



TODAY

The Parish
Magazine
for the
Exe Valley
Mission
Community

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2023

WE'VE GOT PLANS?

The last time I wrote an article for this magazine, I was just about to go on retreat, to Assisi.

I was looking forward to it. We both were. We set off for the airport on Sunday afternoon full of glad tidings of great joy, for all people. Once through security we had something to eat, and I bought something from duty free and then we waited. And waited. And waited. No flight called. No information given – just an ominous sinking feeling that all was not well. And then, several hours later the whole thing was off! The flight was cancelled, and as the next available flight to Rome wasn't until Wednesday and we were coming back on Friday – there seemed little point!

We were despondent driving home. We'd made plans. We knew what we wanted to do, and we'd cleared our desks to do it!

It's good to make plans and it's great when they come to fruition. We've had a number of weddings this summer and it has been wonderful to see the couple's plans realised, after the past few years of uncertainty.

We've had several baptisms where we have celebrated welcoming children into the family of the church.

We had a great service with Colin Smallacombe of the Farming Community Network, and we plan to make the most of our 5th Sunday Special Services throughout the coming year.

We planned for the Holiday Club – Explore Outdoors – and although last year we had to plan for a heatwave, this year we had to plan for rain. We had a great (albeit soggy) time.

As we face the Autumn, we have plans to repeat The Blessings Course. If you are free on a Monday afternoon, look out the dates and times.

We plan to have more of our monthly lunches/teas, and there are plans for the Exe Valley Choir to come together again.

We are also planning to raise money for TEAR Fund at The Big Quiz on October 7th at Calverleigh Village Hall. Do put the date in your diary and get a team together. See page 3.

There was no doubt how disappointed we were when our flights were cancelled. However, we were able to come up with an alternative which was nothing like we had planned but was nevertheless enjoyable.

However, we drove away from Bristol Airport leaving several

distressed couples: a retirement cruise where a missed flight meant that the ship had set sail; long held holiday plans devastated; dreams dashed.

I know that what we experienced is very much a first world problem. All sorts of things far, far worse than a cancelled flight, can come crashing in and change our plans: ill health, financial worries, unemployment, broken relationships. And for many people throughout the world the things that come crashing in are enormous and overwhelming: violence, abuse, war, fire, floods, famine. The list is endless. Often there isn't an easily available 'Plan B'.

The Bible reassures us that in the face of overwhelming uncertainty we can rely on God. As the prophet Jeremiah wrote: 'For I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord. 'They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.' (Jeremiah 29: 11)

May you know the goodness of God and his hope for the future.

*With my love and
prayers
Steph*

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November / December 2023 issue

Friday 13 October 2023

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

WHAT'S ON... ..

LOXBEARE CHURCH

COFFEE MORNING

at

BARTON VIEW

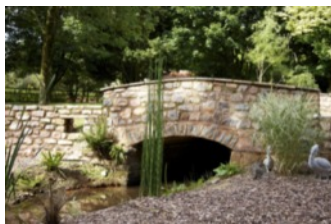
(Bungalow opposite the church)

30th September 10.30am

All proceeds towards
Blythwood Shoe Box Appeal
for Christmas



That's right. It's time to join us for another spectacular, poverty-busting round of the *Big Quiz Night* - this year on the new date 7th October 7 for 7.30pm at Calverleigh Village Hall. Get your teams of 6 together and please let the church office know how many are coming!



Worship Retreat Day at Mill House
with Dave Edwards

on Saturday 30th September
10.00am - 3.00pm

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Thurs 14 Sept at Withleigh Village Hall

Thurs 12 October at Calverleigh Court

Contact the church office to book

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PARISH ROUND-UP

NATURE NOTES

There's a Buzz in the Churchyard

It's an overcast but warm afternoon in early July as I collect my delivery allocation of "Today" magazines from the church porch in St Catherine, Withleigh. Passing under the beautifully crafted millennium arch that straddles the church gates, I enter the churchyard and make my way up the path.

There's not a breath of wind. The leaves on the majestic lime trees that surround the churchyard are motionless. Below them the graveyard has undergone a transformation since my last visit. With the dazzling display of spring and early summer wildflowers over, the faded blooms and long grass have been removed. Order has returned.

As I make my way along the path, I become increasingly aware of a buzzing sound. The churchyard is alive with the sound of insects. It's all around me. It's as if it is emanating from the surround sound of an upmarket hi-fi system, the speakers hidden in every corner of the churchyard. Puzzled, I go to investigate.

First, I notice that the lime trees are bathed in delicate, heavily scented pale-yellow yet rather inconspicuous blooms. Then I spot a bumble bee visiting one of them. Scanning the tree canopies there aren't masses of bees to be seen but, collectively, throughout the churchyard there are clearly enough to fill the air with the sound of their beating wings as they search out the bountiful energy rich nectar on offer. They must number in the hundreds, if not thousands. With so many of our insect populations in free fall, I am reassured that the bumblebees in Withleigh appear to be doing well.

Entering the porch, I look up to see four pairs of beady eyes staring back at me, their large red bibs peeping over a cupped nest made of mud. The young swallows are close to fledging. Hirundines, a family of birds that includes both swallows and house martens, are struggling as are the insects that they feed on. I am comforted to see that these swallows have neither been evicted nor completely excluded from the church porch despite the threat of a few

droppings appearing on the floor below or landing on the head of an unfortunate parishioner!

Having collected the magazines from the porch, for a few precious minutes, I sit myself on the nearby bench and enjoy the sights and sounds of nature that are all around me.

Is your churchyard buzzing with wildlife? I hope so, both for your sake and that of the local wildlife.

Stephen Powles



Exe Valley Market/Community Bus

We are in real danger of losing our community bus which is based in Oakford. It offers twice weekly scheduled route trips from Oakford to Tiverton serving the villages in between. The bus is also available for private hire and is driven by volunteer drivers. We desperately need to fill the posts of secretary and treasurer plus new committee members. The bus has been a lifeline to many people in the community since Oct. 1977 and it would be sad to lose it. So please if anyone feels they could spare some of their time to fill these posts please contact Jennie on 01398 35166 or jennie@chappell.me.uk Help keep the bus running!



And

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Oakford Village Hall

On

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1.00pm to 4.00pm

**If you would like more details, please contact Carol
07837702083**

FROM CINDY

Holiday Club 2023 - Explore Outdoors - Go With Mo!

A big thank you to Claire and Andrew Curtis who generously invited us again to use their home and facilities, Bradleigh House at Templeton for the Holiday Club which made it a great success.

I would like to say thank you to all the team old and new who helped in any way to make Holiday Club a happy and enjoyable experience, this year we had Stephen Roche once again with us putting songs and stories onto the screen for all to enjoy.

We thank Steph, with her amazing costumes and great story telling, telling the story of Moses over the two days, with the children being engaged throughout and eagerly awaiting the next part of the story.

The forest and outdoor activities were very popular with children visiting the forest and river to make bricks and rafts on day one and on day two they had a scavenger hunt which took them up to see the cleverly built burning bush, and then on to see the sheep and eventually arriving at the promised land, to the land of milk and honey where they were able to sample milk and honey and were able to feed and stroke the cows. Thank you to Claire and Liz for planning and leading these activities.

We were once again able to use the swimming pool and great fun was had by all. Thank you to Darcy our lifeguard and to Megan for supervising the children in the water so well. Without them the children would not have been able to swim.

Thank you to Natasha for organising the team games, the children enjoyed a great variety of games. Throwing balls into the clown's trousers is always a favourite. They also played a challenging game which involved passing the hoop around your team in a circle without letting go of each other's hands. Great fun was had by all. Transporting water by sponge was also a very enjoyable game.

Lego was very popular again with children building pyramids and equipment to help the Israelites build the pyramids. Modelling from recycled materials was popular with all sorts of models being made including a full set of cricket equipment made from cardboard boxes which was then used to play a game of cricket.

Children were able to take part in crafts in the barn, thank you to Dawn and Penny for organising this. Making clay plaques with children writing their names using the hieroglyphs, they also made beads from clay and pots. On Wednesday they made collages of the burning bush and the red sea from a variety of materials, depicting and talking about the stories they had heard.

Stay, Play and Pray for the under 5's. This year we were able to invite the toddlers to stay for a while, joining us for our singing and storytelling session and then having a play in the Hub whilst the older ones started their activities, thank you to Jeanne and Eileen for hosting them.

We all learnt so much, not just the children. We got to know each other and make new friends. Lunchtimes were times for getting together and to chat over lunch. Although the weather wasn't quite as good as last year it did not detract from the fun and we were able to do all that we had planned. We all had a wonderful time, we look forward to planning next year's Holiday Club and seeing all the children again.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

CALVERLEIGH

With thoughts of any true summer weather diminishing, we turn to the beginning of the new school year. Students will have received their exam results by this time and we hope that you have gained the results needed to continue in your chosen educational path or job prospects. Our very best wishes to all those who are attending school for the very first time and to all those who are moving on to secondary school, college or university, that you settle in and enjoy the experience.

In June there was an opportunity to share in the celebrations of two of our young at heart church members as they reached a milestone age. Firstly, Derek was 90 and then a couple of weeks later Rita turned 80. Our love and best wishes to them and our thanks go to them and their families for their hospitality.

The family service on 16 July, led by Tasha, was well attended. The subject was 'growing' and at the end of the service the children planted some seeds in pots to take home. We are so pleased that Nikki and Tasha are able to take a turn to lead these services when they are self-take.

A fundraiser was launched in July to help towards the continued window restoration in church. A packet of sweets turns into a money box which is then passed on to our St. Mary's treasurer Jackie. If you would like to take part, please speak to Aubrey or Jackie for more information.

The annual Potato Competition took place at the end of July with many competitors attending and a bring and share supper. The evening was arranged by Gillian with the help of Mary, Tim, Louise and Irene who helped with the potato weighing and Pauline with the draw. The worthy winners are: Men - 1st Kipper H 14lb 11oz, 2nd Geoffrey T 8lb, 3rd Eric W 7lb, Richard W 6lb 11½oz. Ladies - 1st Brenda T 15lb, Wendy W 6lb 1oz, Sue Q 5lb 11½, Lorna T 5lb 7oz. Children - 1st Annabelle T 8lb 8oz, 2nd Ruby B 6lb, 3rd Freddie O 4lb 6oz, joint 4th Evie and Seb W both with 1lb 6oz.

Congratulations to all who took part and it is lovely to see the younger budding gardeners doing so well. Thank you to all who entered and paid to take their potatoes home with them again. A total of over £600 was raised with a donation of £100 going to Devon Air Ambulance. Many thanks to Gillian and team for a very enjoyable evening.

The EVMC Fifth Sunday service took place in the village hall on 30 July. The speaker was Colin Smallacombe from Farming Community Network who spoke about the work carried out with farmers in need of a listening ear whether work or health related. He gave a thought provoking message and a good insight into the numbers of farmers affected in different ways with isolation and financial struggles. Over 80 people attended with many voices used for readings, prayers, music and technology. Thanks to Steph and Claire for a lovely service and to Colin who also gave out literature that will be in our churches of who to contact if you are in any kind of farming need.

Our open air service took place on 6 August and the weather held for us to be able to hold it outside in the churchyard. Our thanks go to Jackie for leading the service. Two pieces of reflective music were played: 'Bread and Fishes' and 'Break Thou the bread of life'. It was good to see old friends who came to join us for the afternoon. Tea, coffee and cakes were served afterwards. Thanks to all who took part in any way at this annual time of worship and fellowship.

The Produce Show will have taken place by the time this goes to print and more information on winners etc will be given in the next magazine.

Our best wishes and congratulations go to anyone who has had a significant birthday celebration, birth of a baby, wedding etc.

Our prayers go to anyone who has been feeling unwell, waiting for or receiving treatment and hope that you will soon be feeling much better. May God Bless you. Condolences go to all who are grieving the loss of a loved one wither recently or longer ago. Our thoughts are with you.

Dates for your diary

Our Harvest weekend will be 16/17 September. There will be a bring and share Harvest Supper on Saturday 16 with a couple of quizzes. Please bring your own drinks and glasses. Tea and coffee will be provided. The following morning at 9.30am will be our Family Harvest Thanksgiving service. A collection of dried goods and toiletries will be made for CHAT and can be brought to church on the day or placed in the box provided, during the week. The church will be decorated for

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PARISH ROUND-UP

harvest in the week building up to the weekend. All fresh produce will also go to a local charity.

Our Autumn Fayre will take place on Saturday 18 November 2023

Cleaning Rota

21 Aug - 2 Sep: Mrs J Goldsworthy
 4 Sep - 16 Sep: Mrs M Furneaux
 18 Sep - 30 Sep: Mrs N Burton
 2 Oct - 14 Oct: Miss S Goldsworthy
 16 Oct - 28 Oct: M & J Herniman
 30 Oct - 11 Nov: Mrs A Balsdon

Mowing Rota

21 Aug - 2 Sep: Mr C Durnan
 4 Sep - 16 Sep: Mr A Hancock
 18 Sep - 30 Sep: The Webber Family
 2 Oct - 14 Oct: Mr D White
 16 Oct - 28 Oct: Mr A Goldsworthy

Flower Rota

3 Sep - 10 Sep: Mrs A Webber
 15 Oct - 22 Oct: Ms L Carrey
 29 Oct - 5 Nov: Mrs M Radford

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

It is Back to School time of year, where new school shoes and fresh pencil cases await to be inducted into the New School Year. Autumn has begun and Harvest, the most abundant time of year in the English countryside, is on our doorstep.

Come and join us for our Harvest Festival celebrations on Saturday 23 September. We start with a short service at 2.15pm in the church, there will be a collection for CHAT of gifts of non-perishable foods. This will be followed by sports (field to be allocated) and a community tea for all in the Parish Hall, where donations are gratefully accepted at the door.

Church of the Holy Cross
 Many congratulations to Phil Grant and Grace Talbot who were married on 17 June, and to Tom Palmer and Layla Hill, married on 12 August. We wish you all the best for your future together.

Thank you to all who attended our Summer Fete held in July. The weather may have been poor but there was lots of fun to be had and laughter heard. We raised £1189.60 for church funds.

Flower and Cleaning Rota
 Sept 4 Sarah Cruwys
 Sept 11 Marilyn Hill
 Sept 18 Decorators for Harvest
 Sept 25 & Oct 2 Cindy Trick
 Oct 9 & 16 Marilyn Hill
 Oct 23 & 30 Cindy Trick

Nov 6 & 13 Sue & Pauline Guscott

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are unwell at this time and with everyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one. We send our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of Steve Mitchell and Winifred Elsworthy.

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

Apple Day and Big Breakfast

On Sunday 15 October we return with our Big Breakfast and Apple Day, held at the Parish Hall from 9am to 1pm. Come along for a delicious breakfast and get your apples pressed at the same time. Remember to bring a container for your Apple Juice!

Parish Hall

Thank you to everyone who attended our Afternoon Tea. There was a great atmosphere with lots of chatting and laughter. £260 was made for the Parish Hall Funds.

Future Events

This year's Christmas Fayre will be on held on Saturday 11 November, and Dave and Di's Christmas Quiz on the Saturday 2 December both events will be in the Parish Hall. More details to follow in the next magazine issue.

Cruwys Morchard YFC

Thank you to everyone who supported our Big Breakfast and the Group Pig Racing in August.

At our last meeting the club presented a cheque for £566.33 to RABI, this money was raised at our Christmas and Summer Tractor runs.

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At this years Mid Devon Show our club undertook the task of running the YFC tent where members competed in cookery craft among other competitions, congratulations to Henry Cole for winning the Junior Boy award.

We have recently completed skills for life in woodworking, taken a trip to Bear Trail and four of our members took part in a tractor training course. Many thanks to James Pryce Tractors for providing the tractor. Well done to Phoebe and Ed Kingdom who were part of Exe Valley's Mixed Basketball team that came 6th in the National Basketball competition. We welcome Gracie Rice back from her scholarship to Sweden, and hope she had a wonderful time.

In upcoming events we are planning a bike ride along the Tarka Trail, will hold our presentation evening on 30th September at the Parish Hall and are getting involved with the group event "Speed" on the 8 September at Craze Lowman.

We wish the best of luck to our members who are going on to represent Devon in the National cookery competition at the end of September.

Our monthly meetings are held at Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. Please come along and join us if you are interested in becoming a member. Club email, cruwysm.yfc@gmail.com

Cruwys Morchard & Puddington Gardeners

After a blazing June when rain butts emptied and keeping seedlings alive took top priority we have been faced with the opposite challenge in a wet and windy July – be careful what you wish

for! Well, gardeners are a resilient bunch and there will still be flowers, fruit, and vegetables to reward our efforts.

At our August meeting we shared experiences of successes and disappointments, passed on tips, and pondered the likely cause of curly beans. We thanked Sue for agreeing to be our new treasurer, taking over from Gerry who will soon be moving out of the area. Grateful thanks Gerry, for being our treasurer from day one and keeping us in the black.

We were able to send £45 to the Devon Wildlife Trust because of donations given by the visitors to the two tours of Westland's garden 'habitats for wildlife'. The remaining money will go towards our next speaker who is giving an illustrated talk on "The Wonderful World of Flowers.". This is Howard Willis from Fernwood Nursery near Torrington. He holds two National Collections and has won gold at Chelsea, Hampton Court, Gardeners World Live, Tatton Park, Malvern and Wisley; we are looking forward to what is sure to be an enjoyable and informative evening. It is open to all and is on Wednesday 6 September at 8.00 pm in Puddington Village Hall, £2 on the door for non-members.

Kevin Keatley, Wildlife Warden for Puddington, has kindly invited us to a tour of his 'patch', an offer we are keen to take up.

Congregational Churches

Please join us for:
Tea and Cake at Nomansland Chapel, 3-4pm every Friday.
Sunday services
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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 alisonvincent@hotmail.co.uk

LOXBEARE

The summer holidays will almost be over by the time these notes are read. Although it has been a bit of a variable one so far, we hope you have had at sometime of relaxing, from the normal day to day work.

We pray for the children and young people, those starting school, others having left primary school and facing the challenges of high school. For older young people, we hope you have received the grades you need as you move onto college education, universities or finding employment/apprenticeships.

The beginning of July, we were able to hold our BBQ at Barton View, although a bit windy, it stayed dry! Thank you to all who helped or contributed in any way with BBQ and who took part in the service after. A very enjoyable afternoon.

It was good to welcome Liz Langdon, Steph and Dave to our service on 16th July and also to the group service on the 23rd July. It was great to see many



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PARISH ROUND-UP

from the area at the Mission Community 5th Sunday service at Calverleigh Village Hall, Colin Smallcombe came and spoke about the work of FCN (Farming Community Network), which supports farmers in their often times lonely and stressful occupation, A very informative and meaningful service led by Steph with Claire and others participating.

Our Harvest Festival will be on the 17th September in the church at 6.30pm and the Speaker is Richard Gibson talking about "Toughest Place to be farmer..... ten years on", followed by cheese & wine at the back of the church. Decorating will be on the Saturday. All gifts of flowers, produce and help will be gratefully received. Come and join us as once again we give God thanks for our food and many blessings.

The Harvest Supper will be on Monday 18th September 7 for 7.30pm, followed by an auction of flowers and produce, Book your place with Carol on 01884 881480. Charge £5. Bring your own drink.

Other service dates September 3rd Morning praise, the 10th September will be Cluster Holy Communion. October 1st Morning Praise celebrating St Michael's and all Angels. October 15th Morning Praise with Tim Gorridge.

On the 7th October we are holding a Prayer Day. Anyone can participate, can be at home or church wherever you wish and at anytime of the day for however long you want. Pray for our Church, village, families, communities and worldwide needs, for any wanting prayer pointers contact Jean or Carol.

We pray for all who are not well especially for those who have lost loved ones.

Our thoughts, prayers and sympathy go to Phil, Peter and Charlotte on the loss of Katie, who has bravely battled with ill health. She will be sadly missed, having in the past attended bible study. Ever willing to help with flower decorating in the church and presented some amazing craft work, for the Flower and Craft Festival.

Happy Birthday to all with birthdays in September and October and any celebrating special occasions. Congratulations to Marlene on becoming a Great-Great Gran to her Great-Great Granddaughter.

On the 30th September there will be a Coffee Morning at Barton View, the bungalow opposite the church, from 10.30am. All proceeds will go towards the Blythwood Shoe Box Appeal for Christmas This is run by a Christian organisation who believe there is a big need to donate gifts at Christmastime to all ages who otherwise have nothing to celebrate or presents to open at this special time of the year when we celebrate Jesus' birth. Come along and support this worthwhile work and make someone's Christmas very special as they receive appropriate items in their gift shoeboxes.

We are enjoying the ploughman's lunches and cream teas, held alternatively once a month on the 2nd Saturday in the village hall. All donations will be given to a different charity each month. Thank you to all who provide the food, etc. Do come and join us on September 9th for ploughman's lunch at 12.30-2.30pm and October 14th for cream tea 3.00pm- 4.30pm.

The welly throwing and picnic evening organised for July was cancelled due to the weather, windy and wet!! As the summer has been such a contrast to last year, apart from a few weeks in May/June, lets hope for a lovely Autumn.

OAKFORD

Raging fires in Greece, Canada and Hawaii, floods in China and news of July being the wettest on recent record in England. But as I write this report, looking out of the window I can see a small patch of blue sky among the clouds. Traditional weather lore states that in bad weather, a patch of blue sky is a hopeful sign that things are going to improve provided that the patch is big enough to make a pair of sailors trousers. So fingers crossed that this comes true for all upcoming late summer events.

St Peter's Church.

Eleven people from Oakford attended the Mission Community 5th Sunday Service at Calverleigh Village Hall. The service, lead by Steph, was presented on the big screen. A peck Lammas Loaf (a loaf weighing 17.5lbs) was freshly baked by John Rendle and the guest speaker, Colin Smallcombe gave a short talk about The Farming Community Network.

There have been 2 weddings this summer in St Peter's Church, best wishes to Luke and Becky and Sophie and George. The Banns have been read for the September wedding of Michael and Chloe. Baby Muirgheas Patrick was

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3 SEPTEMBER

13th Sunday after Trinity
Romans 12: 9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Morning Worship

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Praise

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise

OAKFORD

See Rackenford

RACKENFORD

10.45am Holy Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs
with Dave Edwards

STOODLEIGH

See Rackenford

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

No Service

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Family Service

10 SEPTEMBER

14th Sunday after Trinity
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

See Loxbeare

CRUWYS MORCHARD

No Service

LOXBEARE

10.45am Holy Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs
with Dave Edwards

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise
Claire Curtis

RACKENFORD

9.15am Explore
Claire Curtis & Dave Edwards

STOODLEIGH

9.30am A reflective service with
breakfast of coffee & croissants

TEMPLETON

No service

WASHFIELD

See Loxbeare

WITHLEIGH

3.00pm Harvest Festival followed
by tea

17 SEPTEMBER

15th Sunday after Trinity
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18: 21-35

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

9.30am Family Service with
Harvest Thanksgiving

CRUWYS MORCHARD
10.45am Holy Communion
Claire Curtis
with Dave Edwards

LOXBEARE

6.30pm Harvest Festival
followed by cheese & wine

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

No Service

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

TEMPLETON

6.00pm Evensong

WASHFIELD

9.30am 'Sunday Club'
Claire Curtis & Dave Edwards

WITHLEIGH

See Cruwys Morchard

24 SEPTEMBER

16th Sunday after Trinity
Philippians 1: 21-30
Matthew 20: 1-16

9.30am Zoom Service

**OUR MISSION
COMMUNITY
HOLY COMMUNION
GROUP SERVICE
at
10.45am in
RACKENFORD**

***Steph Gordon-Jeffs*
*and Dave Edwards***
Everyone welcome

23 SEPTEMBER Saturday

Cruwys Morchard
2.15pm Harvest Festival
followed by sports and tea

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

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.

1 OCTOBER

13th after Trinity
Philippians 2: 1-13,
Matthew 21: 23-32

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Morning Worship
Tim Gorringe

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Prayer

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise

OAKFORD

See Stoodleigh

RACKENFORD

6.30pm Harvest Festival

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Holy Communion

*Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and Dave Edwards*

TEMPLETON

10.45am Harvest Festival

WASHFIELD

3.00pm Harvest Festival followed
by sports and tea

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Family Service

8 OCTOBER

18th Sunday after Trinity
Philippians 3: 4b-14
Matthew 21: 33-46

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

See Washfield

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Praise
with Baptism
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

LOXBEARE

See Washfield

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

9.15am Explore
Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and Dave Edwards

STOODLEIGH

9.30am A reflective service with
breakfast of coffee & croissants

TEMPLETON

No Service

WASHFIELD

10.45am Holy Communion

*Claire Curtis
and Dave Edwards*

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Service of the Word
with Baptism
Tim Gorringe

15 OCTOBER

19th Sunday after Trinity
Philippians 4: 1-9
Matthew 22: 1-14

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

9.30am Family Service
Claire Curtis
with Dave Edwards

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Templeton

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise
Tim Gorringe

OAKFORD

6.00pm Harvest Festival
followed by supper in the hall
Tim Gorringe

RACKENFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

TEMPLETON

10.45am Holy Communion

*Claire Curtis
and Dave Edwards*

WASHFIELD

10.45am Family Service

WITHLEIGH

See Templeton

22 OCTOBER

20th Sunday after Trinity
1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10
Matthew 22: 15-22

9.30am Zoom Service

**OUR
MISSION
COMMUNITY
HOLY
COMMUNION
GROUP SERVICE
is at
10.45am in
STOODLEIGH**

*Claire Curtis
with Dave Edwards*

Everyone Welcome



*May
God's blessings
fill our
hearts with a
harvest of praise.*

Psalms 9:1

29 OCTOBER

Last Sunday after Trinity

**OUR
MISSION COMMUNITY
5TH SUNDAY SERVICE
is**

**'Poems, Prayers &
Praise'**

**Led by Susie Wade
at**

**10.45am in
WITHLEIGH
VILLAGE HALL**

Everyone welcome

PARISH ROUND-UP

baptized during the Holy Communion Group service on 6th August.

The Exe Valley Community Church Choir will begin practising again soon, dates to be announced later.

Harvest Festival and Auction.

October 15th in the church and after supper, auction and entertainment in the village hall with Tim Gorringer. We are looking for volunteers to tell a story, read a poem, sing a song – nothing too serious! Something to make people laugh.

The Village Fete, held on 1st July was a successful, well supported event which raised £1046. Donations of £400 each will be made to Exmoor Search and Rescue and Caremoor, Exmoor National Park Authority. Thanks to Kelvin and his team for providing another great event.

The Parish Council

The Community Area is now a safe place for all to enjoy. The children's play area has been fenced against dog fouling. Many thanks to Vaughan for giving many hours and for his equipment used while fencing the area. Thanks also to John and team for raising the funds for the project and thanks to everyone who supported the cause by coming to the Disco last autumn.

Village Hall

Big Screen Race Night 8 Sept at 7.00pm
First race at 7.30pm. Drink and Canapes on arrival, sharing food platter. Tickets £20. Dress for a day at the races, prizes for best turned out and hat. There will be 9 fun races shown on the big screen (£1 per bet) with cash prizes. All money raised will go towards refurbishment of the bar area in the hall.

Contact Jennie 351666 or jennie@chappell.me.uk

The Oakford Players

Oakford Players present - 'A Journey into Space' written and directed by Paul Marcus.

6th & 7th October 2023, 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Tickets £15.00 to include a light supper. Licenced bar. Contact Dawn 324035 or dawnnannwilliams1@gmail.com

The Red Lion Quiz.

Teams of 6, come and join us for a fun evening.

Sunday 24th September 8.00pm
Sunday 22nd October 8.00pm

The Bell Ringers.

The Oakford ringers are planning to welcome pupils from Rackenford School to the tower at St Peter's next term to show the children, via live feed, the workings of the bells high up in the tower while watching, from a safe distance, the ringers actually ringing the bells. There will also be a presentation on the history of St Peter's Bells.

Fund raising is still going ahead. At the beginning of August, Patrick and Nadia welcomed villagers to Oakford Manor for a Croquet Competition with a cream tea and fizz, to raise money for the bell fund. The day was rather wet and windy but between 50 and 60 intrepid people turned out to try their hand at croquet and support the bell fund. Many thanks Nadia and Patrick and all who helped with and supported the event. The amount raised was over £1000, amazing.

The Moorland Ladies

In July an enjoyable if somewhat soggy evening was had by all at Spurway Mill

Farm, hosted by Louise and John. Thanks John W and BBQ Chef, Paul L. Chairlady Louise and all who helped make it a great British BBQ.

The Annual Flower and Produce Show was held in the Village Hall on Saturday 12th August. The show had a record number of entries in all classes, with many new people taking part. Thanks to all who came and helped to make it a great show. Cups were awarded to the following -

Cut flowers - Louise Wilder, Floral art – Jean Marcus, Produce – Laura Parkman, Cookery – Julia Mayer, Men's cookery – Richard Gibson. Preserves- Laura Parkman. Handicraft – Joint winners – Lou Wilder and Laura Parkman. Photography – Lucy Gould.

Upcoming Moorland Club dates.

Thursday 14th September at 2.30pm. - Garden visit to 'Shutlake', near Butterleigh. Arranged by Jenny Benians. The cost is £15 each which includes entry, tea and cake. Numbers needed by 11th September latest.

12th October. Hall and stall set up for Autumn Fayre - time tbc.
Saturday 14th October 1.00 – 4.00pm, Autumn Fayre at the Village Hall.

Funds raised for the Balloons (Devon) Charity. Contact Carla bob.bancroft@live.co.uk

A Blind Date with a Book. In aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Saturday 30th September at Oakford Village Hall 1.00pm – 4.00pm.

Enjoy a slice of cake whilst browsing the beautifully wrapped books. More information from Carol 07837702083

Oakford's Wildlife Warden.

Hello, I would like to introduce you to the Mid Devon Wildlife Warden Scheme, an initiative set up and supported by

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GROUP**

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Call 01884 855357 to book your place.



We look forward to meeting you soon!

PARISH ROUND-UP

New Prosperity Devon and Mid Devon Wildlife. The Scheme supports parishes across Mid Devon to create wildlife groups and train 'Wildlife Warden' volunteers to best encourage action for the environment in the areas of farming, public spaces, nature and gardens.

It is a very positive scheme that provides regular talks, workshops and support when needed. I have volunteered and I know that there are lots of knowledgeable people in our community. I would love to see the scheme grow in our parish.

I would like to hear from anyone within the Oakford parish who would like to work together to support the natural environment around us. I am very keen to keep the issues we consider local to Oakford as we are only a small community and only a small group of 'active' individuals.

We have recently been working on the control/eradication of Himalayan Balsam from the sewage works at Townmead down to Iron Mill Stream. A small group of very dedicated enthusiasts has been out pulling and cutting this very invasive weed that is likely to cost all us taxpayers £Millions over the coming decades. H. Balsam has a seedbed that only survives a maximum of 2-3 years in the ground, unlike many plants whose seeds last for decades if not centuries, so eradication is very possible. If we can prevent any one area from seeding for 2-3 years we should have effectively eradicated it from that area. We have started at the sewage works as that appears to be the source of seed contamination going down to Iron Mill Stream. We would dearly like more

hands on deck for next years onslaught as the plant isn't always easy to see, in the undergrowth, until it comes into flower and then we only have a short window in which to pull it before it sets seeds. Every plant has the potential to spread up to 700 seeds with exploding pods, so even one plant pulled is of huge benefit.

Please get in touch if you have concerns about environmental issues around our beautiful parish or if you would like to help or be involved in any way. Assistance doesn't have to be the boots on the ground type we can use 'techy' types, planners and co-ordinators, all sorts.

Many thanks all. David Bannister

Goodbye and best wishes to Monica and Robin and Sue and Andy who have left the village, hello and a warm welcome to Emma and Chris who have joined us.

Thoughts and prayers go to all who are ill at home or in hospital.

Congratulations to all who have special anniversaries in September and October. Our belated congratulations to Bun and Brenda who have just celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Let's pray for an Indian summer.

It was great to have Dave Edwards taking our Explore service on 9 July.

We were delighted to have Cecile, Peter, Margot and Arthur lead us in prayer and to discuss options as we start our prayers, how do we begin. We all wrote ideas for the children to read out and agreed there is no wrong way to begin our prayers to our Lord and we can pray at anytime and anywhere. It was such a good opportunity to share and learn from each other.

Thank you Dave for leading our singing with your guitar. Tea \ coffee, squash and a variety of biscuits were enjoyed together before the service.

EXPLORE service is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

Congratulations to anyone who have celebrated special birthdays or anniversaries.

Thinking of an 18 years for Dan and at the other end of the scale an 80 years for Graham. We hope you both had wonderful celebrations. Coming up soon we have a couple of residents in our village who will be celebrating amazing birthdays.

To all who are celebrating wedding anniversaries, such a special time to remember those vows taken years ago.

We continue to think and pray for all those who are struggling with health problems, waiting for surgery and appointments or recovering.

We pray for improved health for Joan, Marjorie and Jacques. Sadly there may be some we have not heard of.

Our best wishes also to Stephen and family.

RACKENFORD

At the time of going to print the 'summer' weather seems to have eluded us.

The school holidays have not started well but maybe the best is yet to come.



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PARISH ROUND-UP

The Rackenford and All England Tennis Tournament is taking place once again at Rackenford Manor (curtesy of David and Moy). We hope you have all enjoyed competing in this fantastic fund raising event. Maybe we have some potential Wimbledon Stars in our midst.

Its nearly time to get your walking boots out for our annual church walk, kindly organised by Liz. This will take place on Saturday September 30, weather permitting. Please contact Liz if you require more details or sponsor forms.

Our Harvest Sunday evening service will take place on October 1, which we will be taking ourselves. We really hope you will come and join us and raise the roof with harvest song and thanksgiving. Our Harvest Supper will take place at Rackenford Club (Limited Tickets) on Wednesday October 4. Posters will give details but Mary or Ruth will be able to help with enquiries. We look forward to another successful Supper with your support. Many thanks to Debbie and Rackenford Club.

Many thanks to David and Abdula for kindly volunteering and making a start on our churchyard grass cutting, we really appreciate your help. As the holidays end we wish all the children starting school for the first time, children moving on to new schools, college and university, happy days ahead with new friends.

STOODLEIGH

Report from St Margaret's Church

We're looking forward to a major change to the services at St Margaret's. Starting in September we will be running a Breakfast Service at 9.30am. This will be a more reflective type of service and will also include coffee and croissants, so it'll be great to see as many people coming to join us as possible.

We're looking forward to our Harvest Festival which is on 22nd October and will be our Group Service led by our curate Claire. We will also be testing a sound system at this service to see if it helps the congregation. It's all part of an effort to make the church more accessible and more fun for everyone. We would like your thoughts and feedback about whether the changes are helpful and make the church better for you.

As I write this report, we have just held the Holiday Club. It was a great success and great fun to be involved in. Thanks to Steph, Claire and Cindy for giving me the opportunity to help with this brilliant event. Hopefully we will get more children from Stoodleigh next year.

We now have a new secretary for the PCC. Liz Allen has taken on the role so huge thanks to her for stepping up to take on such a demanding job and a big welcome to our newest officer. Also congratulations to Liz and Steve on their recent engagement.

In early September, we're holding an Afternoon Tea at Mary and Richard

Harding's lovely home. It will be open to everyone and there's no entrance fee but it would be kind if people could manage to give a donation. We will also be running a mini bingo at the Stoodleigh Inn during the Autumn so keep your eyes peeled for more information.

Don't forget that everyone is very welcome at St Margaret's and we also welcome anyone who would like to learn how to ring bells or help with any jobs at the church.

Flower Rota	
9 - 16 Sept	Penny Norman
23 - 30 Sept	Lara Palfrey
1 - 7 Oct	Mandy Widdowson
14 - 21 Oct	Linda Hill

Harvest Festival flowers
22 Oct to 4 Nov
100 Club Winners
June: Andrew Radford, Trevor Cope, Phyllis Hall, Matt Williams
July: Linda Brice, Jennifer Ayre, Shirley White, Dionne Mansfield
Membership for the next 8 months will be £10

Parish Hall notices
Stoodleigh Family Fun Dog Show 24th June. This was run jointly by the Church and the Parish Hall teams. What a wonderful village day! The organisers are grateful for your very positive feedback. Lots of planning was involved and plenty of work to do, but the show wouldn't have happened without so many of you. Thank you everyone for joining us not only creating that great village atmosphere but also raising an amazing total of £1233 which has been shared equally between the Church and the Parish Hall.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Coming shortly

Coffee@theHall 9th Sept 10.30 to 12 noon

Max and Mike's Food Van 15th Sept 5.30 to 7.30pm in the Parish Hall car park

Pilates Classes Autumn term begins 18th Sept at 7pm.

Coffee@theHall 7th Oct 10.30 to 12 noon

Stoodleigh Autumn Fair 28th Oct, 11 am. to 2 pm. Coffee and cakes, light lunches, local businesses and artists showcasing their goods and crafts, community plant stall and more....see the parish website (details below) or ring 01398 351391 for more info or to book a stall

Coffee@theHall 4th Nov 10.30 to 12 noon

You can hire the Parish Hall for parties and events. Please contact the treasurer rusianjan@btinternet.com or ring 01398 351401

THANK YOU

We shall shortly be sending good wishes to Chris Woodhead as he moves from Stoodleigh. He's supported The Parish Hall for several years and since 2019 has acted as a Committee member. The committee has appreciated all his help in so many ways – lighting checks, fire safety, repairs etc. The community enjoyed and valued the Saturday coffee mornings which he and Malcolm ran at the Hall. Thanks Chris for everything you have done and all the best with the move to your new home. Parish Hall Management Committee

Keep up to date via the Stoodleigh website

<https://www.middevonparish.co.uk/sto>

odleigh/ and the Community email – stoodleighweb@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS to Jane and Johnny on the birth of Max.

WELCOME to Marcia and Richard at Ashfields and to Ann and Sean at The Old Stable. We hope you enjoy living in Stoodleigh.

Finally, we know there a few folk in the village who are feeling unwell at this time. We send you our best wishes.

TEMPLETON

Greetings from Templeton

This is a time of great anticipation in the annual calendar as we wait for events to happen in August. By the time this magazine is published, the wait will be over. For students awaiting their exam results, we wish you the best of luck. For families on summer holiday, we wish you safe travels and hope you had a lovely break. For all the upcoming events in Templeton, we are keeping our fingers crossed for good weather.

Countryside Crime and what we can do about it

The recent NFU Mutual Rural Crime Report, published in August, warns that crime across the UK has shot up by 22%, costing £49.5m nationally in the last year. Losing vital machinery and equipment causes huge disruption to farmers who are already stretched to the limit. Replacing equipment in the current economic situation can take months, adding further stress.

Devon and Cornwall police are asking people to join their 'Devon and Cornwall Alert Community Messaging'

service (<https://alerts.dc.police.uk>) which allows people to share crime prevention messages, and crime appeals specific to where they live. The police ask people to review their security and consider prevention as their first step to avoid their property being stolen, and for people in rural communities to be vigilant and to look out for each other. Phone 101 if you see any odd, unusual or suspicious activity, consider your own safety but if you can, try and get a registration number and description of any vehicle noticed, and phone 999 if you believe a theft is taking place.

St Margaret's Church – Update

Work on the Church and Churchyard is ongoing. The Churchyard is well maintained, and this year there has been an abundance of wild flowers, especially the beautiful orange hawkweed, known as Fox and Cubs. The interior walls of the church will have expert attention with the appropriate lime wash, plus work to expose the beautiful stonework surrounding the windows. Of course, the costs involved means that the work will be carried out in stages. The PCC has arranged for a quote for work to be carried out on the area behind the altar.

Services

The Sunday Services at St Margaret's Church are usually held twice a month, with a mix of lay-led services, and group or cluster services led by Steph or Claire, rotating between all the parishes. The centre pages in this magazine cover the many services that will be held over the next two months across the nine parishes in the Exe Valley Mission Community.

The services in Templeton over September and October will be held on:

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PARISH ROUND-UP

September 3rd Lay-led Morning Service at 10.45am, September 17th Lay-led Evensong at 6pm, October 1st Lay-Led Harvest Festival at 10.45am, and October 15th Holy Communion Service at 10.45am led by Steph and Dave Edwards.

We are very grateful to Eleri and Marjorie who play the organ for many of our services. We are so lucky to have such wonderful live music. At other times, we enjoy using a CD to support our singing! We do hope that Marjorie's health continues to improve since her surgery in June.

Templeton Village Fete

On Saturday August 12th we held the annual Templeton's Summer Fete and Grand Auction. By the time this magazine goes to print this year's Summer Fete will have happened! We have had tremendous support from the village in preparing the ground, cutting the grass, strimming the banks, setting up the Marquee and contributing gifts, food, produce and many other items, as well as offering to help with the stalls and games! We hope the day was fun for everyone and we can say more about it in the next issue of the magazine! Stop Press: The Fete has just happened and was a great success, raising over £2,000. Thank you to everyone who took part in making the day such fun and who gave so generously!

Future Events

Sunday 10th September - Duck Race at Templeton Bridge from 2pm.

This event will start from 2pm. The ducks have been training hard and will make their way from Great Esworthy Farm down the River Dart, finishing at Dartcoombe Mill. There will also be delicious cream teas, pasties, book

sale, plant sale and bric-a-brac. Ducks will be on sale (£1 each) during the fete, at club nights, by contacting Roger and Bindy at 01884 860655 or emailing templetonvh@gmail.com and on the day. Money prizes! Proceeds in aid of Village Funds.

Saturday 30th September - Harvest Supper at 7.30pm at Templeton Village Hall.

This is the first event of the Harvest Festival weekend. The bar will be open from 7pm. Do come along and enjoy this annual, delicious and plentiful supper to celebrate the harvest. This year we hope to be able to display the paintings that members of Lynda's successful Art Group have painted over the past year. Also, you are invited to bring with you any unusual item for people to try and identify – this could be a garden tool, or any other strange piece of equipment!! Tickets for the Harvest Supper will be £10.00 each (and £5 for 14-year-olds and under). All proceeds in aid of St Margaret's Church.

Sunday 1st October 10.45am - Templeton Harvest Festival Service at St Margaret's Church.

We would be grateful if you could please bring any fresh fruit, vegetables, packaged or canned produce to the porch of St Margaret's Church during the week before the service so that it can all be displayed in the church on the Sunday. All the produce will be donated to the Churches Housing Action Team (CHAT). They have asked us to pass on their grateful thanks and appreciation.

Saturday 4th November Bonfire and Firework display – entry from 6.30pm.

This very popular annual event will take place at Templeton Village Hall. People really do come from far and wide to see it. The bar will be open and there will be delicious hot dogs and hot drinks for sale, and a Guy Competition so book the date now! Entry from 6.30pm - alight 7.30pm. Adults - £6, Children 5-15yrs - £3 (tickets on the gate). The usual spectacular display! No personal fireworks or sparklers please.

Regular groups

Art Group – Update

The Art Group meets at Templeton Village Hall fortnightly on Tuesdays 9.45 to start at 10am until 12 midday. During September and October, the Art Group will meet on September 5th and 19th and October 3rd and 17th. Everyone is invited. No charge. Just bring yourselves with whatever art work you are doing or want to have a go at, with Lynda there to help if needed. Coffee and cake provided. Look forward to seeing you there. If you want to know more, contact Lynda at newnes7@mail.com

Yoga

Yoga sessions at Templeton Village Hall, are held every Thursday from 3.30pm to 5pm. Pat is an experienced yoga instructor based in Tiverton and can accommodate all abilities. Please note – Pat will be away on Thursday 7th September so there will be no yoga that week. Everyone is welcome, and Pat can adapt the class so that it can be seated for those who don't want to get on and off the floor. Just come along to Templeton Village Hall on Thursday, wearing comfortable clothes, and bring a yoga mat (or a thick towel or blanket), and perhaps a bottle of water. The cost is £9 per session. If you'd like to know



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PARISH ROUND-UP

more, please email Laurel at joeandlaurel@ymail.com

Book Group

The Templeton Book Group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 3pm at Templeton Village Hall with coffee, tea and cake. Please contact Julie on 01884 233507 or email Julie.dent@yahoo.co.uk if you would like to know more. The September/October dates for the book group will be Wednesday 13th September and Wednesday 11th October.

Knit and Natter

Templeton Knit and Natter is on the last Friday of each month from 10.30am to 12 midday, in St Margaret's Church, Templeton. Why not bring any of your repair work, knitting or embroidery with you, or just come along for coffee, biscuits and a chat. The next dates for Knit and Natter are Friday September 29th and Friday October 27th.

Templeton Village Hall and Social Club
Please use Templeton Village Hall for any games of table tennis, darts, pool or skittles – they are all there for you to enjoy – or for a family get-together or a barbecue all set up and ready to use! Just call Bindy on 01884 860655 if you'd like the hall opened up, and to check first 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 drinks available at very reasonable prices. Membership is only £2 a year.

Gardening Club

Now that the summer is well under way, the garden group is in full swing. This is an opportunity for people to get together and talk gardens, help problem solve, suggest places to visit, share any other questions, eat cake and have a coffee.

If you would like to know more and would like to join in next time, please email Ginah at ginahpalmer@gmail.com

Our thoughts, prayers and best wishes
We would like to extend our warmest congratulations to Mr and Mrs Sam and Holly Spence who are starting their married life together.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who are in hospital, undergoing treatment, recovering from illness, and our thoughts are also with their families who support them. We do hope that you will be feeling better soon.

Church Flowers and Cleaning Rota

Sue Coffin	2 Aug - 3 Sept
Phillida Strong	10 Sept - 17 Sept
Ginah Palmer	24 Sept - 1 Oct
Julie Dent	8 Oct - 15 Oct
Liz Walker	22 Oct - 29 Oct

WASHFIELD

We hope you have all had good holiday breaks and are refreshed for a new school year and Autumn events in the Exe Valley'. All good wishes to children going to school for the first time or moving to a new school. Have a happy term!

HOLIDAY CLUB - 44 children enjoyed an action packed two days on August 8th and 9th and followed the adventures of Moses leading the Israelites out of slavery, with stories, songs and many activities connected with Moses' exciting life. Teams took turns to swim, make bricks out of mud and straw down in the woods by the river, design lego pyramids and palaces, clay pots and models and have lots of sports and games. The many helpers enjoyed

themselves too and the weather was mostly kind for picnic lunches and snacks in the sun. There was even a burning bush and rewards of milk and honey when the long journey to the promised land was accomplished. Steph and Claire had planned everything to the last detail and grateful parents collected tired but happy children at the end of each day.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Joy Smith in July and celebrated her life at her funeral and internment at St Mary's Church in August. Joy had been an active member of the community until ill health prevented her from carrying out previous positions and volunteering roles. She was a competent W.I. President for the allocated period and a Churchwarden (with her late husband, Frank) for many years, actively carrying a pastoral role within the church community/parish. She was renowned for her cooking skills, providing baked items for the Fete and many other events. She and Frank had a shared interest in natural history (belonging to a local group), walking their beloved dogs and many other pastimes. We send our condolences to her children Graham, Amanda and Harvey as they come to terms with her sad loss.

The Bowden and Broome families, together with many friends and work colleagues, gathered in St. Mary's Church, on the 9th of August, to say farewell to 'Cisca Broome, at peace after a long illness and missed by her immediate family and all who knew her as a loving wife, mother, grandmother and sister. 'Cisca had worked at Charlton Lodge for many years and is remembered for her wonderful vocation as a kind and caring lady who brought great comfort into to many lives. Memories of 'Cisca, her childhood and

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St Mary the Virgin Washfield

The PCC are looking for someone to clean the church once a fortnight, terms to be agreed.

If you can help please contact either Richard Scholes or Malcolm Dudley-Williams
Contact details on page 2.

PARISH ROUND-UP

growing up in Washfield and her role in her family were very moving. It was a Service of Thanksgiving for a life well-lived

To remind you that the the next 'SUNDAY CLUB' for ALL ages will be on September 16th at 9.30 am. Come and enjoy an informal time together. We would love children to feel at home in the church and to enjoy getting to know Jesus as their friend, and enjoy themselves!

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

1st October at 3 pm. Service followed by Sports for all and a Bring and Share Tea in the Hall.

At this time of uncertainty and anxiety for many farmers it is even more important to remember and thank them for their care of the land and their huge efforts to feed the nation. Harvest, especially of our wonderful grass in the Exe Valley, needs to be valued so let's celebrate and give thanks!

You can decorate and bring produce at any time on Saturday or Sunday Morning.

The Rector, Steph, recently brought together large numbers of farmers in Calverleigh Hall and the churches want to support and help those who can lead a very lonely and worrying life. Colin Smallacombe has the right idea! A good Harvest time to all!

Please find all the many events, lunches etc planned for Sept and Oct. in the front pages of this 'Today'

The Social Club continues to stay relevant with various activities that appeal to villagers. A very enjoyable evening was held in July with a car treasure hunt and cream teas offered (and enjoyed) by all whom attended.

Sunflowers in the competition are coming in all shapes and sizes this

year! Some peaked early and others were still growing at the time of writing this. We have a list and photos of many and the variation is very interesting! If you have one ready now, please measure it, take a photo, and put it on the Humans of Washfield Facebook page. (If you need help with this let any Social Club Committee member know). Please let us know if you have one still growing. The plan is to have a photo display in the Hall and on the Facebook page.

We hope that your pumpkins are growing fast! The annual Pumpkin Weighing night will be on Saturday 28th October.

Have you thought about joining your local Social Club? Did you know that Washfield Social Club and Bar is open every Tuesday from 8.00 pm? Table tennis and board games etc are available or just for a quiet drink and chat with friends.

The Craft Group meet on the last Tuesday of every month at 7.00 pm and the Book Club meets on the second Tuesday of every other month at 7.30 pm (next meeting 12th September). We would love to see more people at the Hall on Tuesday evenings, do come along and bring your friends!

Don't forget teatime@thehall is still as popular as ever on 2nd Tuesday of each month between 3pm-4.30pm. All welcome to this friendly afternoon.

To those who are not enjoying good health at the time of writing, we hope you will soon recover, feel better. To those with birthdays and special events, have a happy time.

Church Flower Rota

3 Sept
10/17 Sept
24 Sept/1 Oct

Anne Boundy
Elizabeth Arnold
Jessica Lampard

8/15 Oct
22/29 Oct

Kay Bassano
Allison Trout

WITHLEIGH

The opening paragraph in the last issue of Today regarding the dry weather and need of some rain, was undoubtedly tempting fate. So it proved, and we are now hoping the rest of the summer will not be a complete washout! But that's the English weather for you.

Our service on 11th June, was Rivah's baptism. We wish her every blessing for her future.

Our 'Friends of St Catherine's Church' meal took place this year as Sunday Lunch on 25th June at the Mount Pleasant, Nomansland. It was an enjoyable occasion, and our thanks to Sara for making the necessary arrangements.

At our Service on 9th July we welcomed Arthur Govier from Tiverton Hospital League of Friends, as our guest speaker. Our chosen charity for 2023, the retiring collection plus the PCC donation, resulted in a cheque for £329 being presented to Arthur.

Our Summer Fête took place on 15th July. This was restricted to the Village Hall due to the rain and high winds. Nevertheless, it proved to be a very successful event, with £1,726 being raised for church funds. As ever, our grateful thanks to all who worked so hard for the event, and to all who came along to support it.

It was with sadness that we learned of the death of Betty Kitchen on 16th July. Betty had attended our services at St Catherine's whenever her health allowed, and supported the church



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PARISH ROUND-UP

financially. She always enjoyed the community lunches. Our thoughts and prayers are with Alison, Bryan and their family, who are considering a memorial service at St Catherine's in due course.

Our "Poems, prayer and praise" last month was, once again, led by Susie and was as thought-provoking as ever. Our ladies' 'choir' was in excellent voice, the guitarist feeling somewhat outnumbered, being the only male present among ten ladies! The next such service will be on 29th October at 10.45am, in the Village Hall. This will be the Special Group 5th Sunday service.

Harvest will be celebrated with our festival service on Sunday 10th September at 3pm. This will be followed by tea in the Village Hall. Don't forget to book your tickets for the Harvest Supper on Monday 11th September, 7 for 7.30pm. The Auction of produce will follow the supper with the proceeds going to the Devon Air Ambulance. Tickets are £12 each, please call Christine on 01884 257571.

The WoW continue to flourish, on the second Thursday in the month. In June we had a beautiful day for a visit to an Open Garden in Butterleigh. In July we had a great demonstration of how to prepare a chicken and a salmon for a barbecue, with ideas for accompaniments. Following this we had a delicious supper sampling the fare, followed by equally delicious desserts, all hosted by one of our members. All are welcome, contact Susie on 01884 2258492.

Congratulations to any who are celebrating special birthdays or anniversaries.

Our thoughts are with those starting school for the first time, those changing schools, and those moving on to further education or university. We wish you every success.

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.

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Finally, your present scribe has been putting these notes together (which involves writing up the church report, and collating notes provided by others) for around ten years, and would very much like to hand over to some willing volunteer! It is all too easy for one person's style to become predictable, and even boring, so it would also be good to have someone with, perhaps, a different approach. If you are out there, please contact one of our churchwardens!

Forthcoming Events:
 Thursday 7 September - Bingo in the Village Hall, Eyes down at 7.30pm
 Sunday 10 September - Harvest Festival in church at 3pm, followed by tea in the Village Hall.
 Monday 11 September - Harvest Supper in the Village Hall, 7 for 7.30pm.
 Thursday 5 October, Bingo in the Village Hall, Eyes down at 7.30pm.

Poems, Prayer & Praise – 29 October, 10.45am in the Village Hall.
 Christmas Fayre – 2 December in the Village Hall, 10.30am – 3.30pm.

Flower Rota:
 3 Sept Daphne Chown
 10 Sept Harvest
 17 Sept Janet Sellick
 24 Sept, 1, 8 Oct Shirley Cruwys
 15, 22, 29 Oct Rachael Pugsley

Taizé Prayers

Taizé is an ecumenical community in France which has been a focus for young people for about 70 years. The core of what they do is meditative prayer, based around simple chants, very easy to harmonise to.

Brother Roger, the founder of the community, wrote: 'Nothing is more conducive to a communion with the living God than a meditative common prayer with, as its high point, singing that never ends and that continues in the silence of one's heart when one is alone again. When the mystery of God becomes tangible through the simple beauty of symbols, when it is not smothered by too many words, then a common prayer, far from exuding monotony and boredom, awakens us to heaven's joy on earth'



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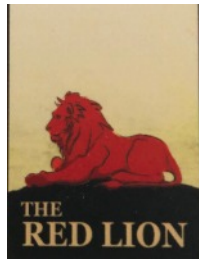
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