



# TODAY

The Parish Magazine  
for the  
Exe Valley  
Mission  
Community

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023

Price £1.00

## TURNING OUR WORLD AROUND.....

*Dear Friends,*

*It is such a privilege to be able to write to you in the Exe Valley, Thank you! We pray that this magazine finds you well, and as you flick through its pages you feel hopeful as you choose what to join in with, either in person or in prayer for the coming season, which we call Advent.*

*The atmosphere is changed isn't it, when we meet, eat together, share journeys hear the word of God and sing it together. At the start of curacy, I asked many of you what you have missed and what you would love to see happen locally. Many of you spoke about missing these aforementioned things, including seeing more of our Exe Valley children. This is indeed the stuff of peace, joy, love and community, to which we are called by God.*

*When do you feel close to God? .... This is a big question that gets us thinking and we have been asking it often lately. When, how and where God meets us in life, experiencing His presence, His love, joy and perfect peace.*

*In listening to people some find Him in the ordinary when walking in nature, at times of great joy and also in sadness. We do pray that those who are suffering just now may know the deep comfort of 'I am with you'.*

*Exploring opportunities of being close to God is something that sparks the interest of all of us. From sitting in silence gazing at a candle in our homes saying thank you, to singing at the top of our voices at the cathedral asking for the 'spear and rod to be crushed by God who is turning the world around' (lyrics from the canticle of the turning).*



*Prayer is running through it all, and we pray especially for our brothers and sisters at war. Bishops Jackie and James are asking the whole of Devon to come and pray on Saturday 2nd December. If you come to our*

*mother church Exeter Cathedral between 3-4 pm, your very own Exe Valley Community Choir will be there, who will also be at the group service the week before on the 26th November at Templeton village hall.*

*Knowing and praying for blessing for our communities and ourselves is a course that Steph will be leading us in, starting on 30th October 2.30pm for 5 Mondays at the Rectory. It was wonderful last time, do sign up if you can.*

*There is something else that will gladden the hearts of all of you..... We are having an 'Explore Nativity' with REAL life animals at Bradleigh House, on the 10th December 4pm. Our master storyteller Steph will take us on a journey of the wonder of it all (see page 3 inside).*

*Oh come let us all adore Him, feel close to Him, He who turns our world around.*

*Sending love and blessings to you,*

*Claire*

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Oakford, Rackenford,  
Stoodleigh, Templeton,  
Washfield and Withleigh  
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**St Mary's Church**  
**Washfield**  
Christmas Coffee Morning  
At The Cottage  
Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup>  
10.30am - 12.30pm



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**WHAT'S ON... ..**



Explore Christmas Outside!  
10<sup>th</sup> December at Bradleigh House at 4.00pm



Can you imagine what it was like to live over 2000 years ago?  
Can you imagine trying to find somewhere to stay in a busy, busy town?  
Can you imagine being a shepherd having to sleep in the fields all night with your sheep? Can you imagine - I expect you can!

So come and imagine with me on 10<sup>th</sup> December at Bradleigh House, Templeton. Experience what it was like one night long, long ago in a country far, far away when something very special happened. Come dressed as if you were part of the story, or find something to wear when you arrive. Come and imagine.....! Everyone is welcome to come to this interactive telling of the story of the first Christmas.

Story, songs, snacks, carols, prayers and hot chocolate!

SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER	11AM- 4PM	EXETER CATHEDRAL
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**COME AND PRAY**

**Prayer and Worship Gathering**

Worship led by the Acting Bishop of Exeter and Bishop of Plymouth.

- Visit our prayer spaces, experience different forms of prayer and be prayed for.
- Creative prayer activities for families and children.
- Music led by singer songwriter Andy Flannagan and the Exe Valley Community Choir.

This event is part of the Diocese of Exeter day of prayer.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."  
PHILIPPIANS 4:6

Exeter Cathedral

DIocese of EXETER  
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
IN DEVON

[exeter.anglican.org/christian-faith/come-and-pray/](http://exeter.anglican.org/christian-faith/come-and-pray/)

**Exe Valley Community Choir**  
Rehearsals at 7.30pm  
Oakford - 2 November  
Stoodleigh - 9 November  
Washfield - 16 November  
Templeton V.H. - 23 November

To sing at Templeton Village Hall  
On Sunday 26 November at 10.45am  
'Christ the King'  
Come and join us!



## WHAT'S ON ....

### NATURE NOTES

It is sad when the swallows leave. They gather, gliding, effortlessly soaring and swooping and filling the sky with their joyful song. Suddenly, they have gone and the sky is left empty, awaiting the winter storms. The feeling that their return and Spring is a long way off is overwhelming as we face grey clouds, torrential rain, icy blasts and maybe icicles and snow!

Yet there are signs of the hope of Spring already. The rutting red deer creating new lives, acorns hiding beneath gold, brown and orange leaves are preparing to send out tiny shoots, squirrels are hoarding acorns, beech and cob nuts in anticipation of Spring before they slip into their dreys to sleep out the winter. In the UK, squirrels do not actually hibernate, but do retreat to their dreys in spells of bad weather.

I have been competing with the squirrels for nuts, acorns and also chestnuts, hoping they will grow in pots in my garden and can be transplanted to hedgerows and meadows when tall enough. Two chestnuts from Knightshayes and several oaks are growing from last year, so I am ever hopeful for this year's scavenging. We have gathered seeds to dry, carefully stored apples and onions and our cupboards are filled with jams, jellies and home-made wine.

I wander along the narrow lanes and hedgerows, noticing the colours and smells of Autumn and the daily changes. The trees in their autumnal best, green and red berries of holly and hawthorn, indigo sloes, snowberries, green, red and purple blackberries, the brilliant blue of crushed beetle wings give clues as to a fox or hedgehog's diet and bees and butterflies cluster round the Michaelmas daisies.

Muck spreaders send the farmyard scent on the breeze, bracken and mosses fill the air with their damp peaty smell and sometimes, a waft of perfume from late honeysuckle, quince and roses floats by.



*The "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,  
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun,  
Conspiring with him how to load and bless  
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run  
To bend with apples the mossed cottage-trees . . . and set budding . . .  
later flowers for the bees, Until they think warm days will never cease "*  
To Autumn by John Keats

Difficult to visualize Keats's golden days of Autumn when the rain sweeps across the hills and the last leaves are blasted from the wavering branches! However, although the landscape appearance changes unceasingly, Devon is always green and beautiful: a constant in our passing lives.

Fiona Bladon

### Bible Study Group

The next meeting will be held at The Cottage,  
Washfield  
Tuesday November 14<sup>th</sup>  
2.30pm

If you would like to come please let me know so that there are the right number of handouts.  
Many thanks.  
Tim Gorringe  
t.j.gorringe@exeter.ac.uk

### Exe Valley Lunches

Thurs 9 November at Cruwys Morchard Village  
Hall - 1.00pm - 3.00pm

### Christmas Lunch

Thurs 14 December at Calverleigh Village Hall  
12.30pm - 2.30pm

Contact the church office to book  
01884 250417

### 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'

It is the kind of book that challenges you.

It is the kind of book that changes you.

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.

Starting Monday 30 October at The Rectory Witleigh, 2.30pm.

Contact church office 01884 250417 or  
Email: [exevalleymissioncommunity.org](mailto:exevalleymissioncommunity.org)

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

### CALVERLEIGH

Wasn't it lovely to have that blast of warm weather in October giving us time to continue enjoying the garden, countryside and even the beach. It did cause a little confusion in the flower bed though, with Clematis in full flower once again. Now as the darker and colder evenings are upon us, we turn our thoughts to those who don't look forward to this time of year as much, due to the longer nights and less contact with the outside world. Let us be more mindful of their situation and be a friendly voice or a welcome visitor.

Our thanks go to Maureen, Paul and all who helped in any way with the Produce Show on 26 August, and especially all those who entered in the various categories. It was a fun day and the prizes were very well distributed amongst the entrants. A total of £400 was raised for Church funds.

The East window has now been repaired, restored, returned and re-fitted. It is so great to have it back in place and by working together the Glazier and churchwarden were able to ensure that it was back for the beginning of September.

The window was done and dusted, just in time for 2 September, when we welcomed Peter, Nina and family to St. Mary's for their wedding, which was conducted by Rev'd Steph Gordon-Jeffs. A happy time was had by all, and the bells rang out to welcome the newly-weds as they left the church. We wish them a long and happy future together.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving weekend was a success. Those who attended the Harvest Supper were challenged to

use their knowledge of supermarket food prices with a 'higher or lower' quiz, general knowledge, guess the weight of the veg and 'breads from around the world'. Winners had a dip in the box for a prize of their choosing. A delicious Bring and Share supper was enjoyed and thanks go to all who helped to prepare the hall and pack away afterwards.

The following morning saw an early family service with Harvest Thanksgiving at 9.30am, with a beautifully decorated church filled with the aroma of flowers, fresh fruit and vegetables a plenty. A family of bread mice took up residence on the harvest loaf which were once again lovingly made by Nik and Tilly. The service was led by Nik and her talk reflected on what we need in life rather than what we want. The congregation went on a 'hunt' around the church for items that then had to be divided into three groups of 'essentials, treats, or hopes and dreams'. It certainly made us think about the necessities of life!

The fresh produce from harvest was taken to The Salvation Army, while CHAT received the dried goods, tins and toiletries. We are delighted that we can continue to support these local charities at this time of year and on other occasions and they are extremely grateful for all they receive to distribute to those in need.

The Big Quiz was held on 9 October at Calverleigh village hall, in aid of Tearfund. Although few in number, there was a good competitive atmosphere between the teams. There was a mix of challenging and more straightforward questions. Congratulations go to the 'The Scientists' who were worthy winners of the bottles of wine, 'It' 'Wet' coming in second

place and 'The Oddbods' bringing up the rear - but they went away with a consolation prize. Thanks to Jean for organising a fun evening, Steph for being an expert quiz master and to all who brought along a great assortment of food for the bring and share supper.

As we approach the festive time of Christmas and all that the season gives us, we are planning to send out the Loxbeare and Calverleigh carol singers once again. We will be out and about around the two villages on December 19, 21 and 23. We were slightly disappointed that we were unable to cover all the normal households last year and will endeavour to do so this time around. If you enjoy singing Christmas carols this is a fun and rewarding festive activity and you are most welcome to join us no matter what your singing ability - the more the merrier! Please contact Aubrey on 255248, Jackie on 255814 (Calverleigh) or Sue 259496 (Loxbeare). We will meet on 19 and 21 Dec at Loxbeare church and on 23 Calverleigh Village hall. On all three nights we'll meet at 6pm.

Throughout December we will again be collecting dried and tinned foods plus toiletries for CHAT. Donations will be collected under the Christmas tree as usual and handed over early in the new year.

Our best wishes and congratulations go to anyone who has had a significant birthday celebration, birth of a baby, wedding etc... Including our very own Tilly who turns 6 in November! Happy Birthday Tilly!

Our prayers are with anyone that is feeling unwell, is waiting for or receiving treatment. We pray that you will soon be feeling much better. May God Richly Bless you. Please let us

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**PARISH ROUND-UP**

know if you'd like us to pray for you by name. 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

**Family Bingo:** We are having a Family Bingo Night on Saturday 11 November at the village hall. Doors will open at 6.30pm, eyes down at 7pm. All in aid of Calverleigh church. Draw prizes would be greatly appreciated

**Autumn Fayre:** On Saturday 18 November, also at the village hall from 10.30am until 2pm we are holding our annual Autumn Fayre. There'll be local produce, tombolas, children's craft, chinese auction, cake stall, bring and buy and books. Refreshments will also be available.

**Cleaning Rota**

30 Oct - 11 Nov: Mrs A Balsdon  
 13 Nov - 25 Nov: Mrs R Tapp  
 27 Nov - 9 Dec: Mrs A Webber  
 11 Dec - 6 Jan: Mrs J Goldsworthy  
 8 Jan - 20 Jan: Mrs S Greenslade

**Flower Rota**

29 Oct - 5 Nov: Mrs M Radford  
 12 Nov - 19 Nov: Mrs R Tapp  
 26 Nov - 3 Dec: Mrs S Greenslade  
 10 Dec - 17 Dec: Mrs M Furneaux

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](mailto:calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org).

We also have a Facebook page, so please like and follow us: [www.facebook.com/calverleighchurch](https://www.facebook.com/calverleighchurch).

Please see the centre pages of the magazine or the website [www.exevalleychurches.org/calverleigh](http://www.exevalleychurches.org/calverleigh)

for any update information on services or activities.

## CRUWYS MORCHARD

The seasons are changing again, and winter descends towards us as does the juggernaut that is Christmas. But I have remembrance on my mind. This is the time of year in church that has always made me feel the most grounded to our parish. Hearing the names of the fallen during the two World Wars never fails to move me. I do not share blood with any of these men, but I share this vista, these fields, this Parish, my home. It is that historic building which holds the social history of this small patch of the world that we call home.

Our Service of Remembrance will be on Sunday 12 November at 10.50am.

**Church of the Holy Cross**

The Harvest Festival was held on 23 September. The afternoon started with a short service in church and then moved on to the sports. Thanks to all who had provided the floral decorations.

We were lucky to have fine weather for the sports for the children and adults with all the usual races. Thank you to everyone who helped provide the tea which was enjoyed by all. CHAT were very grateful for all the donations that were brought to the service.

We were pleased to welcome Albert, the son of Rebecca and Matthew Wilcox into our church for his baptism. The Christmas Carol service is on Sunday 17 December. Please see the centre pages for service times. We will

be having Christingles this year and refreshments after the service. We shall be collecting non-perishable goods for CHAT, your donations can be brought to the service or dropped into the church.

If you would like to make the Christingles for the service, we shall be getting together at Cindy's on Saturday afternoon. Please contact Cindy for further details on 01363 866621.

**Flower and Cleaning Rota**

Nov 6 & 13 Sue & Pauline Guscott  
 Nov 20 & 27 Denyse Standen & Jo Hilton  
 Dec 5 Cindy Trick  
 Dec 11 Decorators for Christmas  
 Dec 18 & 25 Diana Vincent & Val Randerson  
 Jan 1 & 8 Cindy Trick

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 family and friends of Sue Robinson.

Following the extremely sad and sudden loss of my wife, Sue, in September after a short illness, our children and I were able to celebrate her life with family and friends in the parish hall. We have been overwhelmed by the kindness of people who have sent us their condolences and called in to offer sympathy and support. We would like to thank those of you who were able to join us for the celebration and give a special thank you for the delicious homemade cakes that we have taken delivery of from our thoughtful neighbours. Following people's generosity, we have been delighted to make donations to two of Sue's favourite charities; £325 to RABI and £325 to Marie Curie. With our heartfelt thanks John, Linsay, Jocelyn, Sam and Lisa (Robinson)

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# PARISH ROUND-UP

## Christmas Craft Fayre

Please join us at the Parish Hall on Saturday 11 November 10.30 am to 1.30 pm for a chance to get some goodies in readiness for Christmas. There will be various craft stalls, cake stall, Christmas Hamper raffle, Children's Tombola, and delicious refreshments. Donations of food/drink items for the Hamper raffle, Children's Tombola and Cakes would be much appreciated. For further information please contact Ali Vincent on 07801 480806.

## Christmas Tree Festival

Let's give it another go! Last year the Church looked fantastic filled with a wide variety of Christmas trees decorated and made from different materials. The event shall be held over the second weekend of December (Sat 9th and Sun 10th) 3.30pm to 7.30pm in the church, with the Young Farmers serving refreshments in the Parish Hall. Please come along and see this Christmassy Spectacle for yourself. If you would like to enter a Christmas tree into the festival or have any queries, please contact Lynnette on 07527 924626.

## Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall

We have a couple of events this Christmas. Kicking off with Dave and Di's Annual Christmas Quiz on Saturday 2 December at the Parish Hall. Doors open at 7pm with the quiz starting at 7.30pm. There will be a bar and raffle. To enter a team of up to 6 people, please contact Diana Vincent on 01363 860227 by Wednesday 29 November. £5 per person, this includes supper.

Christmas Bingo to be held at the Parish Hall on Saturday 16 December. Doors open at 7pm, eyes down at 7.30pm. Usual good prizes, plus prizes for children and a raffle.

## Flower Show

Well! What an amazing Flower Show we had this year. Thank you to all who entered, especially the children who were all rewarded for their efforts. Also, thanks to our wonderful judges, who did a sterling job. Principle cup winners were Keith Westcott, Teresa Grant, Pauline Guscott, and Olly Gardner. Look out next spring for our new Show Schedule. Show date next year is Saturday 10 August 2024.

## Apple Day & Big Breakfast

It was lovely to see so many of you attend this event. Thank you to all who helped on the day, both young and not so young! A special thanks to Guy, Bob, and family for their never ending hard work pressing out all the lovely Apple juice. Perhaps yet another event we can look forward to next year.

## Cruwys Morchard YFC

In September, Ed Kingdom, Jess Kingdom, and Evie Rice headed up to the Malvern Show to represent Devon at the National Cookery Competition, they came fourteenth. Members also, helped with the Exe Valley Group's Speed Shear.

The club held their annual presentation evening where various awards were handed out. Jess Kingdom and Ed Kingdom were victorious in gaining most points in the last year. Evie Rice was awarded the Maureen Tucker Award for most enthusiastic member, and Luke Cole came away with the Sheep and Supreme Champion Cup. Luke also won the novice boy cup at the Exe Valley Group AGM for his impressive stock at Show and Sale.

Members are looking forward to their Christmas meal at the beginning of December whilst practicing their moves

to compete in the County Disco Dancing competition coming up in January 2024.

If any of this sounds tempting, please come along, and join us. We hold our monthly meetings at Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm. Club email, [cruwysm.yfc@gmail.com](mailto:cruwysm.yfc@gmail.com)

## Cruwys Morchard & Puddington Gardeners

At our September meeting Howard Wills gave an illustrated talk on "The Wonderful World of Flowers" in Puddington village hall. Using his amazing photographs, he explained how the earliest flowers were formed and then followed the evolutionary story to the emergence of all the shapes, colours, sizes and scents we know today.

We met again in October at The Cruwys Arms for a 'garden round up'. Some have suffered badly from slugs devastating seedlings. This may be happening most in the newest gardens where natural controls have not yet had a chance to develop. Everyone agreed that it has been a good year for tomatoes and the extension of the warm weather means that we are still picking them today.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 1 November, 8pm at The Cruwys Arms. The topic for discussion will be House Plants. All welcome, whether a member or not.

## Congregational Churches

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Tea and Cake at Nomansland Chapel, 3-4pm every Friday.  
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2.30pm Nomansland chapel \*  
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# PARISH ROUND-UP

\* 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

## LOXBEORE

At the time of writing, we have just enjoyed some beautiful hot and sunny weather for an autumn month, apparently hotter than days in July. More seasonal weather now setting in, hopefully not too cold and wet!

Our Harvest Celebration service was held on 17 September giving God thanks for all his good gifts to us. The offering of £150 was given to help the work of Force. The speaker was Richard Gibson who spoke about the charity work he felt led to set up after a visit to Kenya a few years ago. This raised funds to provide clean water for some of the outlying areas.

The Harvest Supper was held on Monday and the money raised, of over £260 by tickets for the meal, auction of produce and donations went to Chat. Thank you to all who helped in any way from decorating the Church, taking part in the service and the Harvest Supper evening etc.

On 1 October we held a special service celebration of St Michael's and All Angels Church with some interesting historical facts. We thank God for the Christian witness there has been in Loxbeare for hundreds of years.

Thank you to all who took time out of their day to pray on our October monthly prayer weekend 7/8. Praying for our Church, Village, Exe Valley and the wider area and the many needs around the country and the world. The dates for November for prayer are weekend of 4/5 and December 2/3. Anyone wanting pointers contact Jean on 881400 or Carol 881480.

The Remembrance Service on 12 November will start at 10.50am to be taken by Rev'd Clare Curtis with Holy Communion.

We will be holding a Christingle Service at 10.45am on 3 December. The Carol Service will be on 17 December at 6.30pm. Christmas Day Service will be taken by Claire Curtis with Holy Communion. Come and join us as we celebrate Christ's birth.

We pray for all who are unwell and remember those who have lost loved ones.

Happy Birthday to all with birthdays in November and December and congratulations to those celebrating special occasions.

Jean held a coffee morning on 30 September at Barton View and we thank her for all the work put into the morning and for all who helped and supported and gave donations. A lovely total of nearly £300 was raised which will go towards the Blythwood Shoe Box Appeal to buy items to fill the boxes for Christmas gifts. Anyone wishing to help pack are welcome at the Village Hall on Tuesday 7 November at 7.00pm. Thank you to those who have filled boxes themselves. Carol will need all boxes by 12 November. If you need more details, contact Carol on 01884 881480.

The Ploughman's lunch with a pudding will be on the 11 Nov 12.30pm-2.30pm. On 9 December will be the Christmas cream tea/fayre 2.30pm-4.00pm. Once again thank you to all who donate to the different charities each month and help in any way at these events. An Italian themed evening will have been held in the Village Hall on Friday 27 October.

The Bingo evening will be on 4 Dec, 7.00pm for eyes down at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Carol singing:  
 As we approach the festive time of Christmas and all that the season gives us we are sending the message that the Loxbeare and Calverleigh carol singers will be out and about around the two villages over the nights of December 19th, 21st and 23rd. We were disappointed that we were unable to cover all the normal households last year and will endeavour to do so this year. If you enjoy singing Christmas carols this is a fun, festive activity and you are most welcome to join us, the more the merrier. Please contact Sue 259496 (Loxbeare) Aubrey on 255248, or Jackie on 255814 (Calverleigh). We will meet on 19th and 21st, Loxbeare church at 6.00pm and 23rd Calverleigh village hall also at 6.00pm.

## OAKFORD

So here we are on the doorstep of winter. Ready to cosy up in front of our fires with a glass of wine and a good book, but first let's look back on the events that took place during Autumn.

St Peters Church was full once again in September for the third wedding of the year to take place in Oakford. The sun

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**5 NOVEMBER**

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Advent  
1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13  
Matthew 23:1-12

**9.30am Zoom Service**

**CALVERLEIGH**

10.45am Morning Worship

**CRUWYS MORCHARD**

10.45am Morning Prayer  
Tim Gorringe

**LOXBEARE**

10.45am Morning Praise

**OAKFORD**

**10.45am Holy Communion**  
*Steph Gordon-Jeffs*  
*with David Edwards*

**RACKENFORD**

See Oakford

**STOODLEIGH**

See Oakford

**TEMPLETON**

No Service

**WASHFIELD**

3.00pm Evening Prayer

**WITHLEIGH**

10.45am Family Service

**12 NOVEMBER  
REMEMBRANCE**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Advent  
1 Thessalonians 4:13 to end  
Matthew 25:1-13

**9.30am Zoom Service**

**CALVERLEIGH**

**10.50am Holy Communion**  
*Steph Gordon-Jeffs*  
*with David Edwards*

**CRUWYS MORCHARD**

10.50am Remembrance Service

**LOXBEARE**

**10.50am Holy Communion**  
*Claire Curtis*

**OAKFORD**

10.50am at War Memorial  
Tim Gorringe

**RACKENFORD**

10.50am at War Memorial

**STOODLEIGH**

10.50am Remembrance Service

**TEMPLETON**

10.50am Remembrance Service

**WASHFIELD**

10.50am Remembrance Service

**WITHLEIGH**

10.50am Remembrance Service

**19 NOVEMBER**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11  
Matthew 25: 14-30

**9.30am Zoom Service**

**CALVERLEIGH**

10.45am Family Service  
with Baptism  
Steph Gordon-Jeffs  
with David Edwards

**CRUWYS MORCHARD**

See Withleigh

**LOXBEARE**

10.45am Morning Praise  
Tim Gorringe

**OAKFORD**

No Service

**RACKENFORD**

No Service

**STOODLEIGH**

10.45am Morning Praise

**TEMPLETON**

See Withleigh

**WASHFIELD**

9.30am 'Sunday Club'  
Steph Gordon-Jeffs  
with David Edwards

**WITHLEIGH**

**10.45am Holy Communion**  
**with Baptism**  
*Claire Curtis*

**26 NOVEMBER  
'CHRIST THE KING'**

Sunday Next Before Advent

Ephesians 1: 15-23  
Matthew 25: 31-46

**9.30am Zoom Service**

**OUR MISSION  
COMMUNITY  
HOLY COMMUNION  
GROUP SERVICE  
WITH EXE VALLEY  
COMMUNITY CHOIR**

at

**10.45am in  
TEMPLETON VILLAGE  
HALL**

***Steph Gordon-Jeffs***  
***and Claire Curtis***



Steph with her fellow ordinands on retreat at  
The Society for Mary and Martha Sheldon

### 3 DECEMBER

First Sunday of Advent  
1 Corinthians 1: 3-9  
Mark 13: 24 to end

**9.30am Zoom Service**

#### **CALVERLEIGH**

3.00pm Christingle Service

#### **CRUWYS MORCHARD**

10.45am Morning Prayer

#### **LOXBARE**

10.45am Christingle Service

#### **OAKFORD**

See Rackenford

#### **RACKENFORD**

**10.45am Holy Communion**

*Steph Gordon-Jeffs  
and David Edwards*

#### **STOODLEIGH**

See Rackenford

#### **TEMPLETON**

No Service

#### **WASHFIELD**

**10.45am Holy Communion**

*Tim Gorringe*

#### **WITHLEIGH**

4.00pm Christingles @ Advent

### 10 DECEMBER

Second Sunday of Advent  
2 Peter 3: 8-15a  
Mark 1: 1-8

**9.30am Zoom Service**

#### **CALVERLEIGH**

See Loxbeare

#### **CRUWYS MORCHARD**

No Service

#### **LOXBARE**

**10.45am Holy Communion**

*Tim Gorringe*

#### **OAKFORD**

10.45am Morning Praise

#### **RACKENFORD**

No Service

#### **STOODLEIGH**

No Service

#### **TEMPLETON**

**10.45am Holy Communion**

*Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

#### **WASHFIELD**

See Loxbeare

#### **WITHLEIGH**

10.45am Advent 2 Reflection

### 17 DECEMBER

Third Sunday of Advent  
1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24  
John 1: 6-8, 19-28

**9.30am Zoom Service**

#### **CALVERLEIGH**

3.00pm Carol Service

Steph Gordon-Jeffs

#### **CRUWYS MORCHARD**

10.45am Christingle and

Carol Service

Claire Curtis

#### **LOXBARE**

6.30pm Carol Service

followed by mulled wine and  
mince pies

#### **OAKFORD**

6.00pm Carol Service

followed by mulled wine and  
mince pies

#### **RACKENFORD**

**10.45am Holy Communion**

*Tim Gorringe*

#### **STOODLEIGH**

6.00pm Carol Service

Claire Curtis and David Edwards

#### **TEMPLETON**

See Cruwys Morchard

#### **WASHFIELD**

10.45am Christingle Service

Steph Gordon-Jeffs

and David Edwards

#### **WITHLEIGH**

**10.45am Holy Communion**

*Ian Johnson*

### 20 DECEMBER

#### **WITHLEIGH**

6.30pm Candlelight Carol  
Service

Steph Gordon-Jeffs

### 10 DECEMBER

#### **BRADLEIGH HOUSE**

#### **TEMPLETON**

**EXPLORE CHRISTMAS  
OUTSIDE!**

**4.00pm**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

### 24 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS EVE

**9.30am Zoom Service**

#### **CRUWYS MORCHARD**

**10.00pm Holy Communion**

*Tim Gorringe*

#### **OAKFORD**

**10.45am Holy Communion**

*Steph Gordon-Jeffs  
and Dave Edwards*

#### **RACKENFORD**

6.30pm Carol Service

#### **TEMPLETON**

6.00pm Carol Service

Claire Curtis

#### **WASHFIELD**

6.00pm Carol Service

#### **WITHLEIGH**

11.30pm 'Welcome in Christmas'

### 25 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY

**9.00am Zoom Service**

#### **CALVERLEIGH**

**10.15am Holy Communion**

*Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

#### **LOXBARE**

**10.00am Holy Communion**

*Claire Curtis*

#### **STOODLEIGH**

**9.30am Holy Communion**

*Ian Johnson*

### 31 DECEMBER

**First Sunday of Christmas**

**9.30am Zoom Service**

**OUR  
MISSION COMMUNITY  
5TH SUNDAY SERVICE**

**is at**

**10.45am at  
WASHFIELD**

**Tim Gorringe  
and Claire Curtis**

**Everyone welcome**

# PARISH ROUND-UP

shone, the bells rang and the family and friends of Chloe and Michael came together for the service and following celebrations. Best wishes Chloe and Michael for a very happy life together.

The ladies of the Moorland Club spent a most enjoyable afternoon in the lovely garden of Shutelake Farm and even though there was a bit of light rain we were able to have tea and cakes in the fresh air.

At the end of September, to support Macmillan Cancer, invitations went out to come on a 'Blind Date with a Book'. Pre-loved, beautifully wrapped books of all manner and subjects, tea or coffee and scrumptious cakes and time to sit and chat with friends and neighbours in the village hall, what a great idea and a lovely afternoon. Thank you Carol and team, a wonderful £835 was raised!

**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING**



Dave, Oakford's Wildlife Warden sent a plea to any parishioners interested in helping to support the natural environment around us, to get in touch with him and join his small band. Hopefully he has had some support and please be mindful that the group will continue to need helpers.

October saw the Exe Valley Community Choir start practising for upcoming events in November and December. If you would like to join, our next practice is at St Peter's Oakford on 2 November at 7.30pm.

The Oakford Players provided their usual entertainment at the village hall with their presentation 'A Journey into Space', written and directed by Paul Marcus. The evening included a light supper, thanks to Julia and team,

along with lots of laughter.

The Harvest Festival Service was held in the Church on 15th October and was followed by supper, an auction of produce and entertainment in the village hall. Thank you to Tim Gorringer for presiding, being our auctioneer and for his and Gill's entertainment! We raised £575 towards the Tower Fund.

The Moorland Club Autumn Fayre was held to raise funds for Balloons, a charity giving grief support to children, young people and their families in Exeter, mid and east Devon. The fayre was well supported and raised over £1200 for Balloons.

The Red Lion hosted the Inter Pub Quiz organised by Exmoor Rotary Club, to raise funds, this year for The Calvert Trust, and to promote fun and friendship between local pubs. Oakford were the winners this year, well done all who took part.

Now dates for your diaries.

**St Peters Church**

12th November - Service of Remembrance 10.50am at the War Memorial and afterwards in the church.

17th December - Carol Service in the church at 6.00pm followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

Christmas Eve Service - 10.45am with Rev'd Steph and Dave Edwards

Exe Valley Community Choir 26th November - 10.45 at Templeton Village Hall celebrating 'Christ the King'

**Red Lion Quiz.**

19th November 8.00pm

17th December 8.00pm

**Moorland Club.**

9th November 7.30pm - Wreath Making demonstration and workshop.

December 14th - 6.30pm - Christmas meal and games. - Village Hall

**Artisan Christmas Fayre**

8th December In the Village Hall - 4.00 - 8.00 pm

Carols around the Village Christmas Tree.

Look out for more information of date and time on the village notice boards

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

Best wishes to anyone celebrating a birthday or special anniversary in November or December.

Christmas greetings to all.

# RACKENFORD

**W**hen you receive this copy of Today we will be at the very end of October or beginning of November.

This means that maybe we have started planning our Christmas or Christmas shopping which is even harder to believe because at the time of going to print we are enjoying a hot spell.

So happy to hear such positive news of Holiday Club which was enjoyed by lots of children and made possible by volunteers, far too many to mention in person. Everyone seemed to have embraced the event, met new friends. We look forward to next year.

We always enjoy our Explore service and look forward to seeing the children participate. A wide variety of topics are chatted over with children giving us their thoughts. We have a beautiful framed photo of pictures showing where children/adults feel God is with them, given them certain talents, or generally feel closer to God, and a special place to pray.

We have chatted about TIME, how it can fly by for some or maybe drag for others. To have time to pray at any time of day

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## Baby & Toddler GROUP

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

Call 01884 855357 to book your place.



We look forward to meeting you soon!

## PARISH ROUND-UP

and anywhere. Elliot has kindly read to us on several occasions and more recently, Elliott and Annemarie read separately. Such a joy for us to listen to the children. Of course we all enjoy a chat together and catch up while enjoying tea, juice and biscuits. Always a pleasure to sing along with Dave on his guitar.

We are extremely grateful to the All English Tennis Tournament held at the home of David and Moy for donating £1,000 to Rackenford Church Funds once again. This is such a kind and generous gift which was received by our church warden Mary. Delicious refreshments were enjoyed too.

Schools/colleges have all resumed again. Hopefully you have enjoyed meeting up with old and new friends, and maybe new teachers and surroundings too.

Unfortunately we don't always get to hear about special birthdays or anniversaries until after the event so it can be very belated wishes.

We hear that Jean and Joan have had amazing age birthdays to enjoy with family/friends. Hopefully you enjoyed your days.

We would also like to wish you both good health. Our best wishes too for improved health to Jacques, Joan, Marjorie and Mary (our church warden) who has returned from holiday feeling very poorly. When you are well again Mary we look forward to you joining us again in church. To all who are feeling lonely, poorly or depressed or generally under the weather we pray for you.

Many of us enjoyed a fund raising event at Abdula and Henry's home in mid September. What great hosts. Delicious savouries and cakes were in abundance as was tea/coffee etc.

A draw, guess the weight of a cake etc all added to the enjoyment. Sadly not good weather but it did not deter us. The profit went to Brain Tumor Fund Research.

Many thanks to Ruth and Graham for hosting a fashion show, good fun and good company. £400 was raised for church funds. Refreshments were enjoyed both inside and out as the weather was kind to us. Any clothing that remained was given to CHAT and Charity Shops, for which they were most grateful.

We donned our walking boots for our, on the level, sponsored walk this year at Tiverton Canal. This took place on September 30. We were thrilled to have good walking weather which meant we could enjoy a little picnic together en route as well as admire the wild life, moored boats and general good countryside scenery. We ended our walk enjoying teas/ice creams at the Canal Tea Room, outside in the sun. Many thanks to Liz and Tim for arranging all this for us and making sure we were all cared for and returned home safe and sound. Also thanks to Graham and Roy for providing transport and meeting us at different locations. Many thanks to all of you for kindly sponsoring us and making this event possible, it means such a lot. In our next issue we will be able to tell you the amount raised.

We have sadly said goodbye to Andrew, Cheryl, George and Emily. We wish you every happiness in Washfield, not too far away. A warm welcome to James and Emily and we hope you will enjoy village life in Rackenford.

Our Harvest Service was held earlier this year on 1st October at 6.30pm.

Liz took our service with Graham at the organ of course. Thank you to them as always. Although we were depleted in numbers we gave our all singing Praise for the harvest we have been lucky enough to gather in. Thank you to all who helped to decorate the church and provide the flowers and foliage, beautiful colors from our gardens and land.

Luckily our Harvest supper on a smaller scale was once again held at Rackenford Club Bar Area which we had all to ourselves with a glowing fire. We were able to accommodate 40 people to sit comfortable and enjoy a sit down meal followed by a wide choice of pudding, tea and coffees. Thank you so much to all of you who made delicious puddings, such a wide variety to enjoy. Nobody could have left hungry and many left with draw prizes too. The ladies were thanked and applauded for all the hard work involved.

However this would not have been possible without Rackenford Club and a warm welcome from Debbie and offering any help she could give to make this possible, including the use of the kitchen. Thank you very much Debbie for all your thoughtfulness. Thank you to all of you for attending and we hope you enjoyed it as we endeavor to keep this old tradition going. We were reminiscing over years past, when the church was full, extra seating brought in, harvest tea etc at the Gaiety Hall after the afternoon service, school children getting off the bus and racing down to enjoy tea as soon as possible. All this followed by a band playing and dancing. Some of us remember it well!!!

We send our love and best wishes to Richard and Charlotte who will be marrying shortly in Buckinghamshire.



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## PARISH ROUND-UP

Continued thanks to Abdula and David for giving your time and kindly cutting paths and various parts of our churchyard, its such a great help and much appreciated.

The schoolchildren held a joyful Harvest service in church on 11 October which a great number of family and friends enjoyed. Prior to the service the children brought an amazing amount of gifts, a wide variety. Later the gifts were taken to CHAT for which they were very thankful for and will look forward to distributing to those in need of help. Many thanks to all the children and families.

Reminding everyone our **REMEMBRANCE SERVICE** will be held at the War Memorial on November 12<sup>th</sup> t 10.50am prompt.

Richard and Christine kindly organize the wreath. The collection taken will be given to the Royal British Legion.

We pray for all the people in the midst of war and the horrors they are having to deal with. The uncertainty and fear of life to come. The loved ones lost and the emptiness of there lives .

We have NO Explore service at Rackenford in November.

However on Sunday 10th December at 4.00pm, we have an Explore Nativity at Bradleigh House, Templeton (Claire's home) with Steph, Dave and Stephen. This is going to be such a special service which we can all enjoy together. A real treat as Christmas approaches.

Our Christmas Eve Service, led by Liz will be at 6.30pm. Well before Father Christmas arrives. We look forward to seeing you all again at this time of celebration.

It may seem far too early but this maybe the last opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas.

We remember all our friends in the Exe Valley who we meet up with at various services throughout the year.

Our love and thanks also to Steph, Claire, Dave and families.

## STOODLEIGH



On Sunday 1st October Steph blessed a bench at St Margaret's Church Stoodleigh, in memory of Thomas Drew who passed away 6th May 2022, which was Tom & Valerie's 61st wedding anniversary, Tom lived in Stoodleigh all his life he was born at Bellbrook and moved to Champles where he farmed until he retired, He took pride in the village which led him to be on the village hall committee & parish council. In the photo with Steph are Tom's 6 great grandchildren - Sophia, Amelia, Thomas, Saskia, Eliza and Keary

### Report from St Margaret's Church

We've now had our first few Breakfast Services at St Margaret's and they have been very well received by those who have come. It seems that a nice coffee and croissant goes down very well with some reflection and joint/personal prayers. Sarah has been leading these

services so far and they have proved very thought provoking and interesting. The different thoughts and experiences have been part of a different type of learning about our faith for me and many others. We're hoping that more people will come and join us in these services.

Our next 'new' service is on the second Sunday in December when we will be holding a 'Hotpot Service' at 12 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come and join us and share a hot meal, fellowship and reflections. We're really looking forward to welcoming everyone to St Margaret's.

In November, we will be running a Fun Bingo with some quite different prizes. It won't be a case of chicken dinners or any large prizes but it will definitely be fun. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Lizzie and everyone at The Stoodleigh Inn for agreeing to host this fun evening.

By the time you read this, Harvest will have come and gone and we will all be looking forward to Christmas. Our Carol Service is on 17th December and we're very pleased to welcome our Curate Claire and will have music by Dave and Levon. There will be mulled cider and other goodies for people to enjoy after the service which starts at 6.p.m.

The day before the Carol Service we will be running our usual Christmas coffee morning in the Church and we will have our usual 'surprise raffle'. All the prizes are wrapped up so it is anyone's guess what they are! Everyone is welcome and it would be lovely to see our friends from the other parishes in the group. Finally, I'd like to thank all our marvellous flower arrangers, led by Phyllis, who always have flower arrangements in the church.

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

### Flower Rota

11 - 18 Nov Phyllis Hill  
25 Nov - 2 Dec Julie Hubbard  
9 - 23 December Christmas All  
6 - 20 January Phyllis Hill

### Stoodleigh Cricket Club

A good season was had by both the league and friendly teams this summer. The league team finished 6th in Division 2 of the West Somerset League. The friendly side played a number of local teams and enjoyed playing some very close matches.

The end of season 'Pub v Club' game proved yet again to bring out everyone's competitive side!

Thanks to all those who came along to play and support the Club and have done so throughout the summer.

### Parish Hall

#### Stoodleigh Autumn Fair

28th October 11.00a.m. to 1.30p.m.

We welcome you to the Parish Hall to meet local businesses and artists showing their goods and crafts with an opportunity to buy - start your Christmas shopping here! There will be stalls offering jams, preserves, cakes, books, plant stall, recycled toys and a raffle. You'll be able to enjoy coffee and cakes and/or light lunches of soup and rolls. We mustn't forget the competitions including the Annual Pumpkin Decorating for adults and children. See the Stoodleigh Parish web or ring 01398 351391.

### Stoodleigh 100 Club

#### Prize Winners

#### September

Dionne Mansfield, Alistair Morrison, Steve James and Lesley Thwaites

#### October

Andrew Rigamonte, Graham Radford, Pat Robinson and Kim Grimstone

Coffee@the Hall Saturday 4  
November 10.30 - 12 noon.

### Stoodleigh Parish Hall AGM

Tuesday 21 November at 7.30p.m. All Stoodleigh residents, users and hirers of the hall are invited to this event to share your suggestions for the use of the Hall. New ideas and volunteers are very welcome. If you'd like to help with events or join in to maintain our community building, that would be fabulous as extra support is now needed. Contact Geraldine on 01398 351391 or Linda on 01398 351416.

### Christmas Tree Lighting

Saturday 2 December.

Let's gather outside the Hall for the 'Big Switch On' and pop our decorations on the tree. Enjoy some carol singing with refreshments afterwards. Details on the Stoodleigh Parish website.

Coffee@the Hall Saturday 9th  
December 10.30 - 12 noon.

Welcome to our new residents at Vindor and Little Daymer. We look forward to meeting you and hope you'll enjoy living in Stoodleigh.

### Stoodleigh Parish Website

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

## TEMPLETON

The autumn is upon us but our gardens are still full of interest and colour; producing seed for the birds and slugs for the hedgehogs. For many, the urge can be to go out and battle against the wind and rain in an attempt to try and tidy it all up, but sometimes, it is good to just sit back and enjoy the wild beauty of the changing seasons if you can.

St Margaret's Church and Churchyard  
St Margaret's Church and churchyard are subject to ongoing upkeep and repairs. We are custodians of this

spiritual focal point of our village, which is also a wonderful, historic building, and so work has been planned in stages to spread the cost. Soon, the wall around the altar will be plastered and repainted, and the stonework around the main window behind the altar will be exposed and sanded. Some of this work will be done professionally, but we also rely on support from volunteers. We are hoping to organise a churchyard working party, to help with an Autumn clean-up; trimming hedges and trees, clearing leaves and removing weeds. If you would like to get involved then please do get in touch with William 01884 251515 or Reg 01884 860246.

### Summer Fete

On Saturday 14th August, Templeton held its Annual Summer Fete and Grand Auction. The variable weather only added to the fun of the day. Everyone enjoyed the cream teas, hot dogs, cakes, lots of games, bric-a-brac, clothes, produce, book sales and grand auction. There was also the popular auction of pledges which invited bids for lots of treats and services. Thank you to everyone for taking part and making it such a successful day. A grand total of £2,043 was raised, which will help support village funds. Take a look at the photos of the day, including the amazing tractors made from junk modelling, on Templeton Village Hall's Facebook Page. We are grateful to auctioneer Terry Hamlin, who for many years has joined us for the Grand Auction and has given his time so generously.

### Duck Race

On Sunday September 10th, a glorious hot, hot day, we went 'quackers' at the duck race at Templeton Bridge. The race started at Great Esworthy Farm and ended at Dartcombe Mill. It was a very exciting race as 250 ducks set off

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# PARISH ROUND-UP

and scrambled down river, with a support team to assist any duck that got lost. It was lovely to sit outside and enjoy cream teas and pasties in the garden, peruse the books, plants, bric-a-brac stalls, take part in the raffle, and, most importantly, there was time to chat with friends and neighbours. A big thank you to everyone who contributed so generously to the duck race and made it a really enjoyable day. Over £500 was raised to support village funds. First prize, £30, went to Lisa, second prize, £20, to Richard and Val, third prize £10, to Darcey, and last duck home, £5, went to Jem. There are some great photos of the day on the Templeton Village Hall Facebook Page. The ducks are now resting until next year.

### Harvest Supper

A big thank you to everyone who came to Templeton's Harvest Supper on Saturday 30th September. There was a wonderful spread of hot and cold foods and scrumptious desserts. Thank you to all those who contributed the delicious food, and those who worked in the kitchen and on the bar. We really appreciate all the effort that everyone puts into events like these. The wonderful display of Templeton Art Group's paintings really shows such amazing talent within our village. Trying to identify some strange items displayed during the evening was great fun – as were the answers. Photos of the event are on Templeton Village Hall's Facebook Page. The evening raised £470.00 which will help support the much-needed funds for the maintenance of, and repairs to, St Margaret's Church in Templeton.

### Harvest Festival Service

Templeton's Harvest Festival Service was held at St Margaret's Church on Sunday 1st October. The church was

filled with beautiful flower arrangements and generous food donations. Some lovely photos of the church and the decorated windows are on the Templeton Village Hall Facebook Page. All the donations of fresh, tinned and packaged produce were donated to CHAT (Churches Housing Action Team), a charity in Tiverton. They have asked us to pass on their gratitude, particularly at this time of great need, as so many families struggle through the winter. Thank you everyone for your generosity.

### Future Church Services

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.

Many of the Templeton Church services will be lay-led, but the cluster and group services are usually led by Steph or Claire at different churches in the Exe Valley Mission Community on a rotating basis. The services in Templeton during November and December are as follows:

Sunday November 10th is Remembrance Sunday. There will be a lay-led Service of Remembrance at 10.50am, when we shall pay our respects to all those who have served, sacrificed and lost loved ones in wars worldwide.

Sunday November 26th at 10.45am will be a Group Service with the Exe Valley Choir at Templeton Village Hall – please note that the service will not be at St Margaret's Church but at Templeton Village Hall. Rehearsals for the Choir will be on Thursday 21st November at the Village Hall, and setting up technology at the Village Hall will be carried out on the Friday and Saturday before the service.

December 10th will be a Holy Communion Service at 10.45am with Steph.

On Christmas Eve, Sunday December 24th there will be a candlelit Christmas Carol Service with Claire at 6pm. Do come and join the carol service where we shall be singing all our favourite carols.

### Future events

Firework and bonfire night – Saturday 4th November from 6.30pm

By the time this issue of the Today Magazine reaches you Templeton's Bonfire Night will be almost upon us! The firework display is always spectacular and the event is great fun. There will be a Guy Competition so bring your guy along with you! The bar will be open from 6.30pm and the bonfire will be alight from 7.30pm with the fireworks soon to follow. Hot Dogs and hot drinks will be on sale. Entry is £6 for adults and £3 for children aged 5 to 15 (Tickets from Tony on the gate).

Templeton's Got Talent? – Friday 17th and Saturday 18th November at 7pm

Up until about 10 years ago Templeton Village Hall used to regularly host very entertaining shows with an abundance of local talent. Sue Coffin has now revived this wonderful Templeton tradition. This is an event not to be missed. Make sure to book the date now to watch the amazing local talent and to be very entertained. The Bar will be open. Entry £5.00 for adults and £2.00 for children (14 and under).

Christmas Children's Party - Sunday 10th December at 3pm at Templeton Village Hall

With a visit by you know who in the red suit! This is a wonderful annual family event organised by Tony Loosemore, with a disco, party food and fun. If your



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# PARISH ROUND-UP

children would like to join the party, please let Tony know beforehand so that he can cater for enough food for everyone (07510128683). Please bring a wrapped and named gift for your own child for FC to distribute.

The Annual Christmas Bar Games (table tennis, pool, darts, and skittles)

This will be held at Templeton Village Hall every Saturday evening in December from Saturday 2nd December until the grand finals on Saturday 16th December. Do come and take part in this fun event. There's still plenty of time to practice on club nights or other nights in the week!

Make use of Templeton Village Hall

With the nights closing in fast, perhaps you, your family and friends would like to use the village hall for a game of table tennis, skittles, darts or pool on other days in the week apart from club nights – maybe to practice for the Christmas Bar games? Just phone 01884 860655 or email templetonvh@gmail.com to make sure the hall is available on the date you need, and someone can open up the hall for you.

Regular groups in Templeton

Art Group – every other Tuesday 10am-12midday Templeton Village Hall. No charge. Just come along. Coffee and cake provided.

Yoga – Sessions every Thursday, 3.30pm to 5pm at Templeton Village Hall. Pat, an experienced yoga instructor, can accommodate all abilities. £9.00 per session. Just come along any week.

Book Group - Templeton Village Hall. Second Wednesday of every month at 3pm. Although the group is at full capacity at the moment, please contact Julie 01884 233507 if you would like to be contacted when there's a vacancy.

Knit and Natter - St Margaret's Church. Last Friday of every month 10.30am to 12 midday. Bring any repair work, embroidery, crochet, knitting, or just come along for the coffee and biscuits and a chat!

Garden Club - meets every month at each other's houses to share ideas, tips and discussion while enjoying a coffee and cake. This year, we visited several larger gardens and recently discovered Fursdon House near Bickleigh which was a delight, inspiring and very local. If you would like to join us then please email Ginah Palmer at ginahpalmer@gmail.com or phone her on 01884253552. We are taking a break from December but Gardening Club will start again in the Spring.

Thoughts, prayers and best wishes

Congratulations to Pete and Nina who became Mr and Mrs Withers in September. We wish you every happiness in your lives together.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who are unwell, awaiting treatment, in hospital, or recovering from surgery. We do hope that you will soon be feeling better. We also send our prayers and warmest wishes to their families who support them.

Flowers and Cleaning Rota

Bindy Linden Flowers and Cleaning  
5th and 12th November

Gloria Woollacott Flowers and Cleaning  
19th and 26th November

Teresa Pancherz Advent – No flowers  
2nd and 10th December

Ginah Palmer Advent – No flowers (1st week)  
17th and 24th December

Sue Coffin Flowers and Cleaning  
31st December and 7th January

## WASHFIELD

*Christmas gives us the opportunity to pause and reflect on the important things around us, it's not so much about opening our presents as opening our hearts.*

**G**reetings, from St. Mary's!

An early Autumn followed by an Indian Summer! Very strange weather but the harvest of grass and maize was bountiful and will mean some very well-fed cows!

Our Harvest Thanksgiving took place on October 1st, with special thanks going to farmers for all their hard work in looking after our green and pleasant land, despite all the vagaries of weather and financial uncertainty. The church was filled with flowers and in the porch was a sample of all their products with a chart tracing the use of hay and grass and maize in producing all the wonderful dairy products we all rely on and enjoy. Familiar Harvest hymns were sung by a goodly congregation, James Ayre, farmer, read the lesson and Peter Spreull, Veterinary Surgeon, spoke about his work with farm animals and his involvement with farmers in keeping their stock in good health and producing healthy progeny. All the food donated and a collection of £186 was given to The Christian Housing Association Trust, who are experiencing unprecedented demands at the moment. They thank you for your generosity.

Morning Prayer continues each Thursday in the Worth chapel. All are welcome to come and pray for the needs of the Parish and the world.

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

Washfield Reflection Group meets monthly in various homes to discuss various aspects of daily life informally. You will be warmly welcomed.

Remembrance Sunday will be marked by the usual solemn Service and Act of Remembrance on November 12th at 10.50 am...The collection will go to The Royal British Legion whose needs are ever greater.

On December 17th there will be an informal Family Service at 10.45 am when we hope the children will decorate the Christmas tree and enjoy other Seasonable activities - and refreshments! We hope they will bring their families too!

For other exciting activities at Christmas, including an amazing Nativity, please see the inside pages or the Editorials.

We pray for a peaceful Christmas in the world and an end to all conflicts and violence wherever they are found.

St Mary's Church  
Christmas Coffee Morning  
at The Cottage  
Saturday 2nd December  
10.30am - 12.30pm  
Bring-and-Buy, Coffee and Chat!

As with all our homes, the costs associated with the upkeep of the Church has risen. In addition the list of willing volunteers has sadly diminished. We are, therefore, seeking financial contributions specifically to cover the costs of our wonderful cleaner. If families are able to contribute any amount it would be greatly appreciated! (Recommended £25)

The Social Club begins its Film nights again on 1st Saturday of the month. There is just a nominal fee of £5 to see the film. The first one was 'Nomadland', the thought-provoking portrayal of Fern, a lady who becomes widowed and homeless and takes off on a bittersweet,

nomadic journey across America and was enjoyed by all the cinema goers.

The Sunflower competition came to its conclusion in September and the results were varied with the tall, the stumpy and those with very large and very small flowers!

There were more than 20 growing in Washfield gardens. The top three were 11ft 8ins (Angela). 10ft 2 ins (Sarah) and 8ft 5 ins (Karen) Well done all.

We now move on to the Pumpkin growers' efforts which culminate on Saturday 28th October from 8pm in the Social Club. Come along and join the fun (even if you haven't grown one) The bar is open and all donations will go to the Devon Air Ambulance.

Have you thought about joining your local Social Club? It is open every Tuesday from 8.00 pm for a varied range of social events. The annual subscription is just £5 (due now) and your contribution will keep the club active and relevant. We would love to see more people enjoying the Social Club events offered.

Look out too, for any Christmas events not yet firmed up.

Don't forget teatime@thehall is still as popular as ever on 2nd Tuesday of each month between 2.30pm-4pm (change of time to reflect the clocks changing). All welcome to these friendly, inclusive afternoons.

To those who are not enjoying good health at the time of writing, we hope you will soon feel better, we send loving wishes. We wish those with significant birthdays (we know of a few) and special events (we wish Paul and Allison in particular, a very happy Golden wedding anniversary on 17th November) a lovely time.

We unreservedly welcome Andrew, Cheryl, George and Emily to Keepers Cottage, Lower Washfield. They all have very strong connections (past and

current) to the village and their return seems so apt. We are so happy you are here.

Church Flower Rota	
November 5/12	Mrs S Balment
November 19/26	Mrs Trout
December 3/10	Mrs Bassano
December 17/24	Mrs French
December 31/Jan 7 2024	Mrs Jones

## WITHLEIGH

By the time that you will probably be reading these notes, the clocks will have been put back, and the run-up to Christmas will have begun. May we find the time aside from the busyness of the preparations to reflect on God's gift to humankind with the birth of the babe in the manger, "the Saviour who is Christ the Lord", without which gift we would have no season of celebration.

Our Harvest Festival took place on the afternoon of Sunday 10th September. Thank you, Stephen and Janet, and Margaret, for putting together and leading the service. This was followed by tea in the Village Hall. Our thanks to all who decorated the church, and to those who provided the tea.

The Harvest Supper was held the following evening in the Village Hall. The Auction of produce, which followed the supper, raised £344 for the Devon Air Ambulance.

Bingo season is now in full swing with our next two Bingos booked for Thursday 2nd November and our Christmas Bingo on Thursday 7th December, Eyes Down at 7.30pm for both.

There will be a final planning meeting for the Christmas Fayre in the Village Hall on Wednesday 8th November at 7.30pm.



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# PARISH ROUND-UP

Our next Community Lunch is on Tuesday 14th November, 12.30 for 1pm. Tickets are £6 each, with a charity draw. Please call Christine 257571 or Brenda 252431 to book your meal. We are also having a Christmas Community Lunch this year on Tuesday 12th December. Again if you wish to book your meal call Christine or Brenda.

Our Christmas Fayre will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 2nd December, and will run from 10.30am to 3.30pm. As usual, there will be various stalls – cakes, craft stall and lucky dip, Christmas wreaths, sewing and preserves, hamper draw, Christmas cake draw, Christmas and greetings cards, two raffles (one taking place in the morning and one in the afternoon). Donations of cakes and draw prizes will be gratefully received. Refreshments will be served during the course of the day, including light lunches.

Our Carol Service will be held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 20th December, and gifts of non-perishable items (toiletries especially welcome) will be collected under the Christmas tree at the beginning of the service. The gifts will then be passed on to C.H.A.T in Tiverton. Following the service, mulled wine / orange juice and mince pies / shortbread will be served. On Saturday 9th December, the Children's Party will take place in the Village Hall, beginning at 3pm. This is for children of primary school age or younger. Please bring a present, already wrapped, with your child's name on, for Santa to then give to your child – maximum spend £5.00 on one present per child. Also, please bring a packed lunch for your little ones!

For more information please contact Amy on 07568 925771.

The WoW group have continued to meet all through the summer. Each month a member plans a talk, an outing or activity etc., in order that no one person has a large responsibility. So far the plan has worked well and we have had many interesting and varied meetings. Last month we had lunch in Bampton and in October we planned to visit Quince Honey Farm "to explore the delights." We continue to meet on the second Thursday in the month. All are welcome, contact Susie on 01884 258492.

Congratulations to Henry and Shirley who, married at St Margaret's, Stoodleigh, celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary on 12th October, here in Witleigh. Also to any others who are celebrating special birthdays or anniversaries.

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

In the September / October issue, mention was made that your present scribe wishes to stand down after around ten years in post, and to hand over to some willing volunteer! Those who have so far offered to take over this role total exactly zero. This will, however, be the last issue for which I will be putting together the Witleigh notes, so it is appropriate to thank those who have provided me with copy over the years, but, if somebody is prepared to take over, please contact one of our churchwardens urgently. If there is an absence of parish notes for Witleigh in the January / February issue, you will know why!

And, finally, being the last magazine before Christmas, may we wish you all a Joyous Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

**Forthcoming Events:**

- Thursday 2nd November - Bingo in the Village Hall, Eyes Down at 7.30pm.
- Sunday 12 November - Remembrance Service in church 10.50am.
- Tuesday 14th November - Community Lunch, in the Village Hall, 12.30 for 1pm.
- Saturday 2nd December - Christmas Fayre in the Village Hall, 10.30am – 3.30pm.
- Sunday 3 December - Christingles @ Advent in church, 4.00pm.
- Thursday 7th December - Christmas Bingo in the Village Hall, Eyes Down at 7.30pm.
- Saturday 9th December - Children's Christmas Party in the Village Hall, beginning at 3pm.
- Tuesday 12th December - Community Lunch, in the Village Hall, 12.30 for 1pm.
- Sunday 17 December - Holy Communion led by Rev. Ian Johnson, at 10.45am
- Wednesday 20 December - Candlelight Carol Service with Steph, 6.30pm.
- Christmas Eve - 'Welcome in Christmas' 11.30pm in church, led by Paul and Elizabeth

**Flower Rota:**

- 5, 12, 19 November - Christine Luxton
- 26 Nov., 3, 10 December - Sara Kittow
- 17, 24 December - CHRISTMAS
- 31 Dec., 7 Jan. 2024 - Margaret Gale





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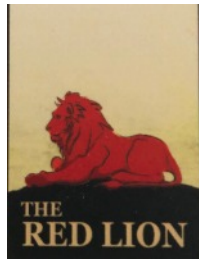
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