

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2024

Price £1.00

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED WHILE ON A SUN LOUNGER

A funny thing happened only a few days ago. I was lying in the sun by the side of a pool. I was in that delicious subliminal state, part way between sleeping and waking, almost levitating between fantasy and reality, with brightly iridescent colours swirling under my closed eye lids, and tantalising snippets of conversation floating by, when something crashed through my dreamlike state and caught my attention. A song was being played: Mary's Boy Child.

I sat up, feeling slightly panicky. Had I missed something? Had overslept on a gargantuan scale? I'm a vicar! I know when Christmas is! And it's not at the beginning of October – despite what has appeared in the shops since the schools went back in September.

Later that day, someone told us that for local people, Christmas is a Holy time and the nights of 24, 25 and 26 December are kept as holy. They are special and kept separate from the general partying. People prepare for these holy nights throughout the year, sharing the birth of Jesus with their communities.

From the way it was being described there seemed to be a distinction between holiness and celebration. The stepping into holiness is one thing. Stepping into celebration another.

There are times when you choose to step into holiness and other times when you stumble across it. An empty church. A beautiful view. A piece of music which envelopes you; poetry which expresses something deep within your soul. A painting. A prayer which cries out from the heart.



For me, much to my surprise, there was a sense of holiness at our last Deanery Synod meeting. Colin Smallacombe from Farming Community Network spoke most movingly about the difficulties faced by our farming community. But then he read a poem, written by a local farmer. She described the isolation, the loneliness, and the relentless hard work of farming today, which for her had few rewards. She described most

movingly her lack of self-worth because she was 'only' a farmer. But then turned it into a victorious cry: 'I am a farmer'. God was with her and in her. It was for me, a holy moment.

It seems to me we have to be ready to greet these moments when they come – whether expectedly or unexpectedly. Lying on my lounge, by the side of the pool, hearing the words of a Christmas Carol that seemed completely incongruous and out of place, reminded me of the truth of Christmas: Jesus's arrival on earth was also completely incongruous and out of place, but because of Jesus, you and I have the promise of eternal life. 'And man (and woman) shall live for evermore because of Christmas Day.' A holy moment.

So may you seize the moment, and you and those you love have a happy and holy Christmas.

*With love,
Steph*



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PARISH DIARY

NOVEMBER

- 1 St Peter's and Oakford village Poppy Bombing
- 2 Calverleigh Monthly Prayer Time - 9.00am-10am
- 2/3 Loxbeare Prayer Weekend
- 2 Washfield Annual Pumpkin Weighing
- 2 Templeton Bonfire and Fireworks 6.30pm
- 2 Loxbeare Soup Lunch and Bring & Buy 12.30-2.00pm
- 6 St Peter's Oakford Coffee and Chat 10am
- 6 Help pack Blythewood Shoe Boxes Loxbeare Church 7.30pm
- 9 Calverleigh Village Hall - Bingo - Eyes down 7.00pm
- 9 Cruwys Morchard Christmas Fayre - Village Hall - 10.30am-1.30pm
- 10 Oakford Village Hall - Film 'The Great Escaper' and lunch from 12noon
- 13 Cruwys Morchard Social Evening 6.00pm-10.00pm
- 14 Exe Valley Lunch - Templeton Village Hall 12.30pm
- 14 Moorland Ladies Cheese & Wine Open Evening hosted by Corks and Cru 7.30pm
- 16 Calverleigh Autumn Fayre 10.30am-2.30pm
- 17 Red Lion Oakford Pub Quiz 8.00pm
- 21 Stoodleigh Inn 'Fun Bingo' Eyes down 7.30pm
- 22 Withleigh Quiz 7.30pm
- 23 Rackenford Church Coffee Morning and stalls 10.00am
- 27 Cruwys Morchard Social Evening 6.00pm-10.00pm
- 29 Oakford Players 'Quiztastical' entertainment and supper 7.00pm
- 30 Defibrillator Awareness Session 10.00am Oakford Village Hall
- 30 Washfield 'Foodie Night'- Watch out for posters

DECEMBER

- 1 Advent Songs and Supper - Oakford Village Hall 6.00pm - see page 9
- 2 Loxbeare Bingo - Village Hall - Eyes down 7.30pm
- 7 Templeton Annual Christmas Bar Games
- 7 Washfield Bring & Buy Coffee Morning 13.30am at The Cottage
- 7 Withleigh Christmas Fayre 10.30am-3.00pm
- 7 Calverleigh Monthly Prayer Time
- 7 Dormakaba Christmas Craft Fair Calverleigh Village Hall 11.00am-3.00pm
- 7 Loxbeare Christmas Cream Teas and Fayre 2.30pm-4.00pm
- 7 Dave & Di's Christmas Quiz - Cruwys Morchard Village Hall - 7.00pm
- 7/8 Loxbeare Prayer Weekend
- 11 St Peter's Oakford Coffee and chat - 10.00am
- 11 Cruwys Morchard Social Evening 6.00pm-10.00pm
- 12 Exe Valley Lunch - Withleigh Village Hall - 12.30pm
- 14 Templeton Annual Christmas Bar Games
- 14 Withleigh Christmas Party 3.00pm
- 14 Cruwys Morchard Christmas Bingo - Village Hall - Eyes down 7.30pm
- 15 Templeton Children's Christmas Party 3.00pm
- 18 Loxbeare and Calverleigh Carol Singing meet 6.00pm Loxbeare Church
- 20 Loxbeare and Calverleigh Carol Singing meet 6.00pm Loxbeare Church
- 21 Templeton Annual Christmas Bar Games
- 21 Stoodleigh Church Coffee Morning 10.30am
- 22 Red Lion Christmas Quiz 8.00pm
- 23 Loxbeare and Calverleigh Carol Singing meet 6.00pm Calverleigh Village Hall

WHAT'S ON

NATURE NOTES

The colours and scents of the garden mark the seasons. Yellow primroses, daffodils and dandelions in Spring, followed by bluebells scenting the damp air with their subtle perfume. Riotous colours of Summer, vibrant in the sunshine and then the orange, rusts, golds and browns of Autumn giving way to the red berries of haws and holly, hips of roses and white of Christmas rose and snowdrops peeping through the snow.

Flowers are so much more than a seasonal delight in the garden. We use them to mark special or important occasions in the circle of life; the birth of a new baby, birthdays, weddings, to say thank you, to cheer someone up, when someone is ill or when someone has died. They say what words cannot and they can bring joy where there is none and symbolise even more.

Flowers and scents evoke memories. A particular memory for me is from the time we lived abroad and my friend Joya, a local Muslim lady, called one morning. Her slender frame was hidden behind a mass of glorious orchids spilling from her arms. Fragile, waxy blooms of vivid orange, purest ivory silk, hint of lemon, Granny's favourite lilac, royal velvet purple, cream and gold, bold butter-yellow, Queen Mother blue and shades from the palest delicate pink of a newborn baby taking its first tremulous breath to the voluptuous scarlet of a harlot's lipstick.

There were tiger orange and black bands, blotches, blushes, spots, stripes, streaks and faded speckles like on a blackbird's egg. Dainty petals shaped as spiders' crooked legs, ladies' fans or the folded wings of a gorgeous butterfly. Some flowers were tiny, timid and inconspicuous, pure and virginal with the faintest of scents. Others were bold and brassy, alluring with pursed lips and throats of honey, but they were all exquisitely beautiful. I will never forget Joya nor her precious gift. It was a gift to say thank you, and it was a joy to receive.

Fiona Bladon



BINGO

Come and join us for a
"fun" bingo
Tiny prizes and lots of
laughs

Thursday 21st November
The Stoodleigh Inn

Start 7pm, eyes down
7.30pm prompt

Bible Study Group

Looking at Isaiah

The next meeting will be
held at Myrtle Cottage,
Oakford EX16 9ES
Monday October 21st at
2.30pm

If you would like to come
please let me know so that
there are the right number of
handouts. Many thanks.

Tim Gorrington
t.j.gorrington@exeter.ac.uk

' Dear Exe Valley Mission Community.

Thank you so much for the very generous and massively
undeserved gift that you presented to me at Loxbeare last
Sunday. It was a fantastic expression of all the love and patience
that I have experienced in my last eight year's as the Rector's PA.
I trust that God will continue to bless you all as you seek to be,
God's Kingdom in the Exe Valley.

Thank you again. Steve'



PARISH ROUND-UP

Next Steps for Curate Revd Claire Curtis

The Archdeacon of Exeter, the Venerable Andrew Beane, says, 'Along with Bishop Jackie, I am grateful to your Rector Steph for acting as Claire's Training Incumbent; it is a considerable amount of extra work alongside managing a busy rural mission community. Whilst theological education prepares curates for ministry, it is working alongside an experienced colleague and 'getting stuck in' that truly shapes a curacy.

Here's an update from Claire:

Dear Friends

'Rural ministry surpasses all my expectations, I feel embedded in it and God's calling into it. God is gracious, and I am so grateful for my curacy and to Steph, the team and all of you for your kindness in sharing your lives with me. Building teams together, sharing both joy and pain, and praying for and hoping for the best in each other

Loving with God's unconditional love is what I have learned the most from the EVMC. The confirmations of faith, pastoral lunches, life events ministries, live nativity, holiday club and choir at the cathedral will all be up there, and the hornet up my cassock will conversely be down there in my experiences!

Over the coming months, Andrew and I will be developing our retreat space, a place of hope and healing for young and old across the Diocese. We love our neighbours and will continue to have an open door. Alongside priestly duties, I'll be exploring different expressions of worship. I've fallen in love with you all and will be praying for you from the saddle into the future, waiting on God and watching how he uses us all next... Sending love.' Revd Claire

Claire's story was shared in the August edition of Devon Life 'The Mounted Priest' you can still see it online or perhaps you might like to watch this video shared by the diocese: <https://vimeo.com/942360472>

Often, towards the end of a training curacy, the curate will apply for a new post in a different area and move away; however, with Self-Supporting Ordained Ministers, like Claire, who is rooted in the local area the situation can be a little different and so I'll work with her and the Rural Dean to explore what might be possible for Claire. The Church of England is indebted to its growing number of Self Supporting Clergy who offer their time, skills and experience for free alongside their stipendiary (paid) colleagues and serve in our parishes, mission communities, chaplaincy and in pioneering roles.

This now means after a period of discernment and looking towards the future, Claire will be able to apply for posts and be appointed to her own parishes. Claire will continue to be a licensed priest living in the Exe Valley. She is likely to take some time to explore different expressions of ministry across the Diocese. Please keep Claire, Andrew and their family in your prayers as together we seek God's will for the future.'

Andrew,

Archdeacon of Exeter

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PARISH ROUND-UP

CALVERLEIGH

Beautiful autumnal colours fill the trees before they lose their leaves, squirrels busy gathering and burying acorns and the chestnut trees have been giving up their nuts and conkers. How quickly the year is moving on. By the time this edition is circulated we will have put our clocks back an hour and be turning our minds to thoughts of Christmas! But before that...

The Calverleigh Produce Show took place on Saturday 24 August. Most points went to Nik and the best in show went to C. Bolt. There was a total of 186 entries altogether, with both the young and young at heart taking part. The competition covered everything from photography and craft to flowers, vegetables and baking. It really is encouraging to see our children so eager to take part each year.

Thank you to everyone who supported the show, whether by entering the competition itself, through donations, helping to set up the event, making and serving refreshments or simply by coming along to support the event. Special thankyou's need to be made to Paul and Maureen for all their hard work in putting this on for us! It was a fantastic show of talent and a total of £375 was raised for Church funds, well done everyone. We look forward to next years' challenges!

Saturday 31 August saw the wedding of David and Victoria. The church was wonderfully decorated with flowers, the bells rang out and the church was full of family and friends to witness their marriage. David grew up in the village and it was lovely to be able to welcome him back. Our many congratulations go to the happy couple, to whom we

wish a long and happy marriage.

Our Harvest celebrations and thanksgiving took place over the weekend of 14/15 September with a harvest supper on the Saturday evening. Bring and share food was enjoyed along with the singing of harvest hymns, prayer and fun which was provided by games master Aubrey. Brains were tested with quizzes and a game, the likes of which had not been seen by many others before. Thank you to all who attended, provided a varied supper and of course to Aubrey for the entertainment.

Our 9.30am Family Harvest Thanksgiving service the next morning was led by Jackie who gave an interesting talk about sunflowers. The church was decorated with a great variety of fresh produce, which we give thanks to God for, along with everything He provides for us. Thank you to all who supplied the fruit, vegetables, flowers and foliage, it all looked lovely.

Following this we moved over to the village hall for tea and coffee. The plan was to have games on the green with a picnic lunch but unfortunately the grass was far too wet but that didn't stop the fun. All ages (from 2 years to 90+) joined in the games on offer. Following lunch there was a treasure hunt around the green for the children. The PCC has been wanting to re-introduce something at Harvest for the younger members of the church and village for a couple of years and it went well. Hopefully we will be able to repeat it, or something like it, next year. Thank you to all who attended and to Nik and Dave for devising games for all ages to enjoy.

The fresh produce from our harvest, of which there was an abundance, went

to The Salvation Army. They in turn passed on food parcels to those in the local community that they knew needed a bit of help. A collection of tinned and dried goods along with toiletries and money that had been donated by the congregation were taken to CHAT and gratefully received. You are always so generous, and our next collection will take place throughout Advent with boxes under the Christmas tree.

The Tiverton and Cullompton Deanery Synod met at Calverleigh village hall on 30 September, being hosted by the Exe Valley Mission Community. The speaker was Colin Smallacombe from the Farming Community Network who gave a talk about the valuable work carried out within the farming community for those who are facing financial or health difficulties or supporting the families of farmers. At times this was quite moving and gave a better insight into the problems that farmers face. Information about FCN is available in church for anyone who feels that they may need help.

Roy and Irene moved recently to Farleigh Meadows. We hope that you have settled into your new home and surroundings. We look forward to meeting you and any other families who have moved into Calverleigh or the local area. Please look out for church and village activities which are advertised here in the Today magazine or on the website.

Best wishes go to all those who have been unwell of late, waiting for or receiving treatment or have had hospital stays. We trust that life is getting back to some sort of normality for you all. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost a loved one recently and hope you take comfort in knowing that others care for you and your situation.

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Mowing Rota: As this rota has now ended for this year, we would like to say a huge thank you to all those who have been on the mowing rota for the past year. The PCC are extremely grateful for all the time and hard work put into keeping our churchyard looking so neat and tidy for parishioners and visitors alike.

Thank you also to those of you who are on the cleaning and flower rotas as well. You all do a wonderful job of keeping the church so clean and welcoming and the flowers always look so lovely. We also want to say a huge thank you to the PCC, and in particular our incredible wardens, treasurer and secretary!

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas doing what you most enjoy with family and friends and Happy New Year for 2025.

Forthcoming Events

An evening of Family Bingo will take place at Calverleigh Village Hall on Saturday 9 November 2024. Doors will open at 6.30pm, with eyes down at 7pm. The evening will include children's prizes, half time refreshments and draw in aid of Calverleigh Church. Please join us, your support would be greatly appreciated. For more information contact Maureen and Paul Furneaux on 01884 258770

Our annual Autumn Fayre takes place on Saturday 16 November from 10.30am to 2.00pm. The usual stalls of local crafts, produce, cakes, competitions, books, bring & buy and Chinese auction will be available along with light refreshments, tea and coffee. There will be a children's craft table to keep the younger ones busy, while you browse or enjoy a quiet sit down and natter with friends.

Dormakaba are holding a Christmas Craft Fair raising money for

Hospiscare on Saturday 7 December at Calverleigh Village Hall from 11am - 3pm. There will be art, crafts, handmade gifts and yummy treats and a Craft Fair Café. There'll also be Craft Activities for Children and a special visit from Santa (between 12 - 2pm)!

Loxbeare and Calverleigh carol singers will be out and about around both villages and the surrounding areas on Wed 18, Fri 20 and Mon 23 December. We are always grateful for more voices on any of the evenings, so if you enjoy singing Christmas carols and would like to join us and help to keep this longstanding tradition going, please contact Sue (Loxbeare) on 259496 or Aubrey (Calverleigh) on 255248. This is a very enjoyable time of fun and fellowship which begins at 6pm on 18 and 20, meeting at Loxbeare church carpark and on 23 at 6pm at Calverleigh village hall carpark. The evening is usually finished approx. by 9pm - and may include supper - if we're lucky!

Please see the middle of the Today magazine (or even on that website thing, for the technologically minded) for all our upcoming services, including our Christmas services.

Dates for your diary:

2 Nov: Time of Prayer
9 Nov: Family Bingo
16 Nov: Autumn Fayre
7 Dec: Time of Prayer
7 Dec: Dormakaba Christmas Craft Fair
18, 20 & 23 Dec: Carol Singing

Church cleaning rota:

21 Oct - 2 Nov: Mrs A Balsdon
4 Nov - 16 Nov: Miss S Goldsworthy
18 Nov - 30 Nov: Mrs N Burton
2 Dec - 14 Dec: Mrs A Webber
16 Dec - 6 Jan: Mrs J Goldsworthy
8 Jan - 20 Jan: Mrs S Greenslade
Flower rota
27 Oct - 3 Nov: Mrs T Pugsley

10 Nov - 17 Nov: Mrs R Tapp
24 Nov - 1 Dec: Mrs S Greenslade
8 Dec - 15 Dec: Mrs M Furneaux

If you would like to be prayed as part of our monthly prayer time (first Saturday of each month) or during a service please contact Julie by email at thegoldsworthys@yahoo.co.uk or on 01884 255248. Dave is always ready to receive any news under Calverleigh whether it be a celebration, an upcoming event or news of interest to the community. Email Calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org.

CRUWYS MORCHARD

Hello again, as winter approaches I give you an exert from William Shakespeare's "As You Like It".

Blow, blow, thou winter wind,

Thou art not so unkind

As man's ingratitude;

Thy tooth is not so keen,

Because thou art not seen,

Although thy breath be rude.

Heigh-ho! sing, heigh-ho! unto the green holly:

Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly:

Then heigh-ho, the holly!

This life is most jolly.

Indeed, this life is most jolly! Which was certainly the spirit in which we celebrated Harvest Festival this year on a truly glorious September afternoon. Our thanks go to the children for helping during the service and to Jeff who once again organised the sports. Fun was had by all during the 'Olympic' inspired events, that included javelin, welly-wanging, spoon and tomato race and of course the three-legged race to mention a few. The hall looked so

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PARISH ROUND-UP

inviting with the tables laid out for the buffet tea of delicious homemade sandwiches, quiches and cakes. It is great for our community to enjoy time together and support a local charity, CHAT was delighted with all the generous donations from one and all. Many thanks to all involved.

Church of the Holy Cross

On Sunday 15 December we will be holding our usual Christingle service. It begins at 10.45am and will be followed by refreshments. Cindy and Diana would like to hear from anyone who would like to help out with the service. During the service we shall be collecting non-perishables for CHAT to distribute locally to those in need. We will be making Christingles on Saturday at Cindy's house Valley View, Pennymoor from 2.00pm.

On Tuesday 24 December our normal Christmas Eve Communion service will be replaced with a service of Carols and Praise and will be held at the new time of 9.00pm. Please join us as we begin the Christmas celebrations.

Flower and Cleaning Rota

Oct 28 & Nov 4	Claire Miller
Nov 11 & 18	Sue & Pauline Guscott
Nov 25 & Dec 2	Denyse Standen & Jo Hilton
Dec 9	Decorators for Christmas
Dec 23 & 30	Diana Vincent & Val Randerson
Jan 6 & 15	Cindy Trick

Please contact Cindy if there are any problems. Thank you to all who help on the church flower and cleaning rota. Can I point out that for those who decorate windows etc. the date for Christmas decorating is now a week earlier in the week beginning the 9th of December.

I would like to appeal for help with decorating, due to people having moved from the parish we have 2 windows available to be decorated for our special services and I am also looking for volunteers to go on the cleaning and flower rota. Please contact Cindy if you would be able to help with this, 01363 866621.

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.

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

Beer and Boogie

Thank you to everyone who helped with this event, to those that attended and to The Black Dog Boogie Band for giving us such a fantastic evening. Together we raised £937.45 for church funds.

Christmas Fayre

Please join us at the Parish Hall on Saturday 9 November, 10.30am to 1.30pm 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.

Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall

Dave & Di's Christmas quiz, Saturday 7 December, doors open at 7pm with the Quiz beginning at 7.30pm. There will be a bar and raffle. To enter your team please contact Diana Vincent on 01363 860227 by Wednesday 4 December. £5 per person, this includes supper.

Christmas Bingo to be held at the Parish Hall on Saturday 14 December, doors open 7pm, eyes down at 7.30pm. Usual good prizes and a raffle.

Cruwys Morchard YFC

Aluminium Can Recycling!

We are currently raising money by collecting aluminium drinks cans. Can you help! If you have cans that we can collect please contact Ali Vincent, 07801 480806.

The club held their annual Presentation Evening where various awards were handed out. The Maureen Tucker award for most enthusiastic member went to Evie Rice and the Sheep, Cattle and Champion exhibit trophies went to Harry Cole. Other award winners were; Oscar

Gibbs, Elodie Tucker, Luke Cole, Immy Nutt and Phoebe Kingdom. Congratulations one and all.

Members are currently looking forward to their Christmas meal at the beginning of December and have begun planning their Pantomime for the competition in January. New Skills for Life ideas have been generated and this year members shall try their hand at some new skills. We say Congratulations to Evie Rice who came 4th in the Floral Art Competition at Nationals, she has gone far with her Skills for Life training in Floral Arts that only took place in the spring of this year.

This is only a snapshot of what we've been doing and there is so much more to come! 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

Social Evening

The social evenings will be on the 13 & 27 November and 11 December at the Parish Hall from 6pm to 10pm. Come and join your neighbours for a chat and a drink and perhaps partake of the quiz that runs between 7.30pm and 9pm. All welcome! For more information, please contact Ali Vincent, 07801 480806.

Congregational Churches

Please join us for:

Tea and Cake at Nomansland Chapel, 3-4pm every Friday.

Sunday services

2.30pm Nomansland chapel *

4.30pm Pennymoor chapel *

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

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

Magazine Contact

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

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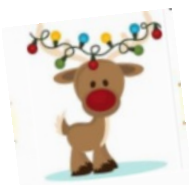
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WHAT'S ON



Advent Songs and Supper

Sunday 1st December 6.00pm at Oakford Village Hall



Come and join us for a fun evening of entertainment with Rev'd Steph Gordon-Jeffs and Tim Gorringer along with David Edwards on guitar, Tim Hugill on keyboard, the Exe Valley Community Choir and much much more.

Let us welcome Steph back from her sabbatical in style with laughter and Advent songs, monologues and artists from the Exe Valley with a lovely supper thrown in!

Please book your supper with the church office, tel: 01884 250417



Prayer Breakfasts

On the 4th Saturday of every month.

The next one is on
26 October at 9.00am
at The Cottage Washfield
Everyone welcome



Exe Valley Lunches



12.30pm - 2.30pm

Thurs 14th November - Templeton Village Hall

Thurs 12th December - Withleigh Village Hall

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NPTC**

3 NOVEMBER

4th Sunday before Advent
(Red or Green)

Love, actually

Ruth 1: 1-18
Mark 12: 28-34

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

No service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Prayer

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise
David Edwards

OAKFORD

10.45am Holy Communion
Tim Gorringe

RACKENFORD

See Oakford

STOODLEIGH

See Rackenford

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

3.00pm Evening Prayer

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Family Service

10 NOVEMBER

3rd Sunday before Advent
(Red or Green)

Remembrance Sunday

Giving without obligation

Ruth 3: 1-5, 4: 13-17
Mark 12: 38-44

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.50am Remembrance Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.50am Remembrance Service

LOXBEARE

10.50am Remembrance Service

OAKFORD

10.50am Remembrance Service
followed by lunch and film in
village hall

RACKENFORD

10.50am Remembrance Service
at the War Memorial

STOODLEIGH

10.50am Remembrance Service

TEMPLETON

10.50am Remembrance Service

WASHFIELD

10.50am Remembrance Service

WITHLEIGH

10.50am Remembrance Service

17 NOVEMBER

2nd Sunday before Advent
(Red or Green)

What song shall we sing?

1 Samuel 1: 4-20. 2: 1-10
Mark 13: 1-8

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

9.30am Family Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Holy Communion

LOXBEARE

See Cruwys Morchard

OAKFORD

See Cruwys Morchard

RACKENFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise
David Edwards

TEMPLETON

See Cruwys Morchard

WASHFIELD

10.45am Family Service
Tim Gorringe

WITHLEIGH

See Cruwys Morchard



24 NOVEMBER

Sunday next before Advent
(Red or White)

Christ the King

**King Jesus: Pictured and
promised**

Daniel 7:9-10,13-14
John 18: 33-37

9.30am Zoom Service

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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 DECEMBER

1st Sunday of Advent

9.30am Zoom Service

Hopeful beginnings

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21: 25-36

RACKENFORD

10.45am Holy Communion

Steph Gordon-Jeffs



CHRISTMAS DAY

(White or Gold)

9.00am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

9.30am Holy Communion
Tim Gorringer

LOXBEARE

10.00am Holy Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

8 DECEMBER

2nd Sunday of Advent
(Purple)

A loving plan

Phillippians 1: 3-11

Luke 1: 68-79

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

3.00pm Christingle Service
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

CRUWYS MORCHARD

No Service

LOXBEARE

10.45am Christingle Service

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

9.15am Explore
Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and David Edwards

STOODLEIGH

9.30am Reflective service
with breakfast

TEMPLETON

No Service

WASHFIELD

10.45am Holy Communion
with Christingle
Tim Gorringer

WITHLEIGH

4.00pm Christingle Service

15 DECEMBER

3rd Sunday of Advent
(Purple)

Joyful news?

Zephaniah 3: 14-20

Luke 3: 7-18

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

9.30am Family Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Carol Service
with Christingle
David Edwards

LOXBEARE

No Service

OAKFORD

No Service

RACKENFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

TEMPLETON

10.45am Holy Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

WASHFIELD

10.45am Morning Praise

WITHLEIGH

See Templeton

18 DECEMBER

WITHLEIGH

6.30pm Carol Service
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

22 DECEMBER

4th Sunday of Advent
(Purple)

Peace, actually

Micah 5: 2-5a

Luke 1: 46b-55

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

3.00pm Carol Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

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

LOXBEARE

6.30pm Carol Service
Tim Gorringer

OAKFORD

6.00pm Carol Service

RACKENFORD

See Cruwys Morchard

STOODLEIGH

6.00pm Carol Service
David Edwards

TEMPLETON

See Cruwys Morchard

WASHFIELD

See Cruwys Morchard

WITHLEIGH

See Cruwys Morchard

24 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS EVE

(Purple)

9.30am Zoom Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

9.00pm Carols and Praise

RACKENFORD

6.30pm Carol Service

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Holy Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

TEMPLETON

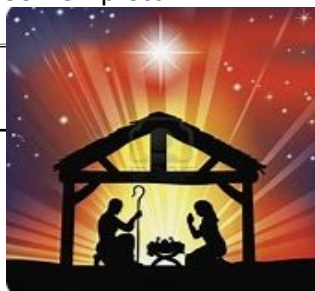
6.00pm Carol Service

WASHFIELD

6.00pm Carol Service

WITHLEIGH

11.30pm Holy Communion
Tim Gorringer



29 DECEMBER

(White)

9.30am Zoom

OAKFORD

10.45am Holy Communion
Tim Gorringer

PARISH ROUND-UP

Harvest Festival at Loxbeare



Aubrey - Calverleigh's
Games Master



Rackenfords Intrepid Walkers



Messy Church at Rackenfords school



LOXBEARE

Autumn is now upon us, but still much to enjoy with the lovely autumn and crisper mornings, before winter really sets in, but hopefully not too cold and wet!

Our Harvest Celebrations this year were incorporated in the Group Harvest Festival hosted by Loxbeare on the 29 September. It was good to share with other parishes in our thanks to God for all His 'good gifts around us'. The service was led by Steph with Tim Gorringer giving the message on creation. A humorous sketch depicting the various stages of the creation

directed by Steph with Dawn and Peter and Paul as narrator. The singing was led by the choir and Dave and Levon played during communion. Many thanks to all who took part and for everyone who came, also to all who gave produce and decorated the church so lovely. To those who helped in any way from providing a field for parking, our 'parking stewards', those who had cleaned the church and all the hard work tidying outside.

We held our Harvest Supper on the 1 October and the money raised of £207.00 from tickets for the meal and auction of produce went to CHAT.

Thank you to our auctioneer assistant! and to those who provided and helped in any way for the wonderful food we all enjoyed.

Our services here at Loxbeare in November/December will be 3 November at 10.45am, 10 November will be Remembrance at 10.50am. There will be no service on the 17 November.

The Group Advent Service and Supper on December 1 will be at 6.00pm at Oakford Village Hall. December 8 will be our Christingle Service at 10.45am. The 15 no service, 22 December Carol Service at 6.30pm followed by mince pies and mulled wine and Christmas

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Day Service will be 10.00am Holy Communion taken by Steph.

The dates for our monthly prayer weekends will be November 2 & 3, December 7 & 8. Anyone wanting prayer pointers contact Jean on 881400 or Carol 881480. Please pray for our Church, Village, the Exe Valley and the many needs around the country and the world. For those in the war zones of Ukraine and the middle east etc.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are feeling unwell. For those who have spent time in hospital, waiting for operations or further treatments. We also remember those who have lost loved ones recently.

Happy Birthday to all with birthdays in November/December and congratulations to all celebrating special occasions. Congratulations to Jean on the birth of a grandson, Archie Stuart, to Antonia & Ben, brother to Freddie. Best wishes to you all.

Anyone still wishing to donate to the Blythewood Shoe Box Appeal. If you have your own boxes these need to be at the Church or given to Carol by the 15 November. There will be an opportunity for anyone to donate gifts or help pack boxes at the Church on November 6 at 7.30pm with gifts donated or bought with money raised at the coffee morning at Jean's held on 19 October. Thank you to everyone who has been involved and has helped in any way.

On the 20 November we will be having our annual supper at the Lighthouse 6 for 6.30pm. Contact Jean on 881400 if you would like to go. Places are limited. Our Ploughman's Lunch in September raised £97.50 with a very generous

donation of £140 which was given to CHAT.

There will be a soup lunch on Nov 2 12.30-2.00pm with a Bring & Buy. Donations from this and the Church collection on Remembrance Sunday will be in aid of the R.B.L.

December 7 Christmas cream tea/fayre 2.30-4.00pm. Thank you to all who donate to the different charities each month and help in any way at these events.

The Bingo evening will be on the 2 December 7 for 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Carol Singing.

Loxbeare and Calverleigh carol singers will be out and about around both villages and the surrounding areas on Wed 18, Fri 20 and Mon 23 December. We are always grateful for more voices on any of the evenings, so if you enjoy singing Christmas carols and would like to join us and help to keep this longstanding tradition going, please contact Sue (Loxbeare) on 259496 or Aubrey (Calverleigh) on 255248. This is a very enjoyable time of fun and fellowship which begins at 6.00pm on 18 & 20, meeting at Loxbeare church carpark and on 23 at 6.00pm at Calverleigh village hall carpark. The evening is usually finished approx. by 9.00pm.

minute gardening jobs, helping the winter to seem a bit shorter. But never fear, there will be plenty going on in Oakford during the coming months.

First a catch up on the past months. St Peter's and Parish news.

St Peter's Harvest Festival was held on September 15. The church windows were wonderfully decorated with flowers and produce. Tim Gorrington presided and Tim Hugill played the organ. After the service a supper and auction was held in the village hall. Thank you to everyone who helped with the catering and everyone who supported us, ensuring this traditional event continues. A box of groceries was collected for CHAT with a box in the church for any further donations.

The Exe Valley Community Choir practised throughout September and sang again to a full church at Loxbeare for the group Harvest Festival.

The Remembrance Service this year will be held at the War Memorial at 10.50am on November 10, followed by lunch and a film 'The Great Escaper' in the village hall. Licensed Bar.

St Peter's Carol Service will be at 6.00pm on December 15 and Carols around the Christmas Tree will be at 5.00pm on Christmas Eve.

Advent Sunday on Dec 1 will see Advent Songs and Supper in the village hall from 6.00pm. See page 9.

The annual Moorland Autumn Fayre is on Sat 19 October. A full report will be in the next magazine.

The Bubbly and Boules afternoon at Greenslade House was a fun filled event enjoyed by both competitors and spectators alike. Many thanks to Geoff and Marjorie, chef Sean and all those who helped set up and then clear up.

OAKFORD

Trailer loads of logs and tankers carrying heating oil coming through the village. Leaves skittering about and collecting in the gutters, all reminding us that winter is on its way. However October provided some lovely sunny days for outdoor pleasure and last



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PARISH ROUND-UP

Bell Tower News

The fund raising towards the Tower Restoration continues. Thanks to the generous support from Oakford folk we are nearing the point of being able to start phase 1 of the project and the bell foundry has been booked for next spring. There are still several hoops to jump through and further quotes to be sought for the ringing floor and toilet etc. We hope to have a live feed in the church throughout the restoration.

Dates for your diary

Red Lion Quiz Nights

8.00pm on 17 November and
22 December

Village Hall

6.30pm on 14 December Come and watch the final of Strictly Come Dancing on the big screen with cocktails, mocktails and supper.

8.00pm on 31 December New Years Eve Video Disco

Parish Council

10.00am 30th November Defibrillator Awareness Session, free tea and coffee.

The Moorland Club

7.00pm on 14 November A Cheese and Wine open evening, hosted by Corks and Cru from Bampton.

6.00pm on 12 December, members only Christmas Dinner.

Poppy Crafting Group

The crafting ladies have been very busy through the spring and summer months and have a trunk full of crafted poppies and they intend to Poppy Bomb the village on Friday 1 November in time for the Remembrance Service on November 10.

The Oakford Players

7.00pm on Friday 29th November 'Quiztastical Fun' in the village hall. Tickets £12.50 to include entertainment and supper. Licensed bar.

Tel: Dawn on 07733949295

Best Wishes to everyone who will be celebrating a birthday or anniversary in November and December.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are ill or in hospital and also with those who care for them.

If any of the village organisations have news of events that they would like to share in the Today magazine, which reaches everyone in the Parish, please send copy to patsyphili@aol.com or tel: 01398 351648

Check out the oakford.community website for all local events.

RACKENFORD

The nights are now certainly drawing in as we go to print and when you receive this issue British Summer Time will have ended on October 27 and the clocks gone back.

On September 14 we were blessed with perfect weather for our Annual Sponsored walk.

This year it took place along the Exe Valley from Tiverton following the River Exe through woods and fields to the Fisherman's Cot where refreshments in this beautiful setting were enjoyed before the return journey was completed. Our thanks once again to Liz and Tim for organizing this fund raising event, thanks also to Graham and Roy for back up transport should it be required. We are most grateful to all of you who sponsored our stoic walkers. So far you have helped to raise £1000 and more money still coming in.

Update in the next issue.

Luckily the weather just managed to hold off for the wedding of Katie and Thomas on September 7, which was conducted by Rev Steph Gordon-Jeffs.

The bells rang out and the church was tastefully decorated to welcome family and friends. We wish you both a very happy married life.

On a personal note Mary would like to thank everyone who has sent her cards, gifts and offers of help during her hip operation and since. She is on the mend but taking it steady at home again with Jacques.

Our very best wishes and prayers to anyone who is or has been poorly, awaiting treatment or operations or generally feeling a bit under the weather. We think of Les, Jacques, Phil, Philippa and Mary.

If you wish for anyone to be remembered please get in touch.

Rackenford Club was the venue for a quiz night in September with eager teams striving for top position and enjoying a good evening.

Village Day Fun on the common was the perfect setting for all to have a good time, enjoy the many stalls, games, tasty treats and a variety of refreshments. The day was completed with a dance.

The Gardening Club held its usual Autumn Show at the fun day with many amazing exhibits to enjoy. Lots of very impressive entries and prizes awarded. This all took place on August 31.

We are really happy to see our Explore service expanding and with more participation, it is so reassuring. Refreshments are always ready to enjoy with time to share and sing praises together with Dave on guitar and Steph.

By the time you receive this issue our Harvest Lay Led service will have been held on October 13 and Harvest Supper at Rackenford Club on October 16.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

We will give an update in the next issue which will be just before CHRISTMAS.

We remain very grateful to David for regularly keeping our churchyard and paths cut in the flat areas of our churchyard. It looks so much better and we appreciate all your hard work as a volunteer. Our next paid for full cut is planned for the end of October.

Sadly the wars still continue to sadden and worry us. We see the horrific distress this is causing to so many. We especially think of Abdullah and Henry who have family in the midst of the war. Please know that you are very much in our thoughts and prayers at this very difficult time for you and your loved ones.

On Sunday September 1 the final of the RAETT (tennis) competition was held at Rackenford Manor. Liz and Ruth attended and received a generous donation of £1,500. We are most grateful for your very kind donation to our church funds, many thanks to you all.

On November 10 our Remembrance Service will take place at The War Memorial at Crossway at 10.50am, where a wreath will be laid.

We are holding a short Christmas Coffee morning on 23 November in church where refreshments will be served, we will have a few stalls and a draw. This will be held between 10am to 12noon. Come in and join us for a while.

Fred and family will once again be cutting the churchyard hedge, it will probably have now been completed. Thank you for this generous gift. We are sincerely grateful for all the hard work involved in cutting back and tidying up this area for us.

To anyone celebrating birthdays or anniversaries we wish you a happy time. It seems very early indeed to wish you a very Happy Christmas and New Year but this will be the only opportunity through the magazine.

Last but certainly not least a big thank to everyone who helps in any way doing jobs behind the scenes for our church, both inside and out.

We have enjoyed many services in the Exe Valley Church's over the year, enjoyed listening to the choir, Dave with his guitar and Levon with his mouthorgan. We have been given a warm welcome and chatted while enjoying refreshments.

Many thanks to you all and Happy Christmas.

STOODLEIGH

News from St Margarets

It's been a very busy few months for St Margarets, we started September with a lovely afternoon tea hosted by Mary and Richard at their lovely home. Everyone enjoyed the sumptuous spread put out by our hosts and helpers, including delicious cucumber sandwiches and lots of cakes. We have decided that at most of our events we will be asking for donations and not charging "entry" as it's a very difficult time for everyone with the ever-raising cost of living.

In the middle of September, we had a stall in South Molton market to sell all the very varied items that had been donated, all of us who turned up to help run the stall had a great time catching up with old friends and even making a small profit into the bargain.

The start of October brought Harvest Festival, and a huge thanks must go to

Phyllis, Angela and all the ladies who worked so hard to decorate the church for the Sunday service. On Saturday evening we had our traditional Supper and Skittles event which was well attended and, as usual, the skittles were hotly contested.

On November 21 we are running another "Fun Bingo" with small prizes and a lot of fun, Ed will once again be our caller and Julian his very capable assistant. After that it will be our usual Coffee Morning in the Church on Saturday 21 before the Carol Service. Then we can all relax into celebrating the wonderful news of our saviour's birth.

We have a group of people called The Friends of St Margarets who give a small amount each month to help with the upkeep of the church. If this is of interest to you please contact either Penny or Yvonne who can give you more information.

Happy Christmas

TEMPLETON

Welcome one and all to Templeton. As we approach this festive and possibly the busiest time of year in our village calendar, we hope that you will be able to join us for some of the events or clubs mentioned below. Merry Christmas!

St Margaret's Church

Work continues at the church, led by Adrian and his expert team. The beautiful stonework around the windows is gradually being exposed. However, the recent quinquennial review exposed a few more items to add to the repair list, such as treating woodworm in the belfry, replacing missing slates, and treatment of the

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PARISH ROUND-UP

crenellations on the tower. As custodians of this beautiful building, the spiritual centre of the village, we remain optimistic that our church is in good hands.

Summer Fete

On Saturday 10th August, we held our Annual Summer Fete and Grand Auction! The changeable weather added to the fun of the day, and everyone enjoyed cream teas, hot dogs, various games, model making, bric-a-brac, clothes, produce and book sales. The auction is always entertaining. Thank you to everyone for taking part and making it such a successful day. A grand total of £1,554 was raised, which will help support village funds.

At the fete, Marianne and her daughter Emma were presented with the bench from the village, in memory of Jem Dinneen from Chapel House, Templeton Bridge, who sadly died last December, and who did so much to support the village.

Marianne would like to include a few words for people in Templeton: *"A big thank you from me and my family for the lovely bench for Jem at the Village Hall. It was a very touching and wonderful surprise. For Jem, it was always a pleasure to do whatever he could to help Templeton, his favourite place to be."*

Duck Race

On Sunday September 8th the Duck Race took place at Templeton Bridge. Last year's Duck Race was a glorious, hot day – this year it really was weather for ducks. However, the rain did not dampen anyone's spirit or deter them from coming and enjoying the event! The race started at Great Esworthy Farm and ended at Dartcoombe Mill. The 334 ducks have been training hard and needed little encourage to

scramble downstream. While waiting for the results, everyone was able to sit inside and enjoy cream teas and pasties. Books, plants and bric-a-brac were also on sale, and there was a raffle. Most importantly, there was time to catch up and 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 £450 was raised to support village funds. First prize, £30, went to Ted Layton, second prize £20 to Ian Henwood, third prize of £10 to Sue and Reg, and last duck home, £5, went to Naomi Wilson. Well done everyone.

Harvest Supper

There was a wonderful spread of hot and cold food and scrumptious desserts at the Harvest Supper on 5th October at Templeton Village Hall – many thanks to all those who contributed all the delicious food! The display of the Templeton Art Group's paintings really shows such amazing talent within the village, and thanks to Lynda for making this such a successful group. The Art Group's own 2025 calendar is still for sale at £10. If you've missed a chance of buying a calendar showing the Art Group's artwork, they will be on sale at the Firework Night on Saturday 2nd November – there are still some calendars left. And thank you, Cindy and Stuart for providing the village with delicious wines. The evening ended with some great creative fun with clay! The event raised a grand total of £710, which will help support the much-needed funds for the maintenance of, and repairs to, St Margaret's Church, Templeton.

Harvest Festival Service

A wonderful Harvest Festival Service was held at St Margaret's Church on Sunday 6th October. The church was filled with beautiful flower arrangements and generous food donations. All the donations of fresh, canned and packaged produce are taken to the charity CHAT (Churches Housing Action Team) in Tiverton, for which they are always extremely grateful at this time of great need, with the situation likely to become more difficult for many families through the winter. Thank you everyone for your generosity.

Future Church Services:

The centre pages in this magazine covers 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 at different churches in the Exe Valley Mission Community on a rotating basis. The services in Templeton are as follows: Nov 3rd Morning Service 10.45am; Nov 10th Remembrance Sunday at 10.50am; Dec 15th Holy Communion with Steph at 10.45am; Dec 24th Christmas Carol Service at 6pm.

Future events

Saturday 12th October: Templeton Scrap Metal Day at Templeton Village Hall 8.30am to 1pm. By the time you receive this, the Scrap Metal Day will be over. People in Templeton have been encouraged to clear their hedgerows, lofts, barns, sheds, garages and cupboards and give up all those metal things that they thought might be useful one day, and raise money for our community: car batteries, aluminium,

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PARISH ROUND-UP

copper, cast iron and steel; old caravans, radiators, broken gates, old copper water tanks, odd bits of copper pipe or metal troughs. Hopefully this popular community event will be both fun and successful in raising money for the village - with tea, coffee and bacon butties to keep everyone going.

Firework and bonfire night – Saturday 2nd 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, whatever the weather. 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 on the gate – please bring cash for this, there are no card readers outside). Please no sparklers or personal fireworks!!

Christmas Children's Party - Sunday 15th December at 3pm at Templeton Village Hall

This is a wonderful annual family event organised by Tony Loosemore, with a disco, party food and fun. If your children would like to join the party, please let Tony know beforehand so that he can cater for enough food for everyone (07510128683). Just to let you know, we are expecting a visit by the big man in the red suit! You will need to bring a wrapped and named gift for each child for Father Christmas to distribute.

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

These games will be held at Templeton Village Hall on the Saturdays 7th December, 14th and 21st (the grand finals). Do come and take part in this

fun event – and 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, you and your family and friends might 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 – perhaps to get into form for the Christmas Bar games?

Just phone 01884 860655 to make sure there is not already a booking on the date you need, and someone can open up the hall for you. As soon as we find someone who is willing to set up a Pickleball team, the Village Hall will buy the Pickleball Set - any volunteer please contact templetonvh@gmail.com

Regular groups in Templeton

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

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!

Gardening Club – Held at different people's homes, this is a great opportunity to talk

gardening and gardens – the group will start again in the spring - it meets every month from early spring until the autumn. If you'd like to know more, do get in touch with Ginah (ginahpalmer@gmail.com).

Our thoughts and prayers are with all

those who are unwell, awaiting treatment, in hospital, recovering from surgery as well as their families who will be supporting them.

We would also like to welcome Scott, Alex and family who have moved into Fenston Cottage, Templeton.

Flowers and Cleaning Rota

Liz Walker Flowers and Cleaning

3rd November – 10th November

Val Hopley Flowers and Cleaning

17th November – 24th November

Gloria Woollacott Advent- No flowers

1st December – 8th December

Ginah Palmer No flowers 1st week

15th December – 22nd December

Bindy Linden Flowers and Cleaning

29th December – 5th January 2025

WASHFIELD

Autumn carries more gold in its pocket than any other season until winter rests its cold, white soul on autumn's weary head: before tucking it to bed.

Autumn is here and with it, without fail, Harvest Festivals were upon us! Washfield celebrated on October 6th. The church was beautifully decorated, with flowers and the fruits of the earth everywhere - a true sign of God's goodness and of all the farmers and gardeners using our very fertile Devon soil to its best advantage. Annabel led the Service of Thanksgiving, and with prayers for those who are hungry in many parts of the world. Traditional Harvest hymns were enjoyed, accompanied by Sarah on the organ. The talk was given by Pamela Partridge, farmer's daughter and farmer's wife, who spoke tellingly of her life on a farm throughout the years and her gratitude for all the blessings of being able to



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PARISH ROUND-UP

help to care for animals and the land in the best way possible for nature and to do the very necessary job of keeping all the family well fed! Pamela read a welcome contribution from her Grandson on his work in producing healthy and pure milk - and all from our main crop in the Exe valley - grass, which also has to be looked after.

Refreshments after the Service were traditional too - scones with Devonshire cream with jam (on TOP, of course!)

Many thanks to all who took part and to Sarah and her team who decorated the church - and to Hugh, who filled the porch with all the local produce to great effect.

Please look in the centre pages and Page 3 for what is coming up in November and December, which, of course include Remembrance Sunday and Christmas. All being well there will be a 'Bring and Buy' and Coffee Morning for church funds on Saturday, December 7th from 10.30 am at The Cottage. Offers of help would be welcome!

We all wish Steph well for her well-earned Sabbatical and our thoughts and prayers are with all those who are unwell and not able to do all they would wish.

The Social Club has lots planned for the coming autumn/winter.

Firstly, it's the Annual Pumpkin weigh-in on Saturday 2 November so, if you bought and are growing one, bring it along then. The evening will begin with children's activities in the early part: and the pumpkins being weighed later. Always lots of banter and fun so, even if you haven't got a pumpkin (this year, at least), come along for a drink and help raise money for the chosen charity.

Then, on Saturday 30 November, there will be a 'Foodie night'. The exact details of the format of the evening aren't quite decided yet so look out for more details of this (and the previous event) on posters around the village and on

Humans of Washfield and Lower Washfield. It promises to be a yummy, foodie evening with lots of tastes from around the world.

Then, marching on to Christmas there will be the annual Draw Night on the chosen Tuesday evening before the 'main event' and then the bar will be open on Christmas morning for a swift yuletide drink before Christmas lunch.

All these events are only possible because the committee work hard to put them on and because we pay our annual subscription (due after 1 December) Call in to pay yours or see a committee member to make sure yours is paid. The continued 2025 programme of the club depends on it.

Don't forget also, teatime@thehall is still as popular as ever. Held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (Now, since the clocks have change, between 2.30-4pm). All ages are welcome to these friendly, chatty 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 for a speedy recovery if you are convalescing.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Church Flower Rota
November 3
November 10/17
November 24/Dec 1
December 8/15
December 22/29
January 5/12

Jean French
Linda Carey
Mrs May
Mrs Moore
Mrs Ellis
Mrs Trout



WITHLEIGH

NOVEMBER

All Saints Day also has other names including All Hallows Day and Hallowmas this day is held to celebrate in honour all saints of the Church known or unknown.

DECEMBER

There are lots of stories about how Father Christmas came about but the favourite is that it came from Saint Nicholas, who was celebrated in Holland by giving of gifts on 5th December.

France has Pere Noel

Germany the Christkind and the USA has Kris Kringle, but Dutch settlers in America took St Nicholas with them shortening his name to Suinta Class which became Santa Claus in English.

What do you think???

As a prelude to our harvest celebrations, at our Family Service on 1 September, Marianne gave an interesting and informative talk on St Isidore, the patron saint of farmers and rural communities.

Our Harvest Festival service, the following Sunday, was taken by Claire, also very inspirational. This was followed by tea in the Village Hall.

Our Harvest Supper on Monday 8th September was a lovely evening, when a lot of our community came together to enjoy a supper and a good chat. Our thanks to the Drew family and their staff for providing us with a delicious supper. Following the supper Henry kindly auctioned the produce that had been in the church for Harvest, plus other donations that were brought on the night. The auction raised £375 for Hospicare. Thank you everyone for bidding so well and for those who kindly donated after being unsuccessful in the bidding war!

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WHAT'S ON

The PCC met on 16th September and will be meeting again on 19th November. Another inspirational 'Poems, Prayer and Praise' on 29th September was led by Susie, focussing on prayer – that prayer is not just a matter of talking to God, but giving time to listen for what he might be trying to say to us.

On our 6th October service our guest speakers were Jenny and Sue from Singing to Remember, Tiverton. They gave us an interesting insight into the group they help run for people with Dementia and their carers. It was formed in Tiverton in 2013 and run by a dedicated team of volunteers. They meet on most Monday afternoons at St. James Church Hall. A donation was given of £333 from the congregation and PCC.

Our Remembrance Sunday service will begin at 10.50am on Sunday 10 November. Do join with us as we remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of our freedom.

Our church organ, which was restored in 2005, is now in need of further work. Giles and Rosie will be running a quiz night on Friday 22nd November to raise funds towards the work, the cost of which is not yet clear. It will take place in the Village Hall, beginning at 7.30pm. Please bring teams of up to six people or come along on the evening and make up a team with some others, (No mobile phones). Entry is £7 per person, which includes a Pasty and a hot or cold soft drink. Otherwise bring your own drinks, glasses can be provided. Call Brenda 01884 252431 or Sara 01884 252949 to book your tickets.

Our Christmas Fayre will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 7 December,

from 10.30am – 3pm with the usual variety of stalls. Please do come and support this fund-raising event. There will be a final planning meeting on 12 November – 7.30pm in the Village Hall for anybody willing to help in any way. Sunday 8 December will see our Christingle Service at 4.00pm. The collection will, as normal, go to the Children's Society.

Our Carol Service will be held on the evening of Wednesday 18 December at 6.30pm. This will be a 'traditional' service of readings and carols. This year, instead of putting food or other items under the Christmas tree for CHAT, it has been decided this year to request cash donations for Hospiscare. A 'post box' will be in church, courtesy of Susie, during our December services, into which we can 'post' our donations.

Our service on Christmas Eve will be Holy Communion with carols at 11.30pm.

Welcome to Deborah, Simon and family who have moved into South View. We hope you have settled in well.

We send our sympathy to Christine on the death of her husband, Russell and we also send our sympathy to Jan on the death of her husband, Keith. Our love and prayers are with you both and your families.

One of our Church members Pauline held an Open House on Friday 27th September so many wonderful friends and neighbours helped to raise money for Macmillan, it was a National Day to focus on the cause of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning. There were endless cups of tea and coffee a large variety of cakes and stalls of gifts and plants. Thank you to everyone who came to support. We raised an amazing £760.

WOW

One of our members gave us an enjoyable meeting in September with a Beetle drive and imagination ran wild with Beetle names and Beetle creations. Our meeting in November will be held in a member's home making something in clay and December meeting will be a Christmas celebration when we shall bring and share food.

Contact Susie for information on 258492.

Make Christmas Last All Year

Long

By Kelly Roper

Why confine the beauty of Christmas to a single season?

Give to the needy whenever you're able. Volunteer at a soup kitchen at least once a month.

Wish people a good day every day.

Sing your favourite Christmas carol just because.

Send cards to let loved ones know you're thinking of them.

Surprise someone now and then with a gift from the heart.

Let mistletoe hang all year round and use it.

Pray for peace on earth each and every day.

Try to love your fellow human beings even though they're far from perfect.

Give thanks for all the Lord provides.

Keep Jesus first in your heart.

If you can do these things all year long, Christmas never has to end.





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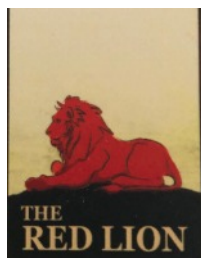
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