



MARCH / APRIL 2025

Price £1.00

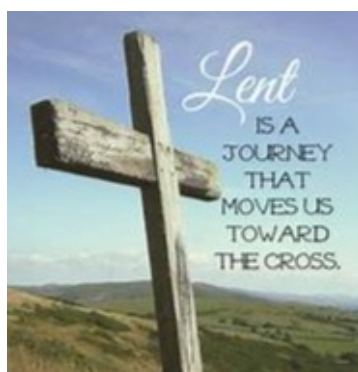
OLD HABITS DIE HARD

As some of you may have spotted, I have bought a new car. Not a 'new' new car, but a new to me, updated model of my old car. And I'm very pleased with it. I love the reversing camera (although it still doesn't guarantee that I will reverse successfully). I love the automatic headlights and windscreen wipers (although I don't always agree with the speed and frequency they kindly think is the best option for me!) I even appreciate the beeping sound the car makes when I cross over the white line in the middle of the road (so useful on narrow country lanes!)

But I really struggle, (I mean REALLY struggle) with the fact that I don't need to put my car key in the ignition to get going in the morning – I only have to have it somewhere about my person (and extraordinarily even I don't need to know where that is – the car just knows), and off we go!

As a result I have locked myself out of the house, unable to use my car (ask Oakford – they know the story), been unable to

start my car (wrong keys in handbag – also unable to get back into the house), been extremely frustrated that the button to start the car wasn't working (it was the button for the heating), stood trying to open my car (except it wasn't my car, it was someone else's) etc. And I've only had the car a month.



You see, it seems to me that 'Old habits die hard!' I have spent the last 40+ years leaving the house with a bunch of keys in my hand, shutting the front door, ready to unlock my car and then put the key in the ignition. It's never been a problem before. Not once. Until now!

It's hard having to re-learn things. I remember for a good year after my youngest child

had left primary school, I used to find myself heading towards Melbourne Street on automatic. For months after I stopped teaching, I would find myself heading towards Blundell's. And it is ingrained in me to never walk past a loo 'just in case!' (Actually, for a vicar with multiple rural churches that is wisdom!)

Yet sometimes it is a good thing to have a look at our habits, the things that 'die hard' in us, and work out which habits are helpful, and which are not. Old dogs can learn new tricks – if they want to!

Lent is a useful time to spend in a bit of self-examination. Our Lent course 'Practicing the Way' will take us through some good habits to develop, as we follow Jesus. You are very welcome to join me. See page 4.

Even if that's not for you, try listening to Mick Jagger who makes a pretty good stab at singing 'Old Habits Die Hard' – and he should know!

*With my love and prayers,
Steph*

**Copy Deadline for
May / June 2025 issue**

Monday 7 April 2025

THE EXE VALLEY MISSION COMMUNITY

Calverleigh, Cruwys
Morchard, Loxbeare,
Oakford, Rackenford,
Stoodleigh, Templeton,
Washfield and Withleigh
www.exevalleychurches.org

RECTOR

Rev'd Stephanie Gordon-Jeffs
The Rectory, Withleigh,
Tiverton, EX16 8JQ
Tel: 01884 250417
Email : Steph@

exevalleymissioncommunity.org

NOT TUESDAYS PLEASE

ADMINISTRATOR

Dawn Williams
C/O The Rectory
Tel: 01884 250417
Email: office@
exevalleymissioncommunity.org

SAFEGUARDING CONTACT

Mrs Cindy Trick
Tel: 01363 866621
Email: cindyltrick@gmail.com

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Dawn Williams
Post Farm
Dulverton
TA22 9RU
01398 324035
today@exevalleychurches.org

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CHURCHWARDEN CONTACT DETAILS

CALVERLEIGH

Aubrey Goldsworthy 01884 255248
thegoldsworthys@yahoo.co.uk
Jackie Herniman 01884 255814
jmherniman@gmail.com

CRUWYS MORCHARD

Diana Vincent 01363 860227
vindr@hotmail.com
Sarah Cruwys 01884 860287
wagscruwys@live.com

LOXBEARE

Jean Heard 01884 881400
jeanm.heard@googlemail.com

OAKFORD

Wendy Boynton 01398 351383
mboynton@btinternet.com
Dawn Williams 01398 324035
dawnannwilliams1@gmail.com

RACKENFORD

Mary Cann 01884 881696
mary_cann@outlook.com

STOODLEIGH

Penny Norman 01398 351602
p.norman58@outlook.com

TEMPLETON

William Withers 01884 253030
william@williamwithers.co.uk
Reg Coffin 01884 860246
sueandreg.coffin@fhsinternet.com

WASHFIELD

Richard Scholes 01398 351528
mail@richardscholes.com
Malcolm Dudley-Williams 07860 203564
malcolm@dudley-williams.com

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Brenda Tucker 01884 252431
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Parish Diary

TODAY March / April 2025

MARCH

- 1 Calverleigh Prayer Day
- 1 / 2 Loxbeare Prayer Weekend
- 1 Oakford Village Hall Showbiz Quiztastic Quiz & Supper 7.00pm
- 1 Stoodleigh Village Hall Coffee Morning 10.30am
- 1 Templeton Village Hall Bingo 7.00pm
- 5 Oakford St Peter's Books, coffee & chat 10.30am
- 8 Loxbeare Village Hall Soup Lunch 12.30pm
- 11 Loxbeare Parishioners Meeting in church 7.30pm
- 13 Exe Valley Community Lunch Claverleigh Village Hall 12.30pm
- 13 Lenten Discipleship Course at The Rectory Withleigh (see page 4)
- 14 Coffee & chat with Steph in Banburys from 10.15am
- 16 Red Lion Oakford Pub Quiz 8.00pm
- 20 Lenten Discipleship Course at The Rectory Withleigh
- 22 Stoodleigh Village Hall 2 course supper & skittles 7.00pm
- 23 Templeton Great Run 9.00am at village hall
- 27 Lenten Discipleship Course at The Rectory Withleigh
- 28 Oakford Village Hall Great Oakford Taste Off 7.00pm

APRIL

- 3 Lenten Discipleship Course at The Rectory Withleigh
- 3 Withleigh Village Hall Easter Bingo 7.00pm
- 5 Marriage Preparation Day Withleigh Village Hall 10.15am-3.00pm
- 5 Calverleigh Prayer Day
- 5 Cruwys Morchard Village Hall Bingo 7.00pm
- 5 Stoodleigh Village Hall Coffee Morning 10.00am
- 5/6 Loxbeare Prayer Weekend
- 9 Oakford St Peter's Books, coffee & chat 10.30am
- 10 Exe Valley Community Lunch at Oakford Village Hall 12.30pm
- 11 Coffee & chat with Steph at Banburys from 10.15am
- 11/12 Templeton Variety Show at village hall 7.00pm
- 12 Loxbeare Cream Tea 3-4.30pm
- 12 Withleigh Easter Beetle Drive 7.30pm
- 14 Loxbeare Village Hall Easter Bingo 7.00pm
- 19 Stoodleigh Village Hall Easter Market & Coffee morning
- 19 Cruwys Morchard Church and Hall Easter Fun Morning
- 20 Templeton St Margaret's Easter Egg Hunt 11.45am
- 26 Templeton St Margaret's Safari Supper 6.30pm in church



Exe Valley Lunches



12.30pm - 2.30pm

Thurs 13th March - Calverleigh Village Hall

Thurs 10th April - Oakford Village Hall

Contact the church office to book

01884 250417



CHAT WITH STEPH



If you are in Tiverton on a Friday, catch up with Steph in Banburys for coffee and a chat from 10.15am on March 14th and April 11th 2025

WHAT'S ON

Prayer Breakfasts

On the 4th Saturday of every month.

15 March and
26 April at 9.00am.
at The Rectory Withleigh
Everyone welcome



Coffee and Croissants

CHECK OUT THE ALL NEW EXE VALLEY WEBSITE

www.exevalleychurches.org

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



Bible Study Group

Looking at Isaiah

The next meeting will be
held at Myrtle Cottage,
Oakford EX16 9ES

Monday March 10th 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

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*

You are invited to attend

A MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY

*A day of preparation for
your married life together,
at Withleigh Village Hall
on Saturday 5 April 2025*

10.15am - 2.30pm

Tea, Coffee, Lunch provided - please
inform us of
any special dietary requirements

RSVP:-

office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org

Reverend Steph Gordon-Jeffs

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.



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PARISH ROUND-UP

NATURE NOTES

As I write this at the end of January, it is difficult to imagine Spring will ever arrive. One day is full of promise with blue skies, the birds singing and a little bit of warmth in the sunshine. The next day, one needs waders and an amphibious vehicle.

I feel so sorry for the burrowing animals – all those little bank voles, shrews, moles and even rabbits, whose homes must have been flooded most of Winter. Moles may not be so popular with the farmers and keen gardeners, but I don't mind them. The freshly-dug soil is perfect for potting up seedlings and topping up the greenhouse.

All of those creatures have a role to play in the ecosystem and I have only recently realized the important part that dung beetles play in our lives. Okay, one doesn't much fancy their diet, nor their living accommodation, but did you know that dung beetles are vital in our ecosystem? The UK has more than 40 native species in four groups: 'Dwellers' spend their entire life cycle inside the dung pad, while 'tunnellers' spend more time beneath the pad, burrowing below to build brood chambers and burying dung for their larvae to feed on. 'Stealers' often take advantage of tunnellers by occupying tunnels for the development of their own larvae and stealing the already buried dung. The fourth type, 'rollers' has more competition for the dung; hence the dung beetles roll it away before burying it in brood chambers to keep it from competing beetles.

There are approximately 6000 species of dung beetles around the world with most feeding on dung although some

will also eat dead animals, rotten food and fungi. Some species can use the light of stars or even the Milky Way to navigate their dung-ball push. Their strength is incredible – the representative strength among them is the bullheaded dung beetle, which is the strongest insect on earth, moving more than 1000 times its own weight

Dung beetles may be small, but their impact is immense. These industrious little insects maintain the health and balance of ecosystems: they break down and decompose animal dung, thereby recycling nutrients, they aerate the soil, control pests, disperse seeds, and sequester carbon. In fact, dung beetles provide 'ecosystem services' to the UK cattle industry valued at more than £367 million per year.

The importance of these fascinating, unobtrusive little creatures is such that research is being carried out regarding the benefits to our farms and there are even dung beetles' websites specifically for farmers!

Fiona Bladon



CALVERLEIGH

As we move further into 2025, there are signs of Spring around. The daffodils were making an appearance at the same time as the snowdrops despite the cold winds and the primroses are looking colourful in gardens and hedgerows.

Recalling events and services leading up to and during the Christmas period we can report that the Christingle service which was postponed because of bad weather was held on 15 December in the morning instead of the normal 3pm and was led by Nikki. Our thanks go to Doreen for donating the Christingles and to all who helped to make them up. £60.00 was sent to The Children's Society as a donation towards their valuable work with vulnerable children and young people.

As a result of three evenings of carol singing, the Loxbeare and Calverleigh carol singers collected £651.76 around the two villages. This was split between Devon Air Ambulance and HospiceCare. Thank you to all who gave of their time to take part in this enjoyable activity, taking the message to the people and especially to Myrtle and family for inviting us back for supper after the last evening of singing. Delicious food was provided along with a little more carol singing to end the evening.

Our carol service took place on 22 December, led by Tasha, and over 70 people were welcomed into the church. Children attending the service sang Away in a Manger and it sounded lovely. Following the 9 carols and 7 readings refreshments were served. Our

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PARISH ROUND-UP

thanks go to everyone who decorated the church ready for Christmas, all who took part in the service or provided goodies to accompany tea and coffee.

Christmas Day saw another good-sized congregation to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Rev'd Tim led the service and voices were in good form. Thank you, Tim for a lovely service. It was lovely to welcome people from around the village and further afield along with those who had returned home for Christmas.

A sizeable collection of goods for CHAT which were donated during Advent were delivered to their office early in the new year. A letter of thanks has been received and can be viewed in church along with letters from Devon Air Ambulance and The Children's Society.

We will be collecting dried and tinned goods and toiletries once again for CHAT during Lent.

Our new 'Explore' service was introduced to Calverleigh in January with Rev'd Steph leading and David Edwards providing the music. This was instead of our Family Service and was well supported. An 'Explore' service will be held on 3rd Sunday of each month unless otherwise advertised. It is a service designed particularly for children and families, but all ages (especially the young at heart) are certainly also encouraged to come along. While it starts early at 9.15am, it starts with refreshments and the actual service begins at 9.30am. It's usually a short service, with interactive elements to keep everyone engaged.

Congratulations go to Harry and Violet on the arrival of their daughter. A welcome sister for big brother Wilbur.

We trust that mother and baby are doing well.

Our best wishes go to all who are celebrating special occasions in the coming months with either a birthday, wedding, anniversary or birth of a child. If you have news, pictures or events that you would like to share please contact Dave Burton (calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org). We'd like to wish a very Happy Birthday to Dave himself in April!

Condolences go to those who have lost loved ones either recently or longer ago. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

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. The next two dates will be Saturday 1 March and 5 April.

A Service of Ashes for the Exe Valley Mission Community will be held at Calverleigh on Wednesday 5 March (Ash Wednesday) starting at 6pm.

After the cluster service at Calverleigh on 13 April the church APCM will be held. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

There will be a Group Easter Vigil service starting at 8.30pm on Saturday 19 April led by Rev'd Tim Gorringer. This will include Holy Communion.

An Easter Sunday Family service will be held the following morning starting at 10am.

Our Day of Prayer will take place on Saturday 3 May from 9am – 9pm, split into 30 minute time slots. People are free to pray wherever they feel most comfortable. Prayer suggestions will

be available closer to the day. Please contact Aubrey or Jackie for more details.

On 10 May we will be holding a coffee morning in the village hall in aid of church funds, from 10am – 12 noon. There will be a bring and buy table, draw and competitions.

It was with sadness that we learnt of the passing of Bridget Simmons (nee Wigram) who grew up in Calverleigh before moving away and often returned to worship with us when she was able. A service of thanksgiving took place in Chittlehampton and on 27th January Bridget's ashes were interred at Calverleigh in her sister's grave. Our thoughts and prayers remain with Bridget's family and friends.

Church cleaning rota:

24 Feb - 8 Mar:	Mrs M Furneaux
10 Mar - 22 Mar:	Mrs A Balsdon
24 Mar - 5 Apr:	Miss S Goldsworthy
7 Apr - 19 Apr:	Mrs N Burton
21 Apr - 3 May:	Mrs A Webber
5 May - 17 May:	Mrs J Goldsworthy

Flower rota

2 Mar - 9 Mar:	Mrs D Hopper
Lent: No Flowers	
20 Apr - 27 Apr:	Mrs T Pugsley
4 May - 11 May:	Mr M Ravnkilde

Mowing rota

7 Apr - 19 Apr:	Mr A Goldsworthy
21 Apr - 3 May:	Mr D White
5 May - 17 May:	Mr K & Mrs C Hayes

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

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PARISH ROUND-UP

upcoming event or news of interest to the community. Email Calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org.

CRUWYS MORCHARD

Church of the Holy Cross

As we welcome back that old familiar friend, Spring, we say a hearty and warm welcome to all those that have recently moved into Cruwys Morchard. Hello, we look forward to our paths crossing.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be held on Friday 11 April at 6pm, in the church. All parishioners are welcome to attend to learn how the church continues to support the parish and what the PCC does to ensure the upkeep of the church, by following regulations and requirements to keep the church in good order for the future.

We pray for a speedy recovery and send best wishes to all that are unwell, have been in hospital, are awaiting treatment, recovering from surgery or having a tough time at present.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those grieving the loss of a loved one and send our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Jeremy Tottle.

Flower and Cleaning Rota

Feb 17 & 24	Anne Gillbard
Mar 3 & 10	Lorna Warren
(Lent – no flowers)	
Mar 17 & 24	Carol Chisholm & Jackie Mitchell (Lent – no flowers)
Mar 31 & Apr 7	Cindy Trick
Apr 14	Decorators for Easter
Apr 21 & 28	Ali Vincent
May 5 & 12	Cindy Trick

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

Easter Fun Morning

Please come and join us on Saturday 19 April 10am - 12pm, at the Church and Parish Hall. We'll have a hunt across the Church yard, games to play and refreshments in the hall. For more information, please contact Diana Vincent: 01363 860227.

Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall

The Committee of Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall would like to invite you to their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 11 March 2025 at the Parish Hall at 8.00 pm. All welcome.

BINGO - A Spring Bingo is being held at the Parish Hall on Saturday 5 April to raise funds for the Parish Hall. Doors open at 7.00 pm - eyes down at 7.30 pm. Fun for all the family with excellent prizes and prizes for the children.

Yoga at the Parish Hall

General Hatha Yoga Class at Cruwys Morchard Hall, Thursdays 10am - 11.15am. All abilities and ages welcome. Call Hilary on 01363 866245.

Cruwys Morchard Flower Show

The annual flower show takes place this year on Saturday 9 August 2025. Schedules are now available, with many new classes. Children's buckets and seed potatoes are available from the secretary or chairman. The "Grow-on plug plant" will be available soon. For more information, please contact Tracey Gillbard on 07871 300783 or traceygillbard@gmail.com

Cruwys Morchard YFC

It has been a busy few months as we prepared, practised and painted scenery for the Pantomime competition.

All our hard work culminated in finishing 2nd place at Group round against tough opposition. Many congratulations to you all. Congratulations to Evie Rice for coming 3rd in the Junior Member of the Year competition.

Looking ahead to the coming months we have Pub Sports competitions, Crealy Challenge, Skills 4 Life events and a Community Project. Whilst we continue to raise money by collecting aluminium drinks cans. So please let us have yours! If you have 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

On the second and fourth Wednesday of every month there is a social evening 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.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

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

contact Jean on 07835300233 or Carol 01884881480.

Happy birthday to all with birthdays in March/April and congratulations to all celebrating special occasions.

We pray for Ruth and Gerald recovering from operations and all who are unwell or waiting for treatments or operations. Just heard that Gordon Crook has died, sending our thoughts and prayers to the family. For those who are finding the winter months long and dreary and are restricted in not being able to get out much. May we have some warm sunshine soon to help make us feel better and look forward to the spring.

Village dates:

March 8 there will be a Soup Lunch 12.30pm to 2pm in aid of Alzheimer Society and April 12 Cream Tea 3pm-4.30pm in aid of Hospiscare. The January Soup Lunch made £125 for Salvation Army Tiverton. The February charity was Guide Dogs and raised £95.50

April 14 will be Easter Bingo, doors open 7pm eyes down 7.30pm

You are invited to come along to hear our church news.

This year is also Revision of the Electoral Roll. If you are a churchgoer and would like to remain on the roll or would like to join the roll application forms are in St Peter's.

March and April are the months of transition into spring. Days get longer and weather warms up.

After a winter season of ever changing weather, cold, several named storms and heavy rain interspersed with the odd gloriously sunny day, we can now look forward to Spring. Snowdrops, Daffodils, little lambs. Just typing those words makes me feel more cheerful.

The following is info from David Braine the BBC weather man 'The meaning of Snowdrop is Flower of Hope and there are 2500 different varieties. They survive the harsh weather as there is anti freeze in their sap so they will not freeze.' Hmmm?

As well as welcoming Springtime we welcome the new families that have come to live in Oakford and hope they will be happy in our great little village.

A few countryside mottoes for March and April, not heard so much these days but good to hear all the same.

A peck of March dust is worth a King's ransom.

So many misties in March, so many frosties in May.

April weather, rain and sunshine both together.

When April blows his horn 'tis good for hay and corn.

What will be going on in Oakford during the next months ?.

The bells of St Peters will be taken down and will make the journey to a Somerset foundry, Matthew Higby Bell Hangers Ltd. to be restored and retuned. The old bell frame will be replaced by a new steel frame and the ringing floor will be raised to its earlier position. A film and photographic record of all the procedures will be made and displayed in the church so

LOXBEARE

It is good to see signs of Spring with many flowers and buds already making their appearance, birds singing and days beginning to lengthen, giving us hope of drier and warmer days.

In December we postponed our Christingle service for a week due to storm Darragh and we had the service on 15th December with thanks to Janet for playing the organ, we gave £100 to the Children's Society. The following week we held our Carol service, thanks to all who took part, decorated the church, thanks to Jean travelling from Bridgewater to play the organ, we gave £150 to The Children Hospice South West.

Thanks to those who gave up their time to go Carol singing on three nights around Loxbeare and Calverleigh, for those who provided supper and those who gave so generously, donations amounting to £651 were split between Hospice and Devon Air Ambulance

See the centre pages for services for March/April. On March 30th, Mothering Sunday there will be a breakfast in the Hall from 9.30am followed by a service also in the Hall. Do come and join us. Loxbeare P.C.C. are holding an open meeting on 11th March in the church at 7.30pm. We would welcome anyone that would like to attend to have a chat about all aspects of our church in Loxbeare and the Mission Community in the Exe Valley. Refreshments will be available. Loxbeare APCM will be on April 6 at 11.45am following our Morning Praise Service.

The monthly prayer weekends will be 1st/2nd March and 5/6 April. Anyone wanting prayer or prayer pointers please

OAKFORD

It seems like a long time ago since Christmas! However I would like to thank all our readers, Tim Hugill for playing the organ and Stephen Roche for his sound system and everyone who came along to St Peter's for our carol service. Mulled wine and mince pies were enjoyed after the service then a dash across the road to the Red Lion for the December Pub Quiz.

Very merry time was had by all carol singing around the village tree on Christmas Eve followed by more food, sausage rolls, roast potatoes, hot chocolate and more mulled wine. Thank you to everyone for coming along.

The Annual Parochial Church Council meeting will be on Sunday 16 March at 11.45am following our service with Steph.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

that anyone interested will be able to follow the progress of the restoration. Thanks again to Oakford's parishioners who have been so supportive and have raised an outstanding £ 50,200 towards the restoration. Matthew Higby Ltd are due to start the removal of the bells and the tower restoration work during the 1st week of April.

St Peters Church is the venue for the monthly Books, Coffee and Chat meetings, held on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 10.00 am. Come along to browse the selection of books, (which can then be either borrowed or owned), have a coffee and meet up with friends. We no longer have a library van visit in Oakford so this event has become a replacement library facility for readers. We endeavour to refresh the selection of books regularly taking old books to local charity shops.

The Poppy Crafting Group will start again on Tuesday evenings at 7.00p.m. with new ideas and crafts. Anyone interested in joining this very friendly crafting group contact Julia – 07917 770075 for details.

The Moorland Ladies meet on the 2nd Thursday each month, for a variety of events. A friendly group who also organise the annual village flower and produce show and either an Autumn or a Christmas Fayre. Watch out for posters around the village with information.

Anyone wishing to join the group contact Chairman Louise Wilder - 07946 637350

13th March - AGM followed by an event/talk tbc

10th April - visit to Quince Honey farm 2.00p.m.

The Sunday night Quiz at the Red Lion teams of 6, £2 per person (all monies

collected support local charities) If you don't have a full team that's not a problem there will always be a place for you. Just come and have fun.

The Village Hall has been given a facelift and now looks very smart. The V.H. committee have been busy arranging events to take place in the hall.

The big screen will be showing the following events.

Six Nations Rugby fixtures. - Saturday 15th March - 3 games doors open 1.30pm

Saturday 5th April 2.30 – 5.00pm – Watch the Grand National on the big screen, bar & food available.. Tickets from Debs debra.m@gmx.co.uk

1st March The Oakford Players present 'A Showbiz Quiztastic Quiz Night.' at 7.00pm. Tickets £12.50 to inc. hot supper. Licensed Bar. Dawn Williams 07733949295

28th March The Great Oakford Taste Off from 7.00pm. A lively fun evening - Enter your own homemade alcoholic spirits or non alcoholic cordials and sausage rolls, then taste and judge them all.

The Stuckeridge Weekend Friday 21 Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 March 3 days of talks at Stuckeridge House near Oakford. For more information contact caroline @stuckeridgeevents.co.uk

The Art Society Exmoor who meet at the village hall in neighbouring Brushford on a monthly basis welcomes new members and guests from the Exe Valley Mission Community Parishes to join them on discovering History through Ancient and Modern Art and Sculpture, Music and Science. The visiting lecturers are highly experienced

experts in their subjects. Often well known and always very engaging.

The forthcoming lecture on Monday 3rd March will explore Jean Duc Du Berry (14th cent.) who commissioned priceless manuscripts, reliquaries, altar pieces and jewellery.

Monday 7th April. – The History of the tree in Art, lecturer Clare Ford-Ville will highlight how the tree has been portrayed throughout time as of great importance in art.

Monday 19th May - The judgement of Paris, depicting three Classical Goddesses judged by a mere mortal!. Artists such as Lucas Cranach, Botticelli, Reubens through to Cezanne and Salvador Dali were enthralled.

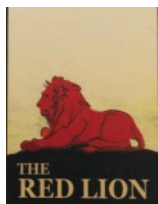
Monday 2nd June - The Brilliance of Brunel. - The man who made the modern world.

We invite you to look at our website www.theartsocietyexmoor.org.uk and join us as a guest £10 (refundable if you join). Tea and coffee are available before the lecture on Mondays at 2.00pm with lectures starting at 2.30pm

Memories of Elsie Reed

We were sad to hear of the passing of Miss Elsie Reed who for over 80 years lived and farmed at Aldridge Mill and died at the age of 94 in December. She attended both Stoodleigh and Oakford schools and also had to spend a year in Exeter hospital during World War Two experiencing the bombs as they fell on the city. As Reverend Steph noted at her funeral service, Elsie lived a life unimaginable to many today, with no mains electricity, mains water nor telephone at the farm. Her final years were spent at Barnhaven where she received wonderful care and made the most of all the social events.

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2 MARCH

The Sunday next before Lent
(Green)

Face-to-face with God

Exodus 34: 29-35
Luke 9: 28-43

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Prayer
Tim Gorringe

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise

OAKFORD

See Rackenford

RACKENFORD

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

STOODLEIGH

See Rackenford

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

3.00pm Evening Prayer

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Family Service

5 MARCH

Service of Ashes

6.00pm

Cruwys Morchard



9 MARCH

1st Sunday of Lent
(Purple)

Tools to survive and thrive

Deuteronomy 26: 1-11
Luke 4: 1-13

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

See Washfield

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Family Service

LOXBEARE

See Washfield

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
Tim Gorringe

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise
Steph Gordon-Jeffs and
David Edwards

PRAYER CHAIN

The Exe Valley Mission Community are starting a telephone prayer chain. If you like to be included for prayer or know someone who would like to be included, please contact Steph at the church office. Only first initials will be used to ensure total confidentiality

16 MARCH

2nd Sunday of Lent
(Purple)

Now and not yet

Genesis 15: 1-12,17-18
Luke 13: 31-35

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

9.15am 'Explore'
Nik, Tash and Dave B

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Templeton

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise
Steph Gordon-Jeffs and
David Edwards

RACKENFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

TEMPLETON

10.45am Holy Communion
Georgie Bell

WASHFIELD

No Service

WITHLEIGH

See Templeton

23 MARCH

3rd Sunday of Lent
(Purple)

Repentance and second chances

Isaiah 55: 1-9
Luke 13: 1-9

9.30am Zoom Service

**OUR MISSION
COMMUNITY
HOLY COMMUNION
GROUP SERVICE**

**is at
10.45am in
RACKENFORD
with
Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and David Edwards**

30 MARCH

4th Sunday of Lent

MOTHERING SUNDAY

10.45am Morning Praise
Services at

CALVERLEIGH

OAKFORD

STOODLEIGH

TEMPLETON

WASHFIELD

WITHLEIGH

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Holy Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs and
David Edwards

LOXBEARE

9.30am Village Hall breakfast
followed by a service.

6 APRIL

5th Sunday of Lent
Passiontide begins
(Purple)

What's your passion

Isaiah 43: 16-21
John 12: 1-12

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise
Tim Gorringe

CRUWYS MORCHARD

No service

LOXBEARE

Morning Praise
Steph Gordon-Jeffs and
David Edwards

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 Family Service

13 APRIL

1st Sunday of Lent
PALM SUNDAY
(Red)

Not the obvious choice

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

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

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

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Family Service

LOXBEARE

See Calverleigh

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 Morning Praise
with Baptism

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

17 APRIL

MAUNDY THURSDAY
AGAPE MEAL
CRUWYS MORCHARD
VILLAGE HALL
6.30pm

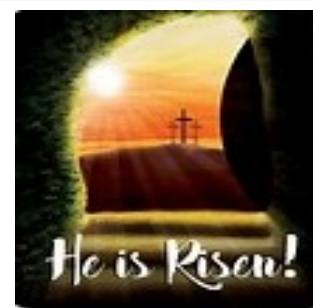
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18 APRIL

GOOD FRIDAY
EASTER REFLECTIONS

10.00am Withleigh Village Hall
with Hot Cross Buns

10.45am
Rackenford with Tim Gorringe
Templeton with Steph Gordon-
Jeffs



20 APRIL

EASTER DAY
(White)

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.00am Easter Day Family
Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Easter Praise

OAKFORD

10.45am Holy Communion
Tim Gorringe

RACKENFORD

10.45am Easter Praise

TEMPLETON

10.45am Easter Day Family
Service

WASHFIELD

10.45am Easter Praise

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Holy Communion
*Steph Gordon-Jeffs and
David Edwards*
*preceded by breakfast in the
hall at 9.30am.*

27 APRIL

2nd Sunday of Easter
(White)

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

Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and David Edwards

19 APRIL

EASTER EVE

CALVERLEIGH

8.30pm Group Easter
Vigil
Tim Gorringe



PARISH ROUND-UP

Memories of Brian Stone - A very decent man by Roger Bartholomew
Sadly Brian passed away on Christmas Day, a thanksgiving service was held at St Peter's on 24 January.

My first time to meet Brian was in the kitchen of Bakery Cottage. He said very little and was mostly concerned with 4 across, 7 down, six letters beginning with C. Needless to say, my mother got there first, without using the dictionary. And then I mentioned how Devon fisherman were being disadvantaged by the French in the English Channel. I never had to worry about Brian being quiet again. His opinions, backed up by the Daily Telegraph, ensured that conversation was never wanting – add weather, gardening and joint pains and the next 16 hours were taken care of.

Brian and my mother had so much in common – the garden, the church, music, books, Devon, Oakford – an inexhaustible source of knowledge. After my mother died we suggested to him that downsizing and having everything within walking distance would be a good idea and before long he had moved into Luke St. in Bampton. My son Andrew spent a lot of time with Brian and my mother in Bakery Cottage and knew Brian well and learned the RAF attitude of “do it properly, do it now”. While going through the house in Luke St. a brief profile of Brian was unearthed which stated: *“Stone, B.R.J. has been a pupil at this school since September 1950. He has ability quite up to the average for a Grammar School boy and on the whole he has worked quite well during his time here. His conduct has been entirely satisfactory and he has nice manners and a pleasant personality. EH Peel Corbin, Head Master, Huish's Grammar School, Taunton, July 21, 1955”*. Some things/people never change! I would like to thank Ben, my brother-in-law, for passing this to me.

Anybody who takes that reference through life is going to be remembered as A Very Decent Man. It also makes me realize that this was written a year before I was born!!

Brian had strong roots in the Oakford Community and then from 2015 lived close by in Bampton, where as well as bell-ringing and singing in the choir, got to know his way around the coffee shops and restaurants, anything in walking distance. And in the last 12 months, Brian even learned how to use a mobile phone, although reception in Luke St is like the twilight zone, so if you every tried calling him, don't feel bad if you never received a response. However, if you did get through there was no such thing as a quick 5 minute chat!

What are the endearing memories of Brian? The RAF, Professional Gardening, contributing to the Church and the Community, never turning down a cup of tea, taking on Andrew, my son, to help him meld with Devon & England (including cricket), pushing on through adversity and ill-health, and having time for people. He valued tradition for the right reasons and I will always remember him fondly as A Very Decent Man.

Our thoughts and prayers and good wishes go to anyone in the parish who is ill at home, or in hospital.

Best wishes also to all who have birthdays/anniversaries.

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

As the following is being prepared for printing at the beginning of February, it's a beautiful sunny bright morning. Lighter nights are certainly very noticeable and hopefully spring will bring better weather. Many snowdrops are with us and other bulbs and shrubs forming buds and flowers. Long may it continue.

Prior to Christmas some of us enjoyed being visited by joyful carol singers bringing this special time closer to us. Many thanks for the music, singing and your time to deliver the Christmas message.

We are briefly going to reflect on Christmas Eve and our Lay Led Carol Service with Graham at the organ.

Its always heartwarming and comforting to welcome so many to our service. To be together at this very special time of praise and joy, to hear readings from members of the congregation and carols sung heartily together. Prayers from Mary and Liz sent us off in good spirits to enjoy this blessed time with our families and friends. However, we always remember and pray for those less fortunate than ourselves.

It didn't seem long before we were taking down our trees and decorations and starting a new year.

It was over a year ago that our dear friend Joan Phillips passed away. She is greatly missed by many. Joan was part of our flower arranging team for a very long time, regularly cleaning brass and providing flowers for the altar. We have now purchased two beautiful vases to be used on the altar and have been engraved 'In memory of Joan Phillips' We thought, after chatting with

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PARISH ROUND-UP

the family this would be a fitting tribute to Joan.

January 12 was our first Explore Service of the new year with Steph and Dave on his guitar, always good to be singing along with Dave, not forgetting the actions to go with the songs.

Please come along with your children, enjoy the fun, making various items and catch up with each other while enjoying drinks and biscuits.

Gordon Arnold's (Pixie) cremation took place on January 7 at Devon and Exeter Crematorium. Many of Gordon's friends from back in the day when Gordon ran Rackenford Club (with his wife Jean) came to remember Gordon and support his family at this sad time.

We would like to take this opportunity to remember friends who have received treatment /operations while in hospital, some now home and making good progress. Eileen, Yoshi, Simon, Marjorie, Olive and Jean. Our love and prayers for better health to you all.

We send our love and support to Jean who is now in a residential home in Tiverton, where she is regularly visited by family and friends, much easier to visit in Tiverton than Exmouth where she was in the beginning after suffering a stroke. You are very much in our thoughts.

Just to make everyone aware of changes we have made with regard to the church key, locking and unlocking for the week and for services. We have decided on a rota shared between Hilda, Ruth and Helen. Obviously this will be flexible if needed. So starting in January was Hilda, February, Helen, March, Ruth and so on throughout the year. The church will be locked and unlocked

to each persons convenience, unless its requested to be opened for any particular reason and at a certain time. Please get in touch if you need it to be opened a certain time, bell ringing, school, nursery etc etc etc.

Also another reminder to daily users of the church path, can you PLEASE make sure you shut the gate. It seems to be open more than closed and dog fouling has been noticed. Not pleasant for volunteers cutting areas or for families visiting the graves of loved ones.

As we have no facilities to dispose of Christmas wreaths, just posting a reminder for any left to be removed please.

This may well be the last opportunity to wish mums a Happy Mothering Sunday on March 30, which is the same day as British Summer Time Begins.

Also a Happy Easter on Sunday April 20. We continue to pray for PEACE.

STOODLEIGH

Report from St Margaret's

Christmas seems such a long time ago now, but at St Margarets we had a lovely time with our coffee morning with "surprise" draw prizes, they're all wrapped up and so you have no idea what prize you have until you unwrap it. The Carol Service was also well attended and we, once again, had the amazing Dave Edwards and Levon to play for us which everyone enjoyed. Followed by mulled wine and mince pies, many thanks are due to John and Yvonne Lang who made the stunning mulled wine. Thanks, must also go to everyone who made mince pies and

also to Phyllis, Angela and all the flower arrangers who made the church look so beautiful.

In January we had the church warden's lunch which was very well attended and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. We also held a Soup Service, which brought some people to the church who aren't regular attenders which made it very special. Many thanks to Mandy and Phyllis who made the lovely soup that everyone enjoyed along with rolls, butter and cheese.

Looking forwards we are once again planning quite a few events this year and also a bit of work on the church which will be updating the old and inefficient heating system. So, we're just crossing our fingers that the old system will keep going until we raise the necessary funds!

We're also looking forward to at least one wedding in the church this year, which is a wonderful thing to see the happy couple making their vows before God. It gives everyone great hope for the future.

Garden Club

We have a varied and full programme of events set for this year, with the delayed Painting Course and Willow Weaving having taken place in January and February. Coming up, a spring garden visit to NT Killerton at the beginning of March. Do check out the website - the Garden Club section of the Stoodleigh website, for more information, should you like to join us for any of our events.

Flower Rota

March (Lent)

Sat 19 April

Sat 3 May

No flowers

Easter everybody

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Stoodleigh Parish Hall

Stoodleigh postponed its tree lighting and meeting Father Christmas until Sunday 8th December as Storm Darragh had other ideas on the Saturday. Fortunately Father Christmas was still free to attend and arrived on a beautifully lit tractor driven by his trusty elf much to the delight of the children. After their activities and receiving their present from The man in red, the tree was lit up in all its glory having survived the winds.

Special thanks to the tree erecting team who ensured the magnificent tree didn't topple. Every one enjoyed the refreshments available and the evening was rounded off with carol singing. The grand draw was also completed. Thanks to all who bought tickets. £640 was raised for the hall funds. Many thanks to all the volunteers who rallied around the reschedule this event and make it a great success.

Our monthly coffee morning on the 1st Saturday of the month are always well attended and gives an opportunity to catch with friends whilst enjoying coffee or tea and homemade cake.

Dates for you diary

Saturday 1st March, Coffee morning, come along for a chat over coffee or tea. 10.30am to 12noon.

Saturday 22nd March. 2 course Supper and skittles evening 7pm at the hall. Please book your tickets £10 for adults and £5 children under 14 by contacting Linda on 07818433046 or email linda.brice21@yahoo.com. Bring your own drinks.

Saturday 5th April, Coffee morning 10.30am to 12noon

Saturday 19th April. Easter market and coffee morning. 10.30 to 12.30. Meet local traders and artists showing their goods and crafts. Come and enjoy

Coffee and cake and a bit of retail therapy. To book a table please contact Linda on 07818433046 or email linda.brice21@yahoo.com.

Our committee is a little light on numbers so if anyone can commit some of your valuable time to join our trusty band of members please contact Linda.

100 Club Draw Winners

November: Rebecca Brown, Alyson Murray, Hannah Parker and Yvonne Lang

December: Hannah Parker Nicola Quick, Sarah Clarke and Rebecca Brown

Christmas Extra Prizes: Sally Holland, Trevor Crowland, Rosey James, Andy Rigamonti and Heather Burmeister

January: Heather Burmeister, Stephen Radford, Lesley Thwaites and Alison Palfrey

Don't forget the new 100 Club year starts in May for all you current members and new members alike - will remind everyone in due course. If you'd like more information, contact Geraldine on 01398 351391 or geraldinetabol@live.com

March and the optimism of Spring – just take a coat!

St Margaret's Church and Churchyard Maintenance of St Margaret's Church and churchyard is an ongoing process. Despite specialist paintwork, there have been issues with the interior, and new paint peeling off the walls. Some of the stonework has now been exposed which is good but the roof tiles, crenellations, and woodwork all need attention. Once the weather improves, we would like to hold a working group event and give the churchyard a spring clean. Many thanks to Bertie Dent who is doing voluntary work for his Duke of Edinburgh Award and has been cleaning the windows and floors of the church.

Services

The Sunday services for March and April are published in the centre pages of this magazine. The Sunday services at St Margaret's Church, Templeton, are all at 10.45 am and will be held on March 2nd (Morning Service), March 16th (Holy Communion Cluster) March 30th (Mothering Sunday Service), April 6th (Morning Service), April 18th (Good Friday Easter Reflections), April 20th (Easter Sunday Family Service with an Easter Garden-making event and Easter Egg Hunt). If you or your family have any favourite hymns that you would like included in any of the services, just let our churchwardens Reg or William know (contact details on page 2).

Church Electoral Roll

Every six years, a new Church electoral roll is prepared. If you are a churchgoer and are not already on the Church electoral roll, there are application forms on the table in St Margaret's

TEMPLETON

March, much loved by hares, is never a dull month. March is the first month of Spring where we start to shake off the Winter chill. March 'comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb'. This proverb dates back to the 17th century and is one of many traditional sayings about the tempestuous and transitional nature of this month's weather. If you are someone who finds themselves outdoors for work or play, you may feel the quickening beauty and promise of



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PARISH ROUND-UP

Church for you to complete and pass on to Reg or William (contact details on the second page of the magazine).

Future Events

Come and have fun on our Bingo Night on Saturday 1 March 2025 at Templeton Village Hall. Doors open at 7pm. Eyes down 7.30pm prompt. The bar will be open. Lots of prizes to win!

Templeton Run – Sunday 23 March from 9am at Templeton Village Hall.

The Exe Valley Rotary Club and the South West Road Runners are organising their annual Charity Templeton Run. This year they are raising money for the suicide prevention charity "Andy's Man Club," a fantastic mental health-based charity. The Village Hall will provide refreshments for the runners and marshals. The course follows a route starting at Templeton Village Hall and goes through beautiful countryside into the Cruwys Woods, which Guy Cruwys has kindly opened for the occasion. If you're interested in entering the run, which is overseen by the South West Road Runners (SWRR), the link is <https://www.swrr.co.uk/feighan-fury/> – book yourself a place now!

Templeton Variety Show. Friday 11 and Saturday 12 April

If you came to the last one, you know you are in for a treat. Anything could happen and it probably will, so come and enjoy the entertainment at our Templeton Variety Show. Starts at 7:00pm. £5 for Adults and £2 Children (not suitable for children under 6 years). Popcorn and ice-cream will be on sale and the bar will be open.

And don't forget the Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday 20 April at St Margaret's Church, Templeton straight after the Easter Sunday Service! Great fun for the entire family.

Safari Supper – Saturday 26 April from 6.30pm

A Safari Supper is a great way to enjoy getting together for a meal and to raise funds. Starters and drinks will be served for everyone, including the hosts, at St Margaret's Church at 6.30pm. The main meal and dessert will be prepared and eaten at different people's homes in and around Templeton. If you'd like to be a host or a guest for the Safari Supper please get in touch with Bindy on 01884 860655 or email belinda.linden1949@gmail.com Price per person – £10. Proceeds in aid of St Margaret's Church, Templeton.

Regular Gatherings

Art Group: Every second Tuesday 10am-12 midday 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 and biscuits and a chat!

Gardening Club – often held at different member's homes, this is a great opportunity to discuss all things gardens and gardening for both new and more experienced gardeners. This popular club will start again in the Spring. If you'd like to know more, please do get in touch with Ginah (ginahpalmer@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you.

Templeton Village Hall and Social Club: Come up on a club night (Monday and Saturday evenings from 8.00pm to

11pm) for a drink and a chat. Maybe you would like to have a game of darts, pool, table tennis or skittles? Annual club membership is £2 and the drinks are very reasonably priced. If you would like to book the village hall for a birthday party, meeting, or any other event, contact Bindy 01884 860655.

Thoughts, Prayers and Best Wishes

Our prayers, prayers and best wishes go to all those who are unwell, who have been in hospital, awaiting or recovering from surgery, or who are having a tough time.

Church Flowers and Cleaning Rota March-April 2025

Flowers and cleaning

23 Feb. – 2 March

Val Hopley

Lent – No flowers

9 / 16 March

Gloria Woollacott

Lent – No flowers

23 / 30 March

Liz Walker

Lent – No flowers

6 / 13 April

Ginah Palmer

Flowers and Cleaning

Easter Sunday

20 / 27 April

Lynda Newnes

WASHFIELD

Springtime is the land awakening
The March winds are the mornings
yawning

Greetings from St. Mary's! We hope you are heartened by the signs of snowdrops and primroses returning to cheer us up after such a dreary and also very stormy winter. New life is on its way and Spring is not far away.

Some Services have been cancelled in the last two months because of slippery paths and high winds, but we have still held all those in need in our prayers.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

We are grateful for extra help with Services from Steph and Tim Gorrings. Please see the centre pages for all the Services over Easter, and the Editorial page for the Lent Course and other events in the various churches of the Exe Valley.

Good Friday will be marked in several of the Exe Valley churches, where all will be welcome. On Easter Saturday at 10 am at the church we look forward very much to seeing all our families, and 'returning for Easter' families, getting together for the egg decorating competition, followed by egg rolling down the hill opposite the Hall. Expect to see keen competition, cheering parents and prizes for all! Coffee and Hot Cross Buns to warm you up in the Hall will be on offer, with Plant and Produce Stalls and an Easter Raffle, with time to chat!

Grateful thanks go to all who have been tidying up the churchyard, and to Malcolm for also overseeing the work, with Martin Balment, our Sexton, who has been working on the interior of the church and dealing with the damp in the walls. When it is finished do go and see the transformation!

Wishing you all, in advance, a very Happy Easter!

We send our thoughts and care to those currently struggling with poor health, we hope you will feel better soon.

We wish Charlotte Symns and her fiancé, Daniel Cotterill many happy wishes on their engagement at Christmas. Best wishes to you both and your families.

Jeanne Jones never ceases to amaze us but this time, even she has surpassed our expectations! She has celebrated 70 years as a W.I. member! Never one to let the grass grow under her feet, when Washfield W.I. sadly folded, she sought out another group to join and so reached this amazing milestone! Well done Jeanne.



Church Flower Rota

March 2

Jean French

March 9 - April 13 LENT

April 20/27

Mrs Tobey

WITHLEIGH

Having looked in the diary as to what might be happening in March and April, I couldn't believe how many dates there were and what they meant. Some are self-explanatory but I will enlighten you on a few others.

1st March St David's Day

4th March Shrove Tuesday

5th March Ash Wednesday

10th March Commonwealth Day.

A service held in Westminster Abbey when flags of the member states are blessed

17th March St Patrick's Day

20th March Spring Equinox

30th March Mothering Sunday.

Originally to honour Mother Churches but in 1913 became Mothering Sunday to honour all mothers.

1st April Fools Day.

Not known where this came from but may have been from a reference in Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales.

13th April Palm Sunday

17th April Maundy Thursday.

To commemorate the washing of feet and the Last Supper.

18th April Good Friday

20th April Easter Day

21st April Easter Monday

23rd April St Georges Day & William Shakespeare's birthday

25th April Anzac Day.

A day of remembrance and public holiday in Australia, New Zealand & Tonga to commemorate all who served and died in all wars and conflicts.

27th April Freedom Day Held in South Africa to celebrate sacrifices made by individuals and nations to break away from unjust segregation by a selected few.

What a few months!!!

Withleigh notes .

Our Carol Service on 18th December, led by Steph, was very well attended. It followed a traditional format, but with six carols and five readings rather than nine. Our grateful thanks to Andrew for bringing his keyboard along to accompany the singing. Mince pies and mulled wine were enjoyed at the end of the service.

Our service on Christmas Eve was Holy Communion, beginning at 11.30pm. The service was taken by Tim, in his own inimitable way. There is something

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PARISH ROUND-UP

about singing "Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning" at the very start of Christmas Day.

During the Christmas period a post box, (made by Susie) was placed at the back of the church. This raised £235 for Hospicecare.

We celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany on the first Sunday in January. We remembered how the wise men followed a star to find Jesus, "the King of the Jews", and how we are encouraged to do the same. The service was led by Janet and Elizabeth.

Our Plough Service on 12th January was led by Brenda, assisted by three young farmers who brought the plough, a milk churn and a bag of topsoil to the front of the church to be blessed, and who took part in the service, leading the intercessions, reading the Bible passage, and taking part with Brenda in the blessing of the plough, etc. Ken gave a talk on his farming experiences. We give thanks for our local farmers for all their hard work on the land throughout the year.

Our February services had to be rearranged at short notice, with the opportunity taken on Sunday 2nd to learn a couple of hymns which were new to being sung at St Catherine's, and to recap on two learned last April.

On 9th February, our family service was led by Margaret, with Marianne giving a talk on St Valentine, being the nearest Sunday to St Valentine's Day. The subject of the service was love, and Marianne concluded by telling us about her "first love".

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place in church, following our 10.45am Family Service on Sunday 9th March. Come along and catch up on

what has been happening at St Catherine's during the past year and witness the election of churchwardens and PCC members.

Our Mothering Sunday service on 30th March will begin at 10.45am, led by Susie.

Good Friday (18th April) will see our informal reflective service in the Village Hall. Do join with us at 10am for tea / coffee and hot-cross buns; the service itself will start at about 10.30am.

Easter Sunday (20th April) will begin with a parish breakfast in the Village Hall, at 9.30am. This will be followed by a service of Holy Communion in church at 10.45am and will be celebrated by Steph. We would love to see you at both events, but if you can only make one of them you are still very welcome.

At the time of writing our church organ is out of action while refurbishment is carried out. In the meantime, our hymn singing is to guitar accompaniment.

We held one of our community lunches on February 4th attended by approximately 55 people. This was enjoyed by all those present and a raffle was held for the Church organ repair fund, raising £135. Thanks to all those who provided food, helped generally and donated raffle prizes.

The inside of Village Hall is about to have lick of paint, so it will be out of action for the end of February into March. We hope that it won't disrupt things too much, but it will pay to check if various events are on or not.

As Spring is in the air, and the grass is starting to grow, it has made us realise that we would really appreciate some extra help in the church yard keeping it tidy. If you are interested in helping out

in any way please contact Brenda 01884 252431, or WhatsApp on 07591000479.

Our Easter Bingo will be held on Thursday 3rd April, in the Village Hall, doors open at 7pm, Eyes Down at 7.30pm.

This year's Easter Beetle Drive is to be held on Saturday 12th April, in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. If you haven't tried playing Beetle before then do come and give it a go. It's really quite easy for young and old, and good fun is had by all.

Welcome to the new occupants at Coombeshead Cottage. We hope you are settling in and look forward to seeing you at future village events.

WOW

The WOW ladies were invited to Sara Kittow's home for a Bring and Share lunch to celebrate Christmas. With lots of chatter, good food, secret Santa and appropriate poems, tales and readings by the members it was a very happy occasion.

At the January meeting we had a social evening and a Bring and Buy stall in order to raise money for Hospicecare. Despite freezing conditions and snow a few brave souls arrived and we were pleased to make £78.60 for the charity. At our February meeting Marianne Newsham will be telling us about her many years in Girl Guiding.



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PARISH ROUND-UP



Unite Carers in mid-Devon provide support, information, activities and friendship to unpaid carers who look after someone who is dependent upon them because of illness, frailty, disability or vulnerability.

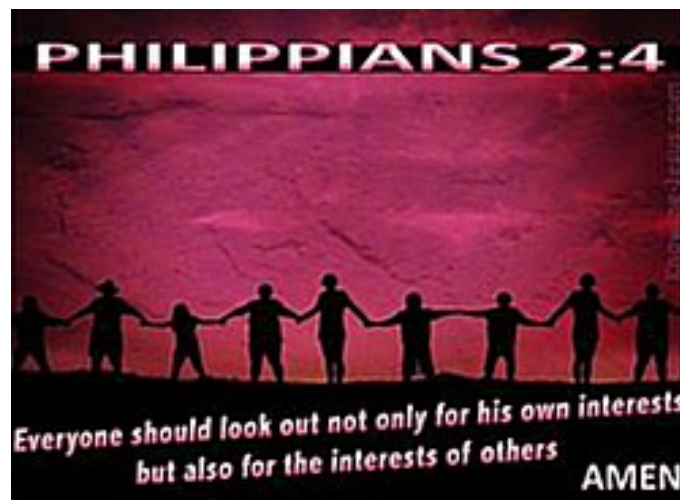
Our enthusiastic team of volunteers run many free support groups for carers in the mid-Devon area, as well as offering 1 : 1 services, such as free befriending, form-filling, IT support and counselling.

We have a quarterly newsletter which you can read online at www.unitecarers.org.uk or catch up on all the latest news on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/unitecarers>

If you are an unpaid carer, or if you know someone who is. We would love to meet you. Please contact us for more information on 01884 257551 or info@unitemd.org.uk.

Our main office is on Bridge Street Tiverton.

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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		

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