



JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2025

Price £1.00

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR !

I can remember being desperate for it to happen! I couldn't wait to be allowed to stay up late enough to do it! And then the moment finally arrived. I was to be allowed to stay up to see in the New Year. I could not wait!!

Oh, the excitement of it all! The party clothes. The party food. The grown-ups chatting and laughing, trying to keep awake and the minutes ticking slowly by. And then it happened. The radio was switched on (yes, I know I'm showing my age) and we heard the sound of Big Ben. Suddenly everyone erupted into hugs and kisses and 'Happy New Year', and much to my embarrassment I was pulled into the circle to sing 'Auld Lang Syne' (with complicated arm movements), and then...and then...and then...? Well, that was it! That was IT! After all those years of waiting – that was it! What an anticlimax! What a let down!

I don't know what I was expecting, but it was certainly more than that! Maybe I thought the heavens would open, and a new book full of glistening, white, yet-to-be-written-on pages would descend through the clouds. Or a scroll would unfurl and flutter down, landing in the hands of

each one of us. But there was nothing! Just more drink and minced pies. Not even indoor fireworks, which were, to my mind, the height of excitement at Christmas. There was no telling what my mother was going to set light to next!

So here we are facing another new year. Maybe you are full of excitement. What will happen next? Or maybe you are full of trepidation and uncertainty? Maybe you'd rather not think about it. Or maybe the whole Christmas New Year thing has become more of an annual disappointment.



There are some things which are inevitable. The yearly cycle of births, marriages and deaths, bringing great joy and profound sadness. The issues facing our country and its place in the wider world.

And the terrible and lamentable failings of the church, have caused me, like many of you, much heart-searching and sorrow. But there are other things – things that are new. One of those things new things is our discipleship course – Practising the Way. 'Be with Jesus; Become like him; Do as he did.' If you're disenchanted with some things, don't be disenchanted with Jesus. Come and join me as we learn from him. See page 11 for details, and pop it in your diary.

It's easy to feel overwhelmed, and the idea of a fresh new start for a fresh new year may seem pie-in-the-sky, yet, the Bible promises that God's love for the whole world is not just true for a new year, but for every day of our lives. It is new every morning. 'The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness'. (Lamentations 3: 22-23)

*With my love and prayers,
Steph*

**Copy Deadline for
March / April 2025 issue**

Monday 10 February 2025

THE EXE VALLEY MISSION COMMUNITY

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Oakford, Rackenford,
Stoodleigh, Templeton,
Washfield and Withleigh
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PARISH DIARY

DECEMBER

- 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

JANUARY

- 4 Stoodleigh Coffee and Cake from 10.30am
- 4 Calverleigh Time of prayer
- 4/5 Loxbeare weekend of prayer
- 9 Moorland Ladies Oakford Village Hall 7.30pm
- 17 Coffee and Chat with Steph in Banburys from 10.15am
- 19 Red Lion Oakford Quiz 8.00pm
- 25 Prayer Breakfast with Steph 9.00am at The Rectory
- 28 Bible Study at The Cottage Washfield at 2.30pm with Tim Gorringe

FEBRUARY

- 1 Marriage Preparation Day at Cruwys Morchard Village Hall 10.30-2.30pm
- 1 Coffee Morning at Stoodleigh 10.30am
- 1 Time of Prayer at Calverleigh
- 1-2 Weekend Time of Prayer at Loxbeare
- 13 Moorland Ladies Oakford 7.30pm
- 16 Red Lion Oakford Quiz 8.00pm

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CHAT WITH STEPH



If you are in Tiverton on a Friday, catch up
with Steph in Banburys
for coffee and a chat
from 11.15am starting on January 17th 2025

EXE VALLEY WEBSITE

www.exevalleychurches.org

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

WHAT'S ON

NATURE NOTES

The Twelve Days of Christmas - what's it all about?

Over the festive period there is every chance that you will sing, or recite, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" but have you ever wondered what it's all about? The twelve days start on Christmas Day and end on the day before Epiphany (6th January).

The origin of the carol is not entirely clear. Thought to have originated well before in the spoken word, it was first written down in the late eighteenth century. One commonly held theory has it being a "memory and forfeits" game, suggested forfeits being to offer a kiss or confectionary. The game would have been played at family gatherings between Christmas and Epiphany.

What can we make of its references to wildlife? Once again, their roots and reasons for being included are not always obvious nor fully understood.

The partridge may represent Jesus Christ, faith and holy love. In the UK the grey partridge is associated with lowland farmland and occurs largely in the east of the country. Once relatively common, its numbers have declined dramatically with changing farming practices.

In Mid Devon we are far more likely to see non-native red-legged partridges as they are often released by shooting estates.

The two turtle doves are said to correspond to the Old and New Testaments. Thought to be monogamous and mating for life, turtle doves symbolise love and faithfulness. They too are found on lowland farms and, as with the grey partridge, have declined for similar reasons. They are now rare in the UK and are very rare in Devon.

The four calling birds are often associated with blackbirds and the four gospels and symbolise good news, joy and spreading the message of Christ's birth. The blackbird is one of our commonest birds and much loved for its melodious and vociferous song delivered from a prominent tree top or chimney pot.

Six geese a-laying link to the six days of creation, fertility and new life. Canada geese, with their black and white head and neck, are non-native but commonplace in Devon. Greylag geese too are relatively common but have a grey/brown neck and head with a distinctive orange bill. "Greylags" are the ancestor of our domestic geese, thought to have originated in Egypt 3,000 years ago.

The Seven swans a-swimming relate to the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit or the seven sacraments and imply grace, transformation and beauty. There are three native swan species in the UK, the Mute swan being the one commonly seen on our lakes and rivers. Bewick and Whooper swans are far less common and only winter in the UK, choosing to breed further north in and around the arctic.

My memory for lyrics has never been up to much so I won't be playing a "memory and forfeit" game involving the "Twelve Days of Christmas" during the festive period (or any other such games if I can avoid them). However, when I next sing the "Twelve Days of Christmas" or see a reference to them, I will spare a thought for the birds themselves, what they represent and the true meaning of Christmas.

Stephen Powles

Bible Study Group

Looking at Isaiah

The next meeting will be held at The Cottage, Washfield
Tuesday January 28th 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 Gorringe

t.j.gorringe@exeter.ac.uk

Prayer Breakfasts

On the 4th Saturday of every month.

The next one is on
25 January at 9.00am
at The Rectory Withleigh
Everyone welcome



You are invited to attend

A MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY

A day of preparation for your married life together, at Cruwys Morchard Village Hall on Saturday 1 February 2025

10.30am - 2.30pm

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RSVP:- office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org

Reverend Steph Gordon-Jeffs

WHAT'S ON

The past few weeks have been a momentous time for the Church of England, in particular the Makin Review leading to the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the first for hundreds of years.—as referred to by Steph on page 1.

These events were such that Washfield PCC met to discuss them and decided that it was important that the laity should not remain mute.

The following letter was sent to the Bishop of Exeter and we felt that you should see it.

WASHFIELD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

11/12/24

Dear Bishop,

I am writing to you following a meeting of the Washfield PCC (a parish within the Exe Valley Community) to consider the Makin Review and the subsequent resignation of Archbishop Welby. We think it important that the laity is not mute following what has emerged from this review. We wish to express our dismay and anger over these events, in particular the behaviour of some senior members of the Church of England over many years.

It is important that there is proper accountability and those implicated stand down.

We note the explanation of Archbishop Welby's departure in your recent Ad Clerum —“--- Archbishop Justin resigned after taking personal and institutional responsibility-----”.

Were the entire media incorrect in reporting that he chose not to resign following the publication of the Review? Most people believe that he was forced out by pressure from the media and certain members of the clergy, typically the younger element.

This sort of obfuscation does the church no credit and reinforces the impression of the “old guard” closing ranks and indulging in damage mitigation rather than openness and transparency.

Yours Sincerely

Richard Scholes

Lay Chair Washfield PCC

Churchwarden

Cc

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PARISH ROUND-UP

CALVERLEIGH

Wishing all our readers a happy and healthy 2025. We trust that your Christmas gave you all you were hoping for and that time spent with loved ones, relatives and/or friends brought you contentment and joy.

On 20 October there was a family songs of praise service with a total of nine hymns being chosen by members of the congregation which included a newer version of Amazing Grace (my chains are gone) along with more traditional choices. This service was led by Tash and refreshment was certainly needed after all that singing. Well done all.

Also in October, the funeral of John Rose took place in church with burial in the churchyard. Our thoughts and prayers are with Maria and family on their loss. We hope that you take comfort in knowing that others care. Condolences to all who have lost a loved one either recently or longer ago.

A bingo evening was arranged by Paul and Maureen on 9 November. The hall was full of eager bingo lovers of all ages, both novices and more experienced players. It was a fun evening with many people going home with a chicken dinner or chocolate goodies. Our thanks go to Paul and Maureen for putting on the evening, to everyone who gave donations, draw prizes, or helping in any way on the day. A grand total of £470.77 was raised towards the church.

The Remembrance Sunday service was led by Julie in which there was a time for reflection whilst listening to a piece of music along with two poems and a talk about Edith Cavell, a nurse who

served in the first world war and was executed for carrying out her medical duties treating both English and German soldiers and helping to smuggle more than 200 Allied soldiers into neutral Holland. A truly courageous lady.

The Autumn Fayre on 16 November was well attended and kept stall holders busy. It was lovely to see new faces as well as returning friends who support us and enjoy meeting up for a bit of a chat over cake and a drink or a spot of lunch. Over £1,000 was raised towards church funds. Our thanks go to all who helped in any way with setting up/packing away, stall holders, those working hard in the kitchen to supply the refreshments, soup makers, cake bakers, etc and of course all who attended on the day.

There have been some new residents to Calverleigh in the past few weeks with Will & Anna and family moving into Greenacres, along with new people at Rillside and Oakdale (sorry we don't have your names). Julia, Matt and family have also moved to Calverleigh and have begun to settle into village life. We hope that you will all be very happy in your new homes and we hope to see you at some of our events in the coming months.

Unfortunately, the Group service, which was to be held at Calverleigh at the end of November, had to be cancelled due to 'Storm Bert'. It is always good to be able to meet with members of the 8 other churches in our Mission Community but the safety of those travelling from the other parishes along with Clergy had to be put first. We look forward to when it is our turn to host again. Apologies to those who may have ventured out not knowing about the cancellation. We

tried to contact as many churchwardens as we could to pass on the information.

The Advent Sunday entertainment and supper evening at Oakford village hall was a lovely time with a variety of 'turns' including the Exe Valley choir, where we were able to welcome Steph back from her sabbatical. Thank you to Oakford, and to all who took part and helped in any way to make it an enjoyable evening with a delicious meal.

A new month and another storm came along to disrupt the weekend. This time 'Storm Darragh' put paid to our Christingle service but (hopefully) it will have taken place on 15 December instead, replacing the family service. Again, the safety of our congregation and clergy had to be considered, especially as two trees had come down close to the church.

Congratulations to Tilly on completing all her badges at Rainbows and gaining a gold award. Well done! We hope that you enjoy your time at Brownies. Congratulations also to Nik and Tash on their 20 years' service as Guide Leaders and, also Tracey on her 30 years' service as a Guide Leader. A fantastic achievement and I am sure that many girls have benefitted from your guidance over the years.

Forthcoming Events

We have our time of prayer on the first Saturday of the month between 9am and 11am. Please join us in prayer if you can for a few minutes.

Other than that, we're in the post-Christmas lull. At the time of writing (before Christmas), we are not aware of any special events - other than services (details of which can be found in the centre pages or on the website).

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PARISH ROUND-UP

CRUWYS MORCHARD

However, one of our ever so generous supporters may have organised something, so please see the website for more up to date information. Later in the year we can look forward to our outdoor service, produce show, harvest festival, autumn fayre and much more besides...

If you do know about something coming up, or want to celebrate a special occasion with us, then please let our magazine elves know and we'll strive to include it next time – and don't wait until the next magazine deadline, our elves can get it online straight away.

Dates for your diary:

4 Jan: Time of Prayer

1 Feb: Time of Prayer

Church cleaning rota:

16 Dec - 6 Jan:	Mrs J Goldsworthy
8 Jan - 20 Jan:	Mrs S Greenslade
27 Jan - 8 Feb:	Mrs R Tapp
10 Feb - 22 Feb:	Miss J Herniman
24 Feb - 8 Mar:	Mrs M Furneaux
10 Mar - 22 Mar:	Mrs A Balsdon

Flower rota:

5 Jan - 12 Jan:	Mrs N Burton
19 Jan - 26 Jan:	Mrs A Webber
2 Feb - 9 Feb:	Mrs L Thomas
16 Feb - 23 Feb:	Mrs A Turner
2 Mar - 9 Mar:	Mrs D Hopper

If you would like to be prayed for 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.

Happy New Year to one and all! Hopefully you have had an enjoyable Christmas and are ready for 2025 and all that it may bring.

Church of the Holy Cross

Our Service of Remembrance was held on Sunday 10 November, when we remembered the fallen of our parish and all those affected by war. Guy gave a most informative and moving talk about Sergeant Sydney Guscott, commemorated in our church, who gave his life for his country just before the end of the war in 1945.

It was good to gather for our Christmas services. Many thanks to David Edwards and Levon for providing the music for our Carol / Christingle service. We would also like to thank everyone that helped with the service, refreshments and kindly donated gifts for CHAT. They are always gratefully received.

Our Christmas Craft Fayre held in November was a great success with a nice variety of stalls, Christmas Hamper raffle and of course the homemade soup lunch. Many thanks to all who contributed and supported us on the day, we raised over £800.00.

Flower and Cleaning Rota

Jan 6/15	Cindy Trick
Jan 20/27	Denyse Standen & Jo Hilton
Feb 3/10	Sue & Pauline Guscott
Feb 17/24	Anne Gillbard
Mar 3/10	Lorna Warren

(Lent no flowers)

We are thinking of all those who are unwell or in hospital at this time and wish them a speedy recovery, and to

those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

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

Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall

Dave & Di's Christmas quiz held on Saturday 7 December was well attended, even though it coincided with Storm Darragh, and raised over £400.00 for parish hall funds. Thank you to everyone involved in the event and to all who attended. Congratulations to Pennymoor Youth Club for your win.

Yoga

General Hatha Yoga Class. Thursdays 10am – 11.15am. All abilities and ages welcome. Call Hilary on 01363 866245.

Cruwys Morchard YFC

Thank you to everyone who supported us at our Bingo in November. We recently enjoyed a night out for our Christmas meal at Cadeleigh Arms.

At the recent Devon YFC AGM our club was awarded the Skills 4 Life trophy for our achievements and dedication to learning new skills, this is the fourth year running that we have won this award. Congratulations to Evie Ric who was awarded the David Thorne County AGM Craft Award for her success at National with flower arranging.

We are currently busy practising for the Pantomime Competition coming up at the end of January and will have completed a Woodworking skills day by the time this news reaches you!

We continue to raise money by collecting aluminium drinks cans. So please let us have yours! If you have

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PARISH ROUND-UP

cans that we can collect please contact Ali Vincent, 07801 480806.

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

Cruwys Social Evening

Thank you to all who have supported these evenings, it is so lovely to get together and we shall continue to do so in 2025. The social evenings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month 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 when 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

With much-continuing uncertainty, war, and suffering in our world and much fear of the future, may we remember those who have so little having lost so much.

At the time of writing, we trust everyone stayed safe through the storm Darragh, with only minimal damage.

Thank you to those who took part in the Remembrance Service as we remembered the bravery and sacrifice of many in our forces in conflicts past and present. A sum of £165.00 from the offering, with £177.00 raised at the soup lunch, £282.00 was given to the Devon branch of the Royal British Legion.

Thank you to all who have taken time for our monthly prayer days, held on the 1st weekend of each month. January 4/5 and February 1/2. Anyone wanting prayer or prayer pointers contact Jean on 01884 881400 or Carol 01884 881480.

Thank you again to all who gave or donated towards the Blythwood Appeal. A total of 32 shoeboxes were given to those who would have had little or no presents this Christmas.

Our services for January/February. January 5 Morning Praise 10.45am. January 12 we will join with Calverleigh for the cluster service. The 19 January will be morning Praise at 10.45am, and the Group Service on 26 January will at Loxbeare with Children's liturgy at 10.45am with Steph and Dave.

February 2 no service, February 9 will be a Cluster Service with Tim Gorrington at 10.45am. 16 February Morning Praise at 10.45am. February 23 a Group Service at Oakford with Georgie Bell and Dave.

There will be a PCC meeting at Jean's on February 4.

In November a number of us met at the Lighthouse browsing the cards etc and having a most enjoyable evening. Many thanks to Penny and Kelsie for the wonderful meal they provided which we all enjoyed very much.

Many thanks and much appreciation to those who have kept the churchyard so

neat and tidy during the year and for any general maintenance of the Church inside and out. Also thank you to all who have supported and contributed in any way to the running of the church. For time and commitment of those who have faithfully taken and helped in various ways in the church services. Thank you to all who have given financially over the past year. If anyone would like to support the church with regular donations or a one-off gift please contact Carol on 01884 881480.

We say goodbye to Sue who having lived in Loxbeare all her life has moved to Tiverton. We will miss her very much with all her kindness and help but we know she will continue to come back having many friends here and being involved with Church and village life.

Also goodbye to Gary and Shirley who have moved to Gittisham nr Honiton. We wish them the best and happiness in their new homes.

We welcome Jamie, Libby and daughters Jemima and Frances into Long Barn and James, May and daughter Aspen into Leigh Mill. We hope you will soon settle and be very happy in your new homes.

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

Congratulations to Anne on the birth of a lovely great grandson Archie Henry to Katie and Mark, Katie is the daughter of David and Mary. Best wishes to you all.

Congratulations to Jean and Richard Denton on their wedding on November 30. Jean quite often comes to play the organ for us for which we are very grateful.

Happy Birthday to all with birthdays in January and February and congratulations to all celebrating special occasions.

LOXBEARE

By the time we receive our magazine, we will have celebrated the birth of our saviour, Jesus Christ, and enjoyed times of sharing together. We now wish everyone a Happy and peaceful New Year.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

On January 11 there will be a soup lunch in the Hall 12.30-2.00 and February 8 cream tea 3.00-4.30.

OAKFORD

Wishing everyone a Very Happy New Year. Let us all hope for peace and prosperity worldwide.

First a recap on events in Oakford over the last few months.

The Moorland Ladies held their annual Autumn Fayre in the village hall in October. It was well supported and raised £1160 for Farms for City Children, their chosen charity for 2024.

Unfortunately the Oakford Players November Showbiz Quiztastic quiz and supper was postponed to the new year.

The Poppy Crafting ladies knitted, crocheted and crafted away for 9 months ending in a full days Poppy Bombing which resulted in the village and surrounding areas looking amazing for Remembrance Sunday. Brilliant, thank you ladies.

The church windows were also beautifully decorated for Remembrance, thank you to all the window ladies.



The Remembrance Sunday Service was held at the war memorial, where Sean read out the names of all those from the village who lost their lives in both world wars. This short service was followed by lunch and a showing of very moving film 'The Great Escaper'.

Thanks to all who helped with the lunch and entertainment to make it a wonderful day of remembrance. There wasn't a dry eye in the hall by the end of the film! A donation of £550 was sent to RBL.

November ended with a defibrillator training session in the village hall. The Parish Council arranges this event and it is well worth attending.

December 1st and Advent Songs and Supper in the village hall was a happy, well supported evening. With songs by the Exe Valley Community Choir, Dave and Levon, Tracey and Paul, poems and amusing recitations for Rev'ds Steph and Tim. Thank you to Julia for the lovely supper.

You will find all services at St Peter's Oakford listed in the centre pages of the magazine.

The following events will be over by the time you receive your magazine but as I write this report in early December I am looking forward to The Moorland Ladies Christmas Dinner. The evening will start with another of Julia's delicious dinners followed by a couple of hours of fun and lots and lots of laughter provided by our Secret Santa game. Thank you Julia and the committee.

December 14th and it's down to the village hall to watch the Strictly Come Dancing final on the big screen while sipping cocktails/mocktails and

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5 JANUARY

2nd Sunday of Christmas
Epiphany
(White)

A promise made real

Jeremiah 31: 7-14
John 1: (1-9), 10-18

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Prayer
Steph Gordon-Jeffs and
David Edwards

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise

OAKFORD

See Stoodleigh

RACKENFORD

See Stoodleigh

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Holy Communion
Tim Gorringe

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

3.00pm Evening Prayer

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Epiphany Service

12 JANUARY

1st Sunday of Epiphany
The Baptism of Christ
(White)

Meeting in the waters

Isaiah 43: 1-7
Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Holy Communion
Tim Gorringe

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Family Service

LOXBEARE

See Calverleigh

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise
Steph Gordon-Jeffs and
David Edwards

RACKENFORD

9.15am 'Explore'
Steph Gordon-Jeffs and
David Edwards

STOODLEIGH

9.30am Reflective Service
with breakfast

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

See Calverleigh

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Plough Sunday Service

19 JANUARY

2nd Sunday of Epiphany
(White)

Unexpected abundance

Isaiah 62: 1-5
John 2: 1-11

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

9.15am 'Explore'
Steph Gordon-Jeffs and
David Edwards

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Withleigh

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

STOODLEIGH

12 noon Soup and Fellowship

TEMPLETON

See Withleigh

WASHFIELD

10.45am Morning Prayer

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Holy Communion
Tim Gorringe

26 JANUARY

3rd Sunday of Epiphany
(White)

Good news for everybody

Nehemiah 8: 1-3,5-6,8-10
Luke 4: 14-21

9.30am Zoom Service

**OUR MISSION
COMMUNITY
HOLY COMMUNION
GROUP SERVICE**

is at

**10.45am in
LOXBEARE**

with

**Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and David Edwards**

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.



2 FEBRUARY

Candlemas
(White)

Tough love

1 Corinthians 13: 1-13
Luke 4: 21-30

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise
Tim Gorringe

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Prayer

LOXBEARE

No Service

OAKFORD

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

RACKENFORD

See Oakford

STOODLEIGH

See Oakford

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

3.00pm Evening Prayer

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Family Service

9 FEBRUARY

4th Sunday before Lent
(Green)

Whom shall I send?

Isaiah 6: 1-8,(9-13)
Luke 5: 1-11

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

See Loxbeare

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Family Service

LOXBEARE

10.45am Holy Communion
Tim Gorringe

OAKFORD

No Service

RACKENFORD

9.15am 'Explore'
Steph Gordon-Jeffs and
David Edwards

STOODLEIGH

9.30am Reflective Service
with breakfast

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise
Steph Gordon-Jeffs and
David Edwards

WASHFIELD

See Loxbeare

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Service of the Word

16 FEBRUARY

3rd Sunday before Lent
(Green)

Growing deep roots

Psalm 1
Jeremiah 17: 5-10
Luke 6: 17-26

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

9.15am 'Explore'
Dave B, Nik and Tash

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Holy Communion
Tim Gorringe

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

10.45am Morning praise

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

TEMPLETON

See Cruwys Morchard

WASHFIELD

10.45am Morning prayer
David Edwards

WITHLEIGH

See Cruwys Morchard

23 FEBRUARY

2nd Sunday before Lent
(Green)

Having a generous spirit

Genesis 45: 3-11,15
Luke 6: 27-38

9.30am Zoom Service

OUR MISSION COMMUNITY

HOLY COMMUNION GROUP SERVICE

is at

10.45am in

OAKFORD

with

Georgie Bell
and David Edwards

Practicing the Way

A course for Lenten Discipleship

*Steph will be running this course during Lent
at The Rectory Withleigh*

Thursday 13 March at 11.00am and 7.00pm

Thursday 20 March at 11.00am and 7.00pm

Thursday 27 March at 11.00am and 7.00pm

Thursday 3 April at 11.00am and 7.00pm

*Please come along when you can and encourage others
to sign up. Let the church office know if you can come
along. Tel: 01884 250417 or
office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org*

PARISH ROUND-UP

enjoying supper provided by Larry and Debs.

The Christmas Tree is up in the centre of the village and the cottages have been adorned with lights in readiness for the Christmas celebrations. Thanks must go to the faithful few who turn out every year do decorate the tree and village. How did we manage before David and Vaughan and his high front loader. The celebrations start on December 22nd at St Peter's Church with Carols by Candlelight at 6.00pm. This service will be a collection of carols, poems and readings followed by mulled wine and mince pies of course!

The Christmas Quiz at The Red Lion will be held following the Carol Service at 8.00pm. Do come and support Laura and Geoff, it is always a fun evening

December 24th will be carols around the Christmas tree at 5.00pm with sausage rolls, mince pies and hot chocolate.

December 31st - New Year's Eve Party at the village hall. Bring and Share Supper, licensed bar and music and dancing.

The village hall is being given a facelift with an insulation layer and smart outer covering.

There are several events planned to take place at the village hall in 2025, so watch out for the information.

Dates for your diaries.

Red Lion Quiz dates - 19 January and 16 February at 8.00pm.

Moorland Ladies - 9 January and 13 February.

The Great Oakford Taste Off 28 March 7.00pm

Best wishes to everyone with a special anniversary or birthday in the coming months.

Congratulations to Justin and Emily on the arrival of Lottie on November 6th, a sister to Jack and granddaughter to Geoffrey and Dawn. Much love to you all.

Thoughts and prayers to anyone who is unwell at home or in hospital, especially over the festive season.

Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

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.

celebrations. Our Harvest Praise Lay Led service was held on October 13.

It was a joy to have a good congregation to give praise and thanks for our harvest. Special readings, hymns and prayers are always a very special part of our service. Thank you to all our readers. Our Harvest Supper followed on October 16. Special thanks to Debbie of Rackenford Club for her helpfulness and warm welcome to us all the venue for our supper.

Special thanks also to Rachel who took a day off work and worked from morning to the end of the night multitasking to help and ensure everything ran smoothly. We sincerely appreciate your help, you're a star. We are of course limited for space hence the limited tickets but we are delighted with all the support we receive and the tasty desserts made by the PCC and friends. You helped to raise £456-48. Thank you everyone .

An update now on our Sponsored Walk organised by Liz. Thanks to all our walkers, supporters and helpers. Grand total for sponsored walk including gift aid was £1,722.25. Amazing. Thanks to you all.

Going back in the year seems a long while ago now, however, we must recall the village day fun that many enjoyed. Stalls, games, treats and much more. The church team, friends and kind contributions from volunteers provided the cakes and bakes, teas and juice which were all amazing and went down well with a cuppa.

Thank you to all the Mary Berry's amongst us.

As always our Remembrance Service was held at the War Memorial. Our sincere thanks to Jackie for taking this service that means so much to us. We are lucky to have you continuing the good work you dad has done for us

RACKENFORD

As these notes are prepared we are not sure when they will arrive with you.

To be on the safe side we wish you all a Happy Christmas and happy and healthy year ahead.

As some of us age, we sometimes wish for peace and quiet. Peace in the world would be a wonderful achievement.

Lets start on a happy note and congratulate Olive on becoming a Great Grandmother for the first time to a beautiful baby girl. We hope mum, dad and baby are doing well.

Turning the clock a little (too late for the last issue) Thank you to all who helped in any way to decorate the church ready for our harvest

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PARISH ROUND-UP

previously. Jackie led the prayers, gave us detailed information of those that served and didn't return amongst those who served and returned to loved ones. Many names were recognized by those who attended. Richard who has always played a significant part in this service laid the wreath this year. A representative also attended and laid a wreath of Remembrance from the officers, soldiers and old comrades from (RDY) The Royal Wessex Yeomanry.

Last but not least it was a very poignant tribute to have Sharon with us to play the Last Post. Standing side by side a variety of ages including the young, our service ended with the National Anthem. Donations of £218.50 has been donated to the British Royal Legion.

A few knocks on our doors, appropriately dressed and very happy for little treats the Halloween callers were very polite and very pleased with the treats they received. Hope you enjoyed your goodies.

November 1 was the evening for bonfire and fireworks on the common, keeping warm by the fire and enjoying refreshments. Once again many attended this annual event. Many thanks to everyone involved in organizing and contributing towards the fireworks. Guy Fawkes didn't stand a chance!!!!!! at Rackenford.

Our last churchyard cut has now been completed, however the grass is still growing fast. The weather is so unpredictable, rain, sun, mild, cold, snow. The plants and flowers don't know what they are supposed to be doing and as we go to print the wind and storms are our latest severe

weather warning. Hope we are all prepared as much as we can be.

We held a small coffee morning with little stall and draw on November 23 and were so pleased to see so many brave the weather, thank you so much for coming and helping us raise £292.

Sadly we have lost two people who have always had connections with Rackenford for many years. Betty Kirby (Crocker) passed away peacefully on October 16 at Ashdown Nursing Home (where she was lovingly cared for) with her family by her side. Betty was born, grew up and lived in Rackenford with her parents and 4 siblings. She worked at Rackenford school, in various jobs, cleaning cooking in the kitchen and finally as classroom assistant. She was on the church council, parish council and helped with anything in the village that she could.

She finally moved to Tiverton with her husband Ron. We send our deepest sympathy to Ron, Brigitte, Terry, Gwen, Hilda and Roy. A thanksgiving service was held at Rackenford Church following a private cremation.

On October 18 Trevor Nott passed away peacefully at Exeter hospital with family by his side. Trev was born at Leat Farm, Rackenford and enjoyed many years in and around Rackenford with his parents and five siblings. Trev used to be part of the bell ringing team. Later he moved to Tiverton. He travelled to various places in his work but eventually moved back to the Tiverton area to live with his sister at Templeton and to enjoy his retirement. A service of Celebration was held at Rackenford Church following a cremation. We send our deepest sympathy to Simon and Mel, Coralie and Mark, Charlie and Ellie,

Josie and Chris. Grandchildren and siblings Roy and Hilda, Annie, Judith and Clive and Jean. As we prepare to go to print we would like to send our love and best wishes to Jean who is currently in Exeter hospital having suffered a stroke. It was not long ago that Jean celebrated her 97 birthday. A constant stream of family and friends are visiting and encouraging her recovery.

We remember all who are poorly or recovering from operations, Jacques, Mary, Philippa and Yoshi and to anyone under the weather or struggling with health issues.

We recently heard that Gordon Arnold who used to run Rackenford Club with his wife Jean has passed away. Jean continues to live in a nursing home at Witheridge. Our deepest sympathy to Gordon's family and friends at this sad loss. Many from Rackenford will have fond memories of Rackenford and happy times at the club.

Our church was used for the annual Defibrillator Training session on October 28 when Andrew from the South West Ambulance Service came and gave an excellent talk to 15 people and allowed them to practice CPR on a dummy and handle a model defibrillator. This event is open to everyone and will be repeated in 2025 allowing as many people as possible to learn life saving skills. Thank you to Ruth for organizing this very important event.

A safety issue cropped up in November when, through something that was said at Rackenford School, it appeared that a pupil, with his father, had been entering the church after school and they had "rung" some of the bells on several occasions. This parent, who



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PARISH ROUND-UP

has been contacted, has no real bellringing training and as such, had not only put himself and his child at risk of harm but could have also damaged the bells. The bells are there for the community but only suitably trained persons or those accompanied by a trained ringer with teaching skills should ring them. Our bells have now been secured so that anyone wishing to ring needs to contact either myself, the church or the warden so they can have the lock combination number if deemed appropriate.

On a lighter note some may be aware that our bells are fitted with Ellacombe Chime equipment which enables a single ringer to chime all 6 bells. The basic equipment is all there but in poor condition and requires some work and repairs to make them useable again. I hope to start fundraising in 2025, we may be able to get grants towards it. The sums are not huge. More news on this to follow. My contact details are 07791 889751. Dennis Saupe, Tower Captain, All Saints Church, Rackenford. I hope this covers all issues and we never have another like it.

Thank you to everyone who has helped to decorate our church for Christmas and special thanks to Liz and Tim once again for providing and decorating the beautiful Christmas tree. Also thanks to Mary for the little tree adorned with angels in the porch which is delightful.

Ending on a happy note, we send our love and many congratulations to Jacques and Mary as they prepare to celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary, 60 years of marriage, a great achievement. We hope you have a very happy day. God Bless you both.

STOODLEIGH

I'm writing this before Christmas, for you to read after Christmas, which always feels a bit strange! I hope everyone had a safe and happy Christmas and has made good use of the socks/jumper/strange gift that always comes from that certain relative who never fails to amaze you with their choices.

Here at St Margarets we're looking forward to the New Year with hope and optimism. Our first event is a Soup and Fellowship service on 19th January 2025 at twelve o'clock and I hope we will see lots of people attending and enjoying the homemade soup. All the refreshments are free and it's a good excuse to banish the "post-Christmas let down" and enjoy the friendship of everyone there, meet old friends and make some new.

In November we had a wonderful Bingo at the Stoodleigh Inn, many thanks to Liz for allowing us to use her premises, and in spite of the weather and the subsequent low turnout, a very good time was had by all. Many thanks must go to everyone who gave prizes and attended the event, but especially to Ed for his wonderful "calling" and Julian for his excellent "umpiring".

Our Reflective Services go from strength to strength and are greatly enjoyed by the people who attend, it would be really lovely to see more people attending these services and enjoying some coffee and other refreshments, we're not scary, honest, so please come along if you can.

Flower Rota

1 - 31 Jan

1 - 28 Feb

Phyllis Hill

Penny Norman

Finally, I must thank everyone who has worked so hard throughout 2024 to keep St Margarets doing so well and to thank everyone who has taken services and helped at our many events.

100 Club Draw Winners

August: Steven Ayre, Graham Radford, Matt Parker and Phil Talbot

September: Tanya Thomas, Alistair Morison, Matt Parker and Angela Hill

October: Julie Cridland, Malcolm Jones, Felicity Green and Phil Talbot

Stoodleigh Parish Website

Keep up to date in 2025 with news, information and calendar of events available for you at <https://www.middevonparish.co.uk/stoodleigh/>

If you have news to share about what your parish group or organisation is doing, please email stoodleighweb@gmail.com.

Stoodleigh Parish Hall

The Autumn Market and Coffee morning was a great success raising over £400 for the Hall funds. The local crafts stalls made a stunning display and offered beautiful pottery, seascape paintings, spooky shadow boxes, items made from wood, and wonderful baskets and other goodies. The Garden club provided a array of plants and of course we had the obligatory coffee and cake. It was a lovely community event.

Monthly coffee morning will begin again in the new year on the 4th January, 1st February and 1st March at the hall from 10.30 to 12.00. Come along and enjoy coffee, cake and a chat.

If you are not on our community email and want to keep up to date with events happening in the village contact our



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PARISH ROUND-UP

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It's a great way to stay in touch.

Garden Club

The Garden Club has had a really good year. 2024 saw the number of members rise to 45 and there were regular visits and activities which were well attended. A Macmillan coffee morning and plant sale was held resulting in over £700 being raised for that charity. Some members were taking part in a painting course in Bampton, but the snow came at just the wrong moment and the day had to be cancelled. This is rescheduled for January.

The AGM was held in November and we now look forward to another active year. The new programme will be set at a meeting in January, so, if you have an interest in gardens and gardening, keep your eye on the Stoodleigh website for anything in which you would like to take part. We don't just take members from Stoodleigh, but those from the surrounding villages are welcomed as well. Many of our events are open to non-members too.

We will be setting the schedule for the Stoodleigh Annual Show during January. This will also be on the website, so that you can take an early look to see if there is anything that you would like to prepare ready to enter in August. We are hoping to make the 2025 Show even bigger and better!

TEMPLETON

Oh for a crystal ball! At the time of writing this, before Christmas, and just after Storm Darragh, we must travel optimistically and hope that

everyone enjoyed the festive season and that nothing has happened since to make January or February anything other than the beautiful, if quiet months we can all enjoy together. Fingers crossed. Happy 2025 everyone. May this year be a good one.

St Margaret's Church and churchyard Maintenance work continues at St Margaret's Church, including repairs to the roof and the crenulations and some wood treatment. Hopefully, there will be enough funds to continue the repairs which will include painting the walls and exposing the stonework around the windows. Thank you, Peter for maintaining the churchyard so well and a special thank you to Alfie and Brett for making the two wooden nesting boxes for the birds in the churchyard.

The Sunday services for January and February are published in the centre pages of this magazine. The lay-led Sunday services at St Margaret's Church, Templeton will be on 5 Jan, 12 Jan and 2 Feb at 10.45am and they usually last about 30 to 40 minutes. There will be a Cluster Holy Communion Service with Steph and Dave on 9 February. If there is not a Sunday service at Templeton at a weekend, there should be a group or cluster service at one of the other nine parishes.

Past Events

Templeton's Annual Firework and Bonfire Night was held on Saturday November 2nd at Templeton Village Hall. This local event was very well attended as always, and as spectacular as ever. Hot dogs, tea and coffee were a big hit and the bar was very popular. It was a mild evening this year and it was lovely to see so many families enjoying the event. Thanks go to all those who gave their time to help

from the bonfire builders to the firework setter offers, the teams preparing and serving food and drink, the bar team and those overseeing the gate and the car park. It really does take a village.

The Remembrance Day Service on Sunday 10 November allowed the congregation to pay their respects to all servicemen who died during conflicts around the world with two minutes' silence. Reg led the service and read a very moving poem that encapsulated everything that we should try to remember on this day.

The Scrap Metal Day on 12 October at Templeton Village Hall was a great success - again. We collected cables, saucepans, copper pipe and wire, copper cylinders, aluminium, stainless steel, brass, old taps, metal troughs, and car batteries. Tractors and trailers collected big items, and the bacon butties, tea and coffee kept the team going as they sorted and loaded all the metal. £1740.16 was raised from our scrap metal! Thanks particularly to Julie Dent for initiating the event in 2012, to Kathy Hunt for coming back to the village and giving her time and expertise, and to everyone who donated, loaded, sorted, collected, transported, and provided delicious refreshments on the day. Since we started this event in 2012, we have filled 9 industrial size skips with general metal and four cattle trailers with aluminum, copper, brass and stainless steel. In total, over the four scrap metal events we have now raised a total of £7,727.77 for the village funds.

Several events happened after we wrote the Templeton page of the magazine. Here's what we know and what we think we know. Fingers crossed:

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PARISH ROUND-UP

The Annual Children's Christmas Party was on Sunday 15 December at Templeton Village Hall with a visit by 'you know who in the red suit'! There was a disco, party food and fun. Every child received a gift from the 'big man.' A big thank you to Tony Loosemore for organising this event.

Christmas Competitions

The Annual Christmas Competitions (table tennis, pool, darts, and skittles) were held at Templeton Village Hall every Saturday evening in December - 7 December, 14 December and 21 December. We can't tell you the names of the winners here but they will have their names engraved on shields.

Carol Service

On Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24 December, the candlelit Christmas Carol Service will take place at 6pm, followed by wine and mince pies. It will be lovely to see so many local people supporting the church and coming together as a community for this special event. And I'm sure the singing will be heavenly!

Karaoke and music night

On Tuesday 31 December (New Year's Eve), a Karaoke and Music Night will ring in the New Year at Templeton Village Hall. Many thanks to Sue Coffin's talented brother Bob and family, for the music and the karaoke. This is a lovely way to celebrate with singing, dancing, hot dogs, snacks and nibbles, plus the bar, while coming together again as a community.

Dates for your diary

Bingo Night! Saturday 1st March 2025 at Templeton Village Hall. Come and have fun with all the family on our bingo night. Doors open 7pm. Eyes down 7.30pm prompt. There will

be plenty of snacks and treats to enjoy during the evening and the bar will be open. More information to follow as the details were not finalised at the time of writing, but please book the date in your calendar now.

Templeton Run

On Sunday 24 March 2024, the South West Road Runners and Exe Valley Rotary Club are organising their annual Charity Templeton Run. This event started ten years ago as a 5km 'fun-run' for runners of all ages. Two years ago the Rotary Club expanded the run to a 10km and 5km run. This year, the course will start at Templeton Village Hall and go through beautiful countryside into Cruwys Woods, which Guy Cruwys has kindly opened for the occasion. More information to follow.

Templeton Variety Show. Friday 11th and Saturday 12th April 2025!

After the wildly successful Templeton's Got Talent Show in 2023, Sue is organising a 2025 Templeton Variety Show on the weekend before Easter. Time: 6.30pm for a prompt 7.00pm start at the hall.

Tickets on the night - £5 adults and £2 Children. Popcorn and ice-cream will be on sale and the bar will be open. This event may not be suitable for very young children as it can be a long time for them to sit still. If you, or anyone you know would like to take part, please contact Sue on 01884 860246. Sue will need to know who is performing, so a programme can be organised, no later than the end of February 2025. Sue will send round an email at the beginning of February with dates for practice evenings - and daytime rehearsals.

Templeton Safari Supper on 24th April 2025

A safari supper is a fun way to enjoy getting together for a meal and also raise funds. Each course is prepared and eaten at different people's homes in and around Templeton. One of the courses could start or finish at St Margaret's Church or Templeton Village Hall. If you'd like to know more or would like to host one of the courses (usually for about 6 people) please get in touch with Bindy on 01884 860655. Regular gatherings

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: At St Margaret's Church on the last Friday of each month 10.30am to 12 midday. Bring any repair work, embroidery, crochet, knitting, or just come along for a cuppa, biscuits and a chat!

Garden Club: We are taking a break through the winter months, but Gardening Club will start again in the Spring. If you would like to join us then please email Ginah Palmer at ginahpalmer@gmail.com or phone her on 01884 253552.

Join us at Templeton Village Hall and Social Club:

Come up on a club night for a drink and a chat, have a game of darts, pool, table tennis or skittles. Club nights are Monday and Saturday evenings from 8.00pm to 11pm. Club membership is only £2 a year and the drinks are very reasonably priced. If you would like to

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PARISH ROUND-UP

book the village hall for a birthday party, meeting, or a game of table tennis with friends, please contact Bindy 01884 860655.

Thoughts, prayers and best wishes

Our thoughts, prayers and best wishes go to all those who are unwell, who have been in hospital, who are awaiting or recovering from surgery, or who are having a tough time at the moment. We hope that you will soon be feeling better. Church Flowers and Cleaning Rota for January, February and March 2025

Teresa Pancherz Flowers & cleaning
12th January - 19th January
Philida Strong Flowers & cleaning
26th January - 2nd February
Laurel O'Brien Flowers & cleaning
9th February - 16th February
Val Hopley Flowers & cleaning
23rd February - 2nd March
Gloria Woollacott Lent - No flowers
9th March - 16th March

WASHFIELD

As the New Year arrives try to approach each day with the resolve to find the opportunities hidden within it. The bad news is time flies, the good news is that you're the pilot!

All good wishes to everyone for a Happy New Year, as we pray for peace in the world and justice for all.

The last two months seem to have been dominated by rain and gales and floods but the sudden appearance of the sun every now and again gives us hope of Spring to come.

The terrible suffering in so many countries worldwide affects us all and

we realize how thankful we are to live in friendly Washfield. CHAT however is busier than ever helping struggling families and homeless people in our own area and are in need of contributions constantly.

Remembrance Sunday was a salutary reminder of sacrifice nearer to home when Maurice read the names of those from our village who died in the 1st World War. The Service was well attended and was led by Annabel, who served in the Army in Afghanistan. The generous collection was sent, as always, to the Royal British Legion.

We were very pleased to welcome Steph back after her Sabbatical on Advent Sunday and the Advent Celebration at Oakford was much enjoyed, with songs from the Exe Valley choir and dramatic monologues from Steph and Tim followed by a delicious meal, all in a beautifully decorated Village Hall. We thank Dawn and her team for all their hard work!

Our thoughts are with Jenny Raynes and all the family at this time of great sadness at the loss of Don. A loving husband, father and grandfather who will be missed by his many friends. We are all thinking of you and sending our love and prayers.

We call to mind all those in our Parish who are having a difficult time in any way. They are in our prayers and we hope they will ask for help if they need it.

The Social Club's annual Pumpkin weigh-in on 2nd November was a fun evening. The pumpkins (in all shapes and sizes) had been grown over the summer and were brought to the hall for the showdown! After diligent weighing by the scrutineers, the winner was declared, it was the 104lbs monster grown by Kipper Heywood! Sattie

Burton's entry was declared the prettiest. The total amount raised for the Devon Air Ambulance was £234. Well done all.

The Social Club's 'Foodie night' at the end of November was a resounding success. Villagers had worked hard to produce slow cookers full of foods from around the world including vegetarian tagines, Guyanese channa and potato curry, Rabbit casserole, Aubergine parmigiana and lots, lots more. Tables were laden with the pots and dishes of rice, jackets, naans as accompaniments. All who came had a veritable feast of yumminess and went home fully sated. What a great idea Ann and Tony (and so well executed) and to the cooks and bar staff on the night. Sounds like everyone was calling for a repeat next autumn.

We have had two film shows in the past two months and they couldn't have been more different! The first was 'Wicked little letters' (definitely an eye-opener and not one for the children) and the second was the feel-good 'Arthur Christmas' to give the children a treat (with hot chocolate and popcorn) and help us adults start to feel the joy of Christmas (whilst still running around feeling a little jaded!) Thanks to the Social Club, Chas and Carly for all their work in making these evenings must-go-to events.

All these events are only possible because the committee work hard to put them on and because we pay our annual subscription (due now) 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 between



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PARISH ROUND-UP

2.30-4pm). All ages are welcome to these friendly, chatty afternoons. Come along, you'd be most welcome.

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.

Church Flower Rota

January 5/12	Mrs Trout
January 19/26	Mrs Boundy
February 2/9	Mrs Balment
February 16/23	Mrs Bassano
March 2	Mrs French

LENT

WITHLEIGH

As we leave behind the carols, glitz and glitter of the festive season, we look forward to the Spring with signs of new life with snowdrops and daffodils making their entrance.

SNOWDROPS IN THE FROST

By Eileen Hay

I gathered coat and scarf and boots
And wrapped up with great care.
I'd been indoors for far too long
And needed some fresh air.
The cold was biting razor sharp,
And nipped my ears and nose, I felt
my fingers growing numb
And couldn't feel my toes!
Head down, I trudged along the lane,
Then saw, to my delight,
A clump of snowdrops on the verge,
So fragile, pure and white,
The frost was glittering all around.
They trembled in the cold,
But there they grew, this hope of spring,
Defiant, brave and bold!

We are continuing the monthly Bingo's in the Village Hall through the winter this

year. The next Bingo will be on Thursday 2nd January, eye's down 7.30pm. February's Bingo will be on Thursday 6th.

The Short Mat Bowls continues to be enjoyed by many of our community, we are in the Village Hall every Wednesday evening from 7.30pm. If you would like to give it a try just come along.

Our thanks to everyone who has kept our Church looking lovely this last year. Especially to David who has kept the church yard looking so tidy throughout the whole year, we all wish you well with your forth coming operation and look forward to seeing you fit and well again. Thank you also to Sharon for keeping the church clean and to the Flower Arrangers for keeping us supplied with fresh flowers week by week. On the flower rota for January is Margaret and February is Brenda, which pretty much leads us into Lent.

Our thanks to everyone who has kept our Church looking lovely

At the end of October at our Community lunch, Sharon from Unite Carers talked to us about the work they do to give support and friendship for carers of loved ones with Dementia. £103 was raised.

Our Remembrance Service was held at 10.50am at the same time as the other churches in the Exe Valley Mission Community.

The Quiz held in November organised by Giles and Rosie raised £340 towards our Church organ repairs.

The Bingo evening at the beginning of December raised £228 for our Village Hall Funds.

Our Christmas Fayre on 7th December was a memorable event with Storm Darragh blowing outside and the falling of a tree across the lane and into the Village Hall car park. One car was badly damaged but fortunately no one was

injured. Many thanks to Duncan, Richard, James, Guy and Four Seasons for clearing the fallen tree so promptly. Predictably numbers were down but the event still raised £1,212 for St Catherine's Church. Thanks to all those attending and helping.

Our Christingle Service held the day after was led by Laura and her two boys where we learnt about the significance of the Christingle. We were all invited to colour in Christingle book marks. The collection was for the Children's Society. Thanks to Christine and Janet for preparing the Christingles.

WOW

The November meeting of WOW was a creative one. We were generously invited to Rosie's pottery studio where we were each given a prepared ball of clay. Then we used our imagination to make cane toppers. Contact Susie for information on 258492.

Congratulations to William and Jess on the birth of their son Archibald Mark, grandson to Cathy and great grandson to Christine and Harry and Sylvia. We send our love and best wishes to you all.

We wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.



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9.25	Hamslade Cross	13.15	£7.50	£5.00
9.30	Black Cat	13.10	£7.50	£5.00
9.38	Stoodleigh Quoit at Cross	13.02	£6.50	£4.00
9.40	Stoodleigh Hill Crest	12.58	£6.50	£4.00
9.42	Stoodleigh Parish Hall	12.56	£6.50	£4.00
9.45	Pylemoor Cross	12.54	£6.00	£3.50
9.48	Courtney Cottages	12.50	£6.00	£3.50
9.52	Washfield Village Hall	12.46	£6.00	£3.50
9.54	Cotleigh Corner	12.44	£6.00	£3.50
By Request	10.05	Loxbeare Church	£6.00	£3.50
	10.07	Loxbeare Garage	£6.00	£3.50
	10.09	Leigh Bart	£6.00	£3.50
	10.13	Calverleigh Post Office	£6.00	£3.50
	10.20	Farleigh Meadows	£5.00	£3.00
10.05 [^]	Morrisons – Kennedy Way, Tiverton	12.35	Drop off inward – pick up return only	
10.10 [^]	TIVERTON MARKET	12.30		

[^] Times may be delayed by up to 20 minutes if the bus has been to Calverleigh, Loxbeare, etc.

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