward.

At the time of writing, we will be remembering Jesus' death and resurrection with Steph taking our Easter Sunday Service with Dave leading the worship. He is Risen Hallelujah.

Our APCM will have taken place on 16 April after the service. Thank you to all for fulfilling their positions and serving the Church community so well. There will be a PCC meeting on 16 May.

For church services in Loxbeare please see the centre pages.

On Father's Day, 18 June a church BBQ is being planned at 12.30 at the Village Hall followed by a service.

Our celebration of the King's Coronation, as well as the above service on 7 May, will include a Flower and Craft festival on the 6, 7 & 8 May in the Church. Preparation for this will be on the 5. Do come and get involved.



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PARISH ROUND-UP

Our thoughts and prayers are with Pete and all who are unwell and we also remember those who have lost loved ones recently.

Belated Congratulations to Graham and Abi on the birth of their little girl Ruby Elizabeth on 8 Feb. A sister for Angus, granddaughter for Stephen and Carol, and great-granddaughter for Colin and Margaret. Also, Michael is now a great-grandad to Sydney George. Congratulations and best wishes to you all.

Happy birthday to all with birthdays in May and June and to those celebrating any special occasions.

There will be a Ploughman's Lunch on 13 May with dessert from 12.30-2.30. Donations for charity. Also, there will be a plant stall. 10 June we will be back to cream teas from 3.00-4.00.

OAKFORD

It seems unbelievable that we have already reached the May/June issue of Today magazine.

How lovely it is to be woken in the mornings by nature's choir heralding in the spring and if we are lucky by sunshine pouring in through the windows as well.

This is the month when spring is at the height of its beauty and is connected with nature renewing itself. Spring is the time of all things new. New life in the hedgerows and gardens. New life in birds nests, ponds, streams and fields.

New events are progressing in the Exe Valley Mission Community.

'Steph on a Stick' - a talk given by the Rector, on screen in the church has been trialled at Loxbeare and Withleigh. The Exe Valley Choir will start weekly rehearsals, beginning on 20 April at St Margaret's Church in Stoodleigh to be ready to sing at the Pentecost service on 28 May at the church of St Mary the Virgin, Calverleigh.

St Peter's Church Oakford. Oakford parishioners came to celebrate Mothering Sunday on 19 March in a Service of the Word with the Reverend Claire Curtis. All the Mums received a colourful growing posy.

There will be two weddings at St Peter's in May and June. Luke and Rebecca in May and then Sophie and George in June. We send them very best wishes for long and happy lives together.

On 6 May the St George's flag will be raised and the bells will ring out to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles 111.

St Peter's Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be on Sunday 7 May following our Holy Communion Service with Steph at approx. 11.45am. This is an opportunity for parishioners to hear what is happening at St Peter's and everyone is welcome.

News of past events.

The Village Dog Walk on 12 March was held to help support Haemophilia Day. The amount raised by the walk was £245 and the 98 miles walked by 20 people will be added to the total to help with the aim to circumnavigate the globe. It was a lovely day and a great chance to walk and chat with friends. Special thanks to Larry and Ann for the super sausage sarnies enjoyed at the finish.

A vintage Tractor run starting at Oakridge will take place on 30 April to raise funds for the charity SANDS. The drivers set off at 9.30am fortified with tea, coffee and bacon rolls. Thanks to all who have offered to help.

Dates for your diary.

Coronation Celebrations

7 May at Oakford Village Hall 3pm onwards a bring and share tea. Bring your own drink and dress in red white and blue. There will be music and games

8 May meet at the village hall for THE BIG HELP OUT at 10.30am. Tasks will be allocated to improve the recreation ground, village hall and general area. Refreshments will be provided at lunchtime. Dress for the weather.

Village Hall.

The village hall has exciting new additions. Wi Fi, card machine and a state of art screen and sound system.

Parish Council

The fence around the childrens' play area will be erected as soon as the weather permits.

Red Lion Quiz

21 May and 18 June.

Come along for an evening of fun. Teams of 6 or if you are on your own join an existing one.

Moorland Club

11 May - 7.30pm at the Village Hall. - Open to all - visitors £2. A talk given by Sean Mayer 'Discovering Mr Ernest Shackleton.'

8 June - A visit to Moor & Meadow, Knowstone. Flower Farm talk, tea and cake. £5. - 2.00pm

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7 MAY

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Coronation Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Coronation Service

LOXBEARE

10.45am Coronation Service

OAKFORD

10.45am Holy Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs
with Dave Edwards

RACKENFORD

See Oakford

STOODLEIGH

See Oakford

TEMPLETON

10.45am Coronation Service

WASHFIELD

Monday 8th May

2.15pm Coronation Service
followed by BBQ

WITHLEIGH

2.00pm Coronation Service
followed by a 'Street Party'

14 MAY

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Holy Communion
with Baptism
Claire Curtis

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Service of the Word
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

LOXBEARE

See Calverleigh

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

9.15am Explore
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

TEMPLETON

No service

WASHFIELD

See Calverleigh

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Service of the Word
Tim Gorringe

21 MAY

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

9.30am Family Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Withleigh

LOXBEARE

10.45am Service of the Word
Claire Curtis

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Service of the Word
Tim Gorringe

TEMPLETON

See Withleigh

WASHFIELD

9.30am 'Sunday Club'
Claire Curtis

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Holy Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

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

**Ascension Day
Service**
Thursday 18 May
6.00pm
Templeton
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

**28 MAY
PENTECOST**
**YOU MAY WANT TO WEAR
SOMETHING RED**
9.30am Zoom Service
**PLEASE JOIN US FOR
OUR MISSION
COMMUNITY
HOLY COMMUNION
GROUP SERVICE
WITH THE
EXE VALLEY CHOIR
at
10.45am in
CALVERLEIGH**
***Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and Claire Curtis***
Everyone welcome

Baptism and Confirmation

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

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

**4 JUNE
TRINITY SUNDAY**

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Morning Worship

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Prayer

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise

OAKFORD

See Rackenford

RACKENFORD

**10.45am Holy Communion
with Baptism**
*Steph Gordon-Jeffs
with Dave Edwards*

STOODLEIGH

See Rackenford

TEMPLETON

10.45am Service of the Word
Tim Gorringer

WASHFIELD

10.45am Morning Prayer

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Family Service

11 JUNE

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

See Loxbeare

CRUWYS MORCHARD

No service

LOXBEARE

10.45am Holy Communion
*Claire Curtis
with Dave Edwards*

OAKFORD

6.00pm Songs of Praise

RACKENFORD

9.15am Explore
Claire Curtis
with Dave Edwards

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise
Tim Gorringer

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

See Loxbeare

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Service of the Word
with Baptism
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

18 JUNE

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

9.30am Family Service
Steph Gordon-Jeffs
with Dave Edwards

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Holy Communion
*Claire Curtis
with Dave Edwards*

LOXBEARE

12.30pm BBQ followed by
service

OAKFORD

10.45am Service of the Word
Tim Gorringer

RACKENFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

TEMPLETON

6.00pm Evensong

WASHFIELD

10.45am Family Service

WITHLEIGH

See Cruwys Morchard

The Blessings Course

Roy Goodwin's story of how God worked in an unexpected way in his rural community of Ffald-y-Brenin in Wales, is quite extraordinary.

You can read his account of what happened in his book,
'The Grace Outpouring'

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The Blessings Course explores what God does, and can do, when our focus is on blessing - blessing our families, our friends and our communities and allowing our churches to become
'God's conduit for blessing to those around us'

Come and find out what its all about, the first meeting at The Rectory Withleigh at 7.00pm.

1 June

The God who blesses

8 June

Being blessed

15 June

Called to bless

22 June

Blessing the person in front of me

29 June

A new life and a new community

6 July

Blessing the land

8 July

Blessing seas, regions and nations

25 JUNE

9.30am Zoom Service

**OUR
MISSION
COMMUNITY
HOLY
COMMUNION
GROUP SERVICE**

is at
**10.45am in
CRUWYS
MORCHARD**

*Steph Gordon-Jeffs
with Dave Edwards*

Everyone Welcome

PARISH ROUND-UP

The Village Fete.

This year the fete will be held in the Community area on 1 July. More details will be available around the village nearer the time.

BELLS.

The Bells of St Peters will be rung to mark the Coronation of King Charles 111. Brenda and Mary's crafty fundraising group are back in full swing once more, raising funds for the Bells. Thank you so much.

Thanks also to Joscelyn for selling books to raise funds for the bell restoration.

Any help with fund raising is greatly appreciated.

We remember in thought and prayer all those in the Parish who are ill in hospital or at home.

Sending best wishes to everyone who celebrates a birthday or special anniversary in May and June.

RACKENFORD

Our Explore services continue to be thoroughly enjoyed on the second Sunday of each month at 9.15am, beginning with hot chocolate, Tea, coffee, juice and a variety of biscuits.

A disposable camera was offered to the children to take home and capture the moments they felt nearer to God and to say their prayers, the camera continued to be passed from family to family to complete and view together at a later date. A variety of pictures were on display to show you can pray wherever you are and at any time. Heart shaped biscuits were provided for the children to decorate, take home and give to a

loved one. This service was taken by Claire and Dave with his guitar and enjoyable songs for us all to contribute in.

Our following Explore with Steph and Dave began with hearty singing and actions to show the love of God to us all with great participation from everyone. Pilgrimage was the basis of our conversation. Scallop shells are an ancient Christian symbol and were worn for camaraderie along a pilgrimage. The grooves along the shells represent paths leading to one destination. We all received shells to trace the grooves and thread a string through the little hole and hang around our neck or attach to a garment. The children wore them with pride to take home. Elliott read to us during the service. A joy to be together and share stories with Steph.

March 19 our Mothering Sunday service was Lay Led by Mary and Liz with members of the PCC and congregation participating. Bunches of flowers were prepared by the PCC for the children and congregation to take for their mums, or that special someone in your life you felt would like to receive and maybe to say thank you. The remaining flowers were left near the porch for anyone to take as they walked through. We hope you all enjoyed the day.

Palm Sunday commemorates the entrance of Christ into Jerusalem, during which palm branches were laid in his path before his arrest on Maundy Thursday, and crucifixion on Good Friday. Although we didn't have a service many attended in other parishes.

April 7 Rev'd Steph took an Easter Reflection service for Good Friday, it

was good to have friends from other parishes join us for this deep and meaningful service of reflection leading up to and including Good Friday so movingly told by Steph. Many of us felt we were on the same path all those years ago when Christ suffered death on the cross, sacrificing his life for us, however the good news of Easter was coming.

April 8 the church was amazingly changed into beautiful colour by the gardening club with beautiful displays of work tenderly cared for, along with cookery items, photography, crafts etc with some beautiful contributions from the children. A really good crowd of people enjoyed the show, delicious cakes and a draw.

Thank you to the gardening club for hastily removing all the necessary tables and entries and tidying up for the decorating of the church for Easter and for leaving us some beautiful displays which helped, all the spring colours and foliage making our church once again ready for our Easter Sunday service. Many thanks to all who helped and provided flowers and foliage, it looked so pretty. We were delighted to see so many attend our Lay Led Easter service which was taken by Mary and Liz, with Helen leading our prayers. It was a joyful service with hymns fitting for a service of celebration at this very special time of year. We are so pleased to have Graham back behind the organ after his operation. Liz had brought pictures for the children to colour during the service.

Prior to this service, happy sounding voices could be heard coming from the common as the children hunted out the Easter eggs. Many thanks to all who

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PARISH ROUND-UP

helped with this event. Not forgetting the Easter bunny!! We hope you all enjoyed your Easter and the improvement of the weather enhanced your day.

The churchyard maintenance is ongoing. Ed Nicholson and team have completed the main cut throughout, and the plan going forward is to have a full cut late summer with volunteers to cut paths in the interim. We have had offers from some new volunteers which will be looked into when new plans are drawn up. Many thanks to you all.

We are pleased to report that work has now been completed by Jed Hewitt on our church, which is looking so much better inside and out.

In the near future we hope to have a new Notice Board at last, certainly look forward to that before the other falls apart completely.

We look forward to the Village Coronation Event on the afternoon of Sunday May 7 on the common organised by Rackenford Parish Council. The PCC are looking forward to taking part and catering for the Cakes /Teas/ Coffee/ juices etc with a nice variety for you all to enjoy. The posters are up to view, together we have so much to look forward to on this special day to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles.

We send our deepest sympathy to Jenny and Robert, family and friends on the death of their father Peter. Peter had lived in our community for many years and is well remembered by some.

Our thoughts are with those who are not well, or have had operations or

accidents. Especially thinking of Jacques, Joan and Paula. We are glad to say Ruth and Graham are well on the mend.

Belated congratulations to Connie on your Phd in Chemistry. Connie used to attend Rackenford school several years ago. We hope you enjoy your work wherever it leads you after all your hard work. Very well done.

Lets hope we are enjoying much better weather when you receive this addition, anything is better than the wet, windy and cold weather when this goes forward to print. Some of us are looking forward to spring gardening and enjoying being out and about.

If you have anything you feel should be included in the Rackenford News in the Today Mag please get in touch. Wishing you all well and happy times ahead.

STOODLEIGH

Notes from St Margaret's

By the time you read this, we will have had the celebrations for Easter, a truly joyous occasion for Christians everywhere so I hope you enjoyed the glorious day. Lent was, as usual, a really good time for prayer and reflection as well as a time to take stock of our lives and make some decisions about where we are heading next and what we can do to improve the lives of those around us.

Sadly, Chris Woodhead has decided to move from Stoodleigh so he has stepped down as Church Warden and also from the P.C.C. Chris has been a

stalwart of the church in recent years and he will be sadly missed. We wish him well in his new home and hope that the move proves to be excellent for him. There is now only one churchwarden so we will be looking for someone else to take Chris's place.

The treble bell has been removed and sent for repair after the excellent fund raising efforts of the bell ringers. It's hoped that the bell will soon be 'home' and we will once again have all six bells ringing for the parish. Our new trainee bell ringers are doing very well and progressing nicely under the expert eye of Tower Captain Phil, so well done Trevor and Mervyn.

Following Easter, we are back to fund raising again. We have had a stall in South Molton market and also a new venture, an evening of wine, cheese and skittles. As I'm writing this before these events, I hope they will have gone well and raised money towards keeping the church open for everyone to use.

We have had the stone gateposts rebuilt and we're waiting for estimates on new gates at the south entrance to the churchyard. We are also waiting for estimates for the Yew Tree maintenance. If you have walked through the churchyard recently, you will have noticed that they have got a bit out of control! Hopefully, we will soon have a clear path to the church door and tidy trees. We are also trying to find a solution to the churchyard wall on the south side of the church that came down when a tree collapsed in a storm.

As to the future, in addition to the new Churchwarden, we are looking for a new secretary for the PCC and also a new editor for the Stoodleigh part of the parish magazine as both Yvonne and



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PARISH ROUND-UP

Roland are standing down from these positions. If you feel you would like to help, please contact Penny on p.norman58@outlook.com.

Thankfully, Yvonne has agreed to remain as our treasurer which she does so well.

Don't forget there is a lovely play area at the back of the church for anyone to use and the church is normally open from 10.00a.m. to 4.30p.m. every day. Please feel free to come and make use of the play area, we would love to see you there.

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Church Flower Rota | |
| June 10 | Wedding |
| July 1 & 8 | Pat Aplin |
| July 15 & 22 | Christine Palfrey |

Stoodleigh 100 Club
 March - Geraldine Talbot, Rebecca Brown, Philip Turner, Julian Cunningham

April - Felicity Green, Mandy Widdowson, Rosie James, Philip Palfrey, Lesley Ayre

2022 – 2023 Parish Hall and Church each received £250

Subscriptions now due: £15 for the year. Please pay Christine Palfrey

Parish Hall News

The Spring Walk took place on 4 March. Nineteen walkers met for coffee at the Hall before setting off in the sunshine for a 4.5 mile walk along lanes, paths and tracks through fields and woodland and beside streams. The non walkers met for a later morning coffee and welcomed the return of the walkers when they enjoyed a delicious community lunch together, served from the new Parish Hall kitchen.

The Easter Fair on Saturday 8 April was also a great success where visitors were able to buy lovely items offered by local and talented independent stall holders. Other tables provided cakes and books, the community plant stall and a raffle. Congratulations to Isobel Mason who is the Stoodleigh Egg Rolling Game Champion 2023. The supportive, sociable and happy crowd enjoyed coffee and cakes during the morning and lunched on soup and rolls before leaving. Thanks all for joining us. Thanks to the community volunteers who helped at both events: the bakers, the cooks, the stallholders and the kitchen assistants – amazing!

Coming Events

Saturday 3 June Coffee@the Hall 10.30a.m. to 12 noon.

Saturday 24 June Stoodleigh Family Fun Dog Show Gates will open at 1.30pm and judging starts at 2pm. This fun event will take place in the paddock at Orchard View by kind permission of Pat and Fred Robinson and this year Sandra Coles has agreed to act as our judge. In addition to the Dog Show, there will be cream teas, a Pimms and Beer tent, cakes, tombola, raffle and various competitions. The show classes and full details will be available on the Stoodleigh website in due course. If you have a pet, there will be a class for you but if not, please come along and just enjoy yourself. Free entry and £1 to enter your pet in each class. If you would like to be involved or help, please contact Geraldine (351391). This is a joint fund raising event run by the Hall and Church teams.

Saturday 5 August Coffee@theHall 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon

For all village activities and events, see <https://www.middevonparish.co.uk/stoodleigh/events-calendar>

Welcome to Lucy, Tim and Ursula (Healing Hooves) to Steart. We hope your family and ponies will be very happy in Stoodleigh. Thanks for coming to the Easter Fair with Pompom, one of your rescue miniature ponies.

TEMPLETON

According to the Met Office, there is a difference between rain and showers – and this may be a good time to mention it here as we go into May and June. When a weather front brings rain, it will usually bring continuously grey skies, with rain falling through a large portion of the day. Showers are technically a type of rain. They usually fall from individual clouds so the rain will be on and off, with gaps of drier and brighter weather in between. It can be quite hit and miss where they occur. Therefore, there could be heavy showers on and off throughout the day in Templeton for example, whereas our sister parishes may be dry all day. So this isn't an old Farmers tale, after all!

St Margaret's Church services

Our Sunday services continue to run every two weeks. Sometimes these are lay-led and sometimes we have a Holy Communion Service led by Steph or Claire.

On Sunday May 7 there will be a lay-led Coronation Service at 10.45am at St Margaret's Church. On the Sunday afternoon at Templeton Village Hall there will be a 'Bring and Share' Coronation Lunch starting at 2.00pm. Make sure you keep the whole day free!

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Thursday May 18 is Ascension Day, and Steph will take the service in Templeton at 6pm on that evening.

On Sunday June 4 there is the opportunity to meet the Rev'd. Professor Tim Gorringer who has recently moved to Tiverton. He will be taking the 10.45am service at St Margaret's Church. Do join us to welcome him to Templeton.

On Sunday June 18 there will be a lay-led Evensong at 6 pm.

Church walls and tower bells

We are very grateful to Lynda and Chris Newnes for acquiring the bell ropes for the church bells. The next step is to secure the bell frame in the church tower so that once again the bells of St Margaret are secure enough to be rung. Although much work still has to be carried out on the interior of the church, our funds only allow for a little to be done at a time. The wall behind the altar has peeling paintwork which needs stripping and repainting so the beautiful stonework surrounding the windows can be exposed. Once we have a quote from Adrian, hopefully the work can begin!

Past events

On Saturday March 11, a Safari Supper was held in Templeton. This has become a popular annual event - a supper where each course is eaten at different hosts' houses allowing people to move from house to house and meet up with different guests and hosts for each course. Initially, everyone gathered at St Margaret's Church at 6.30pm for a glass of Prosecco and starters, before going on to other homes for the next two courses. £280 was raised for St Margaret's Church Repair Fund, but more importantly, it was a highly enjoyable evening.

On Friday March 31st, at St Margaret's Church, we were treated to a talk by Ciara Wilson and Stephen Powles entitled "A Kenyan Safari - Elephants and people". The church was full, there was also a raffle, and the evening started with a glass of bubbly and nibbles. Ciara gave a fascinating talk about volunteering to go to Kenya next year and how she is hoping to raise the money for the trip. Stephen talked about the remarkable journey made by the elephants deep into the caves at Mount Elgon, Kenya. His wonderful photos gave us a rare insight into the activities of these beautiful animals. Ciara and Stephen kindly provided this talk free of charge, but there was an opportunity to contribute towards both of these amazing and worthwhile fundraising projects.

The Feighan Fury Templeton Run.

This Templeton Trail has been an annual event for over nine years. This year was a much bigger event. The Exe Valley Rotary Club has asked us to forward their heartfelt thanks and an apology to residents in Templeton:

"On Sunday 26 March we once again organised the Templeton Trail run, based at Templeton Village Hall. This year, unfortunately, the village itself and roads around became congested with parked cars. Although we received no complaints, this must have inconvenienced many of you. Your tolerance was truly appreciated. This year's event was organised together with a team from South-West Road Runners and the main event was expanded from 10 Km to 10 miles to commemorate the sad loss of a very well-known Devon Runner, Mike Feighan. That increased challenge proved very popular indeed and on the

day we had over 250 runners arrive - but unfortunately the wet weather had left all the planned field parking unusable! However, your forbearance was certainly worth it. At the time of writing this the event accounts are not yet finalised - but it has certainly raised in excess of £3500 for Alzheimer's Research UK. The feedback from everyone who ran the event has been absolutely phenomenal! They all loved the course with its extremely challenging, muddy conditions.

Thanks especially to Bindy and the Village Hall Team who all did an outstanding job in providing teas, coffees, bacon rolls, pasties, cake etc. for such a huge crowd of thirsty and hungry runners. Also, thanks to Guy Cruwys for not only allowing the event full use of Cruwys Morchard woods, but also for his roles as starter and prize presenter".

From Bruce Pearson and William Withers on behalf of the Exe Valley Rotary Club.

Future events

Big Coronation Lunch on Sunday 7 May 2023 at Templeton Village Hall at 2 pm. Please come and celebrate King Charles' coronation weekend with a lunch for everyone in and around Templeton and their families and friends. This will be a Bring and Share lunch - a food list has been circulated with suggestions for everyone to choose from, such as salads, flans, snacks or desserts, that they would like to bring with them. The Village Hall will provide meats, potatoes and breads etc. There will be fancy dress for the younger (or not) members of the village, a treasure hunt and a Coronation picture competition (painting or drawing) with prizes for children 14 years and under. The bar will be open!




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PARISH ROUND-UP

Please let us know if you can come so that we have an idea of numbers. Phone Bindy on 01884 860655 or email Templeton Village Hall at templetonvh@gmail.com .

Volunteering day: Monday 8 May 2023
On the Coronation weekend, the King has asked that Monday 8 May is celebrated as a volunteering day. The Knit and Natter Group would like some help to polish the pews and the wood in the church. Led by Val, some of the wood has already been oiled, and now needs to be waxed. We thought that if we had an army of volunteers from 10.30am until 12 midday, we could fulfil the King's wish and achieve something for the village. We can supply the wax, cloths, teas and coffees if you could supply the labour. Just turn up on the day and you will be allocated a pew or a door or a pulpit! It need only involve just half an hour of your time!

Templeton Tractor Run: Sunday May 14.
Reg and Roland are making plans for the popular Templeton Tractor Run. This is a great fund-raising event when tractors, old and new, are invited to take part. Tractors arrive at Templeton Village Hall from 10am and set off on the Tractor Run at 11.15am. The owners drive their tractors along a planned local route. Cost: £12.00 per tractor owner (which includes a pasty and a pint for tractor drivers on their return). Refreshments will be served before and after the tractor run at Templeton Village Hall plus a grand draw! Proceeds will be shared between St Margaret's Church and the British Heart Foundation.

Regular clubs/ groups

Yoga Group: every Tuesday from 3.30pm to 5.00pm at Templeton

Village Hall. Contact Laurel at: joeandlaurel@ymail.com

Garden Group: This is restarting from April as the weather improves. For information about the next date and venue, contact Ginah on 01884 253552.
Book Group: This is held on the second Wednesday of each month at 3pm at Templeton Village Hall. Contact Julie on 01884 233507.

Art Classes: By the time this magazine goes to print, Lynda will have probably already taught about three out of a total of six art classes at Templeton Village Hall. These classes are held every Tuesday from 10am to 12.00noon, until Tuesday May 23rd. For more information contact Laurel at joeandlaurel@ymail.com .

Knit and Natter: Held on the last Friday of each month at St Margaret's Church between 10.30am and 12 midday – bring any knitting, sewing or repair work or just come for a cuppa! Contact Bindy: 01884 860655.

Social Club: The Village Hall bar is open every Monday and Saturday evening from 8pm until 11pm. But the hall is there for us all to use and enjoy at any time. As the weather gets warmer you may like to make use of the outside barbecue. Just call Bindy first to check that there isn't already a booking on that day: 01884 860655.

Health and illness:

Our thoughts, prayers and best wishes are with all those who are unwell, recovering from surgery, awaiting treatment, or going through a difficult time. We do hope that you will be feeling better soon.

Flowers and Cleaning Rota:

Phillida Strong 7th – 14th May
Julie Dent 21st – 28th May

Liz Walker
Bindy Linden

4th – 11th June
18th - 25th June

WASHFIELD

May, more than any other month of the year, wants us to feel most alive, all things seem possible in May. Then it will be June and the country will smell of roses.

Easter - a time of sadness and joy!

Maunday Thursday was marked by the annual Agape Meal here in Washfield commemorating the Last Supper, with a large company of our friends from the Exe Valley we enjoyed a meal together, with Steph bringing us Communion and worship, and singing, in a very meaningful way. We would like to thank all those who contributed delicious desserts, and especially Claire who dealt with all the rest of the meal and whose friends waited at table and did lots of washing up!

On Easter Saturday the traditional Egg Decorating and Rolling was a happy occasion with many artistic and original entries being admired. This was followed by the excitement of rolling eggs down the hill and more prizes being handed out. The Tobey family excelled themselves in the organization of this historic event!

Easter Sunday's Service saw a large congregation at St. Mary's, and our Rector, with special attention to the many children present, inspired us all in a very special service of praise and thanksgiving for the wonderful news of Easter! We thank her.



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PARISH ROUND-UP

At all these events the Arnold family were in our thoughts and prayers as we mourned with them the sad loss of Roger. The whole community has lost a much valued member who was involved in village affairs in every way. A much respected farmer and a wonderful host in later life Roger was always cheerful and friendly, helpful and hospitable and his loss is incalculable. His family have lost a wonderful husband, son, father, grandfather, brother and we have all lost a very good friend.

The Parish Council would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to the family of Roger Arnold. Roger served the village for so many years as a Parish Councillor and as the Chair. Not one for the limelight he worked diligently and quietly behind the scenes on behalf of Washfield villagers and we will miss his experience and wisdom.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting chaired by the Rector, took place in the church on March 26 when the Annual Reports were accepted and Churchwardens elected. The new Churchwarden, to join Richard Scholes is Malcolm Dudley-Williams, He was warmly thanked for his willingness to stand. Jeanne Jones, on her retirement thanked the PCC and all church members for their invaluable help and support during her term. Jeanne was warmly thanked for her service to the church.

Dear Washfield,

I am at a loss for words to express my heartfelt thanks for the wonderfully generous gifts I have been given for my retirement from being Churchwarden. I am so very grateful for the beautiful inscribed vase, and for the token and wine which I can share with my family. I have really enjoyed being a practical Churchwarden and it has been a privilege to help in keeping St. Mary's active and alive. Supporting the Rector is the prime duty of a Warden and this has been easy. Your two Churchwardens now in post will be much better at all the paperwork, regulations and necessary legalities! The church will be in good hands and they will serve you well in every way. I have had so much support from you all, from helpful Churchwardens in other parishes and, of course, from our Rectors over the years.

My very grateful thanks to Steph and Richard for their kind words - and - thanks be to God for all my friends.

Yours, Jeanne.

Copies of the excellent Annual Report, kindly designed and printed by Chas. Walton are in the church for your inspection, together with the Rector's very full account of all the churches. Special events like the well-attended and much enjoyed Carol Service are all reported on there. Do please read it!

Mothering Sunday is not the special day it used to be, but the congregation all had posies, and thought about their own mothers. One small boy was able to give his mother, grandmother and great-grandmother some flowers!

An opportunity not to be missed is the visit of the Archdeacon of Exeter; who has the Clergy and all of us in his care,

to Cruwys Morchard on April 30 at 10.45am.

We are looking forward to celebrating the historic Coronation of King Charles together on Monday 8 May. Our bell ringers will call us to the Church for a short service of celebration at 2.15pm, followed by Maypole dancing on the green (the bar at the Social Club will be open) and a BBQ. All welcome, remember: annual membership of the Social Club is just £5

Don't forget either, that teatime@thehall is still as popular as ever. These afternoons are held on the second Tuesday of each month between 3pm - 4.30pm. All age groups are welcome to pop in for tea, cakes, conversation, laughter, and support.

We wish all those with special celebrations, especially Terry and Pat Yeoman who celebrated 60 years of marriage in February, good wishes. Belated congratulations on your Diamond anniversary. And to those with special birthdays (Jean becomes an amazing Nonagenarian in May), good wishes, too.

To those who are not enjoying good health at the time of writing, we hope you will have relief from enduring this soon.

Church Flower Rota

May 7, 14

May 21, 28

June 4, 11

June 18, 25

Linda Carey

Annabel Taylor-Ross

Margaret May

Anne Moore



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PARISH ROUND-UP

WITHLEIGH

Having survived the dreaded annual change-over to British summer time, we can at least enjoy the longer evenings. Having witnessed the very low water level in Wimbleball Lake last autumn, it was something of a relief to recently see the reservoir 100% full again.

Our Family Service on 5 March, led by Susie, was slightly different, as we were introduced to "Steph on a Stick" (a memory stick, that is). At the moment this is an experiment to take Steph' talks to our churches, where perhaps there is no-one who feels confident enough to plan and give a talk. A memory stick is put in the back of a TV and just two presses on the remote control will bring Steph' message to our congregations. This had previously been tried at Loxbeare.

At our service on 12 March, with St Patrick' Day being on 17th, we learned a little about this saint through an interview at "Withleigh Studios" with St Patrick himself! As St Patrick was a missionary, our prayers were based on mission and missionaries. As ever, thank you to all who took part in the service.

Forty-five sat down to a two course meal, followed by tea /coffee, in the Village Hall on 16 March, once again the meal being prepared by Brenda, Sara and team. Thank you for a lovely meal. The draw raised £28, to be sent to The Farming Community Network, a voluntary organisation and charity who help the rural community through difficult times.

Our Mothering Sunday Service on 19 March was well attended. We looked at some mothers mentioned in the Bible, with various items representing each one - a handkerchief for Hannah, a child' bible stories book for Lois and

Eunice, a box of cornflakes for Naomi, an apple for Eve, a jar of honey for John the Baptist' mother,, Elizabeth, and finally a strip of cloth for Mary. Thank you to Christine and Sara for providing the potted primulas which were distributed to those present.

Monday evening, 20 March, saw the successful launch of the Withleigh Wildlife Group. After Dale van der Watt introduced the idea of the Withleigh Wildlife Group and Fiona Bladon gave a brief explanation how the mid-Devon Wildlife Warden Scheme supports and encourages such groups, we were treated to a wonderful presentation by Stephen Powles about hedgehogs and how we can help hedgehogs. This encouraged us to think what a difference we could make to the wildlife in and around Withleigh. Sustained by tea, coffee and biscuits we had a draw with prizes ranging from chocolates and wine to a night out with tawny owls and a timely and very colourful Easter chicken. A lively discussion followed about wildflower meadows, bees, sustainable golf, ponds in our gardens, river walks, hedges, trees and what we can do as a group.

Please come to our coffee mornings in Withleigh village hall for garden produce, seedlings, flowers etc, (exchange or make a donation): 10am to 12pm Saturday, 27 May and 24 June 2023. There will be a wildflower meadow walk after the coffee morning on 24 June. For more information or if you would like to join the Group, please contact Stephen@stephenpowles.co.uk or Borneobladons@yahoo.co.uk With hedgehogs already active, or about to be, how about logging your hedgehog sightings and hedgehog highways on the Hedgehog Street app: <https://bighedgehogmap.org/>

Our Easter Beetle Drive was on Saturday 1 April. We had great fun as the person with the highest score on each table moved on to the next table,

with nibbles on the tables and Easter egg prizes for each complete Beetle. The prize for the overall winner with the most points was David who won a large Easter Egg. Thank you to Christine for getting the eggs and to Duncan for running the evening.

At the beginning of our Palm Sunday Family Service the Palm Crosses were blessed and then distributed to the members of our congregation. There was a short sketch entitled "Borrowing the Palm Sunday Donkey" Thank you to Peter N, Stephen and Paul for taking part. Everyone had been given a piece of red ribbon as they came into church. These were laid at the foot of our wooden cross, following the reading of a short reflection: "As Jesus enters Jerusalem, we lay red ribbons at the foot of our cross, reminders of the cloaks laid down by the crowd, but also of the blood that would be shed for the redemption of the world God loves so much"

Once again our Good Friday Informal Service was well attended, and, after enjoying hot cross buns and a drink, Paul led us through the events of Holy Week from Palm Sunday to the sealing of Jesus' tomb, based around a series of readings from St Matthew' Gospel, plus the singing of hymns. Thank you to all who took part.

Following an enjoyable breakfast in the village Hall on Easter Day, we proceeded into church for our Service of Holy Communion, led by Rev. Ian Johnson, to whom we are most grateful. What a wonderful service it was. As we entered church, the sun was shining through the windows, and with all the lovely floral displays, it made Easter Day special. Thank you to those who decorated the church, and those who took part in the service. The breakfast and the Withleigh welcome were appreciated by Ian and Nikki.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

On Sunday 7 May, following the Coronation of King Charles III on the 6 May, there will be a church service to celebrate the Coronation followed by a street party style tea in the Village Hall (Hopefully the weather will be kind and we can enjoy tea outside!) The service will start at 2pm and be followed by tea at 3pm. You are still welcome to attend the tea if you can't make it to the service. If you would like to attend the tea please call Brenda (01884 252431) or Rachael (07763248245) to let us know numbers. If you are able to bring food please let us know what you would intend to bring, or if you are unable to bring food please feel free to come along, there will be an option to make a donation instead.

On Monday 8 May there will be a leisurely walk around Witleigh (with landowner's kind permission) where we hope to learn about the local area and wildlife. This will be followed by a picnic lunch (Please bring your own picnic). Please meet at the Village Hall at 11am. Those who are unable to take part in the walk are more than welcome to meet for the picnic at 12.30. The picnic will be in a field so please feel free to bring along any seating or blankets required. (No dogs please due to grazing stock on the route and the hope of spotting some wildlife.) We will announce the location of the picnic nearer the time.

Our Annual Meeting (APCM) will be held on Sunday 21 May starting at approx. 11.45 am. Steph envisages this meeting should take no more than 30 minutes. We are aware that this time on a Sunday is not convenient for some people. However, we would encourage you to attend if at all possible.

By popular demand we have arranged for the Devon Air Ambulance (DAAT) to come and give us some basic First Aid training and show us how to use our Defibrillator which we have outside the main door to the Village Hall. The DAAT has asked that we hold our training at Cruwys Morchard Village Hall, which gives more space both inside the hall and for parking. The training will be on Wednesday May 17 at Cruwys Morchard, you can choose your preferred time for one of the 3 sessions, for which you will need to book a place. The sessions are 9.30am to 11am, 11.30am to 1pm or 2pm to 3.30pm. Anyone is welcome to join us, please book your preferred time on the DAAT website; www.daat.org. If anyone does not have access to the internet and would like to attend please call Brenda 01884 252431 and I will book you in.

The Village Hall AGM is to be held on Wednesday 31st May, in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Please do come along and support the Trustees and Hall Committee who would really like to know if you enjoy the events that they put on, or if there is something that you would like to see happening in the hall.

WoW. Since the last Today Magazine we have had two very interesting meetings, the first when Marianne talked to us about delving into Family History. She had also looked into records of various houses in Witleigh which we all enjoyed and we celebrated Margaret Britton's 90th birthday with a superb cake made and decorated by Kate.

Last month Rosie and Giles entertained us in their home starting with a glass of bubbly as it was Giles' birthday. Following that Giles gave us a lively, illustrated talk about their recent trip to The Holy Land. This month we shall have

reached one year since we left the auspices of the WI. We shall meet at Plainsfield Farm for a social evening when we shall see the pages of our old WI scrapbook which have been photographed by Tania and put on a memory stick. If you wish to contact us, please ring Susie on 01884 2258492.

Thank you to those who have offered to deliver our TODAY Magazine. This is very much appreciated.

Congratulations to any who are celebrating special birthdays or anniversaries.

We were very saddened to learn of the tragic death of Lorna, daughter of Ruby and Mervyn. We send our sincere condolences to all the family at this very distressing and sad time.

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.

Forthcoming Events:

- Sunday 7 May – Coronation Celebration service at 2pm.
- Sunday 7 May – Street Party Tea at 3pm.
- Monday 8 May – Walk around Witleigh, 11am, followed by picnic at 12.30pm.
- Sunday 21 May – Annual Church Meeting, following morning service, at approx. 11.45am in church.
- Wednesday 31 May – Village Hall AGM at 7.30pm.
- Wednesday 14 June – PCC meet in Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Flower Rota:

- 7, 14, 21 May - CORONATION.
- 28 May, 4, 11 June - Rosie Edmondston-Low
- 18, 25 June, 2 July - Linda Taylor



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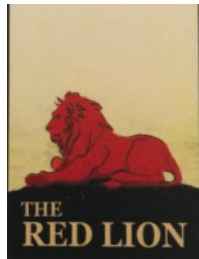
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