



TODAY

The Parish
Magazine
for the
Exe Valley
Mission
Community

MAY / JUNE 2024

Price £1.00

OH FOR THE GOOD OLD DAYS!

At this time of year all our churches have an APCM – or in more common parlance – an Annual Meeting. I refer to it as the APCM season. Like a jockey entering the stalls at the start of a race – I'm off – galloping towards the finishing line by the 31st May.

It's an opportunity to look back and to look forward, to thank people who volunteer, to vote in church officers, and to plan for the future. It's exciting stuff and I'm in the middle of doing it. It's also an opportunity to have a good old moan about the state of society, the world in general and the many short-comings of the jolly old Church of England, of which, I am a part!

So, I was pleased to stumble across a book called 'A Field Guide to the English Clergy' by the Rev'd Fergus Butler-Gallie. Thumbing through its pages provided me with welcome stories that the Church of England of the past was not always as perfect as we imagine. And neither were the clergy.

Take Lancelot Blackburne, for instance. He began his career as a pirate in the Caribbean and eventually became the Archbishop of York. After his years on the high seas, Lancelot returned to England, quickly climbed the greasy pole of the C of E and eventually became the Dean of Exeter.

He was quite a character! While he was in Exeter he had a tunnel made so that he could meet his neighbour's wife for a few late night shenanigans. That didn't stop him becoming the Bishop of Exeter and then the Archbishop of York. As Archbishop of York he stopped ordinations altogether. He also refused to confirm anyone after becoming bored during a confirmation service. During the service he asked his servant to fetch him a pipe, tobacco and a pint to help pass the time! Much to the fury of the vicar! Dick Turpin was his butler for a while, and he was well known for being involved in many 'a romp'.



CHURCH MEETINGS ARE BRILLIANT

Oh dear! Life seems very tame in the Exe Valley Mission Community in comparison! I haven't seen my butler for years! But I'm delighted to say that Sam, Rufus, Hetty, Yvonne and Genny are being confirmed at Exeter Cathedral on 12th May at 4.00pm. Do please pray for them, and come and support them. I promise it won't be boring and that I will keep my pipe and pint until after the service.

As the APCM season comes to an end we will have the opportunity to thank everyone who has stood as a church officer over the past year. In many ways all our churches seem like ships sailing the seven seas, navigating financial storms, scrubbing the decks to keep the fabric sea-worthy, and hoisting the sails week after week. I am so grateful to those who work so tirelessly. Please join me in thanking them on 19th May at Oakford.

From what I have read about Lancelot, prayer didn't feature much. But it does with us. Please join us in 10 days of prayer for Thy Kingdom Come from 9 May to 19. Do visit any of our churches – each one will have a prayer station in place. There is also an opportunity to pray together at the Withleigh Rectory at our new monthly prayer breakfast on the 4th Saturday of the month at 9.00am. Everyone is welcome.

I have just learnt that as part of her training, Claire is to go on an extended placement until the end of July. We wish her every blessing at Silverton.

With my love and prayers.

Steph

Copy Deadline for
July / August 2024 issue

Friday 10 June 2024

**THE EXE VALLEY
MISSION COMMUNITY**

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

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WHAT'S ON... ..**PARISH DIARY****MAY**

- 1 Choir Practice 7.30pm - Oakford
 1 Cruwys Morchard Flower Club Meeting 8.00pm
 2 Police and Crime Commissioner Elections
 4 Annual Prayer Day - Calverleigh
 4 Coffee Morning 10.30am - Stoodleigh
 4 Charity Auction - Stoodleigh
 4/5 Prayer Weekend - Loxbeare
 6 Bible Study 2.30pm - Chapel House Oakford
 6 Maypole Dancing, bar, bbq and games 4.00pm - Washfield
 9 St Peter's APCM 5.00pm - Oakford
 9 Moorland Ladies Cream Tea 3.30pm - Oakford Village Hall
 9 Choir Practice 7.30pm - Templeton Village Hall
 11 Rackenford School Reunion 2.00pm - 4.30pm
 12 St Margaret's APCM 12 noon - Templeton
 12 St Catherine's APCM 12 noon - Withleigh
 12 Templeton Tractor Run 10.00am
 16 Choir Practice 7.30pm - Oakford
 18 Coffee and Chat - Withleigh
 19 Pentecost Service 10.45am with choir - Oakford
 19 Red Lion Quiz 8.00pm - Oakford
 26 Flower Show - Cruwys Morchard
 28 Withleigh Village Hall AGM 7.30pm
 29 Templeton Village Hall and Social Club AGM 7.30pm
 29 Holy Cross Church APCM 7.30pm - Cruwys Morchard

JUNE

- 1/2 Prayer Weekend - Loxbeare
 1 Coffee Morning 10.30am - Stoodleigh
 6 Bingo in the Hall 7.30pm - Withleigh
 6 80th Anniversary of D-Day Beacon Lighting 9.00pm - Templeton
 8 Lay Leaders Course 10.00am - The Rectory Withleigh
 8 Cream Tea 3.00pm - Loxbeare
 8 Coffee and Chat - Withleigh
 8 Car Treasure Hunt - Washfield
 13 Moorland Ladies Trip to Fursdon House 2.30pm - Oakford
 15 Cruwys Morchard Fete 12 noon
 15 Croquet and Cream Teas at The Manor 1.00pm - Oakford
 16 Open 'Gardens of Washfield' from 12.30pm
 22 Prayer Breakfast 9.00am - The Rectory Withleigh
 23 Red Lion Quiz 8.00pm - Oakford
 27 Lay Leaders Course 7.00pm
 29 Oakford Village Fete 2.00pm

WHAT'S ON

NATURE NOTES

Caring for God's Acre

Iconic buildings in the heart of our communities, our parish churches are places of great beauty and, despite falling congregations, remain a much-loved focal point. Steeped in history, some parish churches have stood for 1,500 years having been built by individual thegns (lords) as far back as Anglo-Saxons times (450 AD-1066 AD). The oldest parish church (St Martin's in Canterbury) is said to date to about 590 AD.

Many of the present churches in the Exe Valley Mission Community were built in the 12th, 13th and 14th centuries. Some of them may well have superseded other places of worship that had stood on the same site prior to their arrival.

You might well ask, "What has all of this got to do with nature?". Believe it or not, a lot! When they were built, many of our churches were constructed in open countryside and, not having an enclosed churchyard at the time, the site would have been an integral part of the surrounding landscape. Gravestones would have been largely absent; the less well-off members of the community being buried in what was effectively an open field. Only the wealthy would have had a gravestone or monument to mark their place of rest. The churchyard might well have been grazed, could easily have had a hay cut taken off it and some would have been used for village events.

As both their origins and their management regimes would have been comparable to, if not identical to, the pastureland in which they stood, early churchyards would have had plant communities closely akin to the countryside beyond them. With the passing of time, most churchyards were enclosed but their management regimes continued to mirror the hay cuts and/or grazing in the wider landscape.

With the arrival of agricultural intensification, farming methods have transformed our landscape. 97% of wildflower-rich meadows have been

lost in the last 100 years and, with them, much of the biodiversity that they once nourished.

Our churchyards have largely avoided the ploughing, reseeding, early silage cuts and the widespread use of herbicides and pesticides deployed by modern agriculture beyond their walls. Many have become a precious "time capsule". A window into a bygone age. But, most importantly, with sympathetic management God's Acre can be an invaluable repository for the myriad of His living things (the wildflowers, trees, lichens, insects, reptiles, birds and mammals) on whom we must share our planet and, on whose health, ultimately, we all depend.


For inspiration and the opportunity to see what others have achieved in their churchyards or if you simply want to see, hear and smell a window into the meadows of a yesteryear, please visit Holy Cross Church (Cruwys Morchard) this summer. Holy Cross's churchyard has a wildflower-rich meadow that is stunningly beautiful, especially on a warm summer's afternoon in June.

In fact, it is one of only six churches in Devon that feature on Caring for God's Acre's website page titled "Flowery Churchyards". The website also offers excellent support and advice as to how best to manage a churchyard for both people and wildlife.

Is it time to return a flock of sheep to your churchyard? Probably not. That could well be a step too far for parishioners and conservationists alike. A scythe, now that's a very different matter!

Stephen Powles





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Looking at the Letter to the Hebrews

The next meeting will be held at Chapel House, Oakford

Monday May 6th 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

WHAT'S ON

EXE VALLEY COMMUNITY CHOIR

Sarah Milne has kindly agreed to be Choir Master again and Tim Hugill to play the organ, so the choir will be singing at Pentecost, May 19th at St Peter's Oakford, 10.45am.

All rehearsals start at 7.30pm and the dates are:

25 April - Templeton Village Hall

1 May - St Peter's Oakford

9 May - Templeton Village Hall

16 May - St Peter's Oakford

19 May - St Peter's Oakford for Pentecost



Everyone is welcome to join the choir so please come along.

Contact Sarah Milne on 07790 790249 for further details.

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Contact Cindy for application forms on 01363 866621 or Email: cindyltrick@gmail.com

LAY LEADERS TRAINING COURSES.

Steph will be running courses throughout the Spring.

All those involved with taking services in the Exe Valley Mission Community are invited to come along.

8 June - 10am at The Rectory

27 June - 7.00pm

1 July 7.00pm

Contact the church office for more info. 01884 250417

**Prayer Breakfasts
at The Rectory**

On the 4th Saturday of every month starting on 22 June at 9.00am.

Everyone welcome



Coffee and Croissants

HELPERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to help with a Sanctuary Space in the church for children and staff at Rackenford School.

If you have a hour to spare on a Wednesday please could you let the church office know, thank you.

Tel: 01884 250417 or email: office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org

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PARISH ROUND-UP

CALVERLEIGH

With spring flowers and lambs in the fields showing us God's promise of new life, we give thanks to Him for the glorious seasons in their turn, each with their own beauty.

Our journey through Lent began in February with an Ash Wednesday service at Loxbeare church and then Wednesday evening zoom meetings with Rev'd Steph Gordon-Jeffs leading Compline Prayer which was a lovely reflective time.

The Mothering Sunday service with communion on 10 March was led by Rev'd Tim Gorringe. He gave an interesting talk about the origins of Mothering Sunday and during the service posies of flowers and bookmarks or special cards were handed to all the ladies present, with those posies remaining being placed on the graves of loved ones.

It was lovely to hear the Exe Valley Community Choir on Palm Sunday at Cruwys Morchard during the service led by Steph.

Witleigh church hosted the Agape meal on Maunday Thursday in their village hall. A lovely meal was prepared and enjoyed throughout a communion service and hymns. Thank you to all who helped in any way.

We celebrated our risen Lord on Easter Sunday with Holy Communion, a service led by Rev'd Jerry Bird, a friend of the late Rev'd Robert Gordon. It was a busy service with many regular members as well as visitors from around the valley.

Easter Monday saw a fundraising event arranged by Mrs Ford, in the village hall. There were various stalls, cream teas, and a draw. The Westex Warblers were there as entertainment and they sang a selection of Buddy Holly classics very well. A table to raise funds for St. Mary's Church was part of the afternoon. A total of over £100 was raised for the church. Our thanks go to Mrs Ford, who was herself raising money for FORCE and Dementia, for the opportunity to take part in this enjoyable afternoon.

On April 4 a Celebration for the life of Maureen Batstone was held in church. Relatives and friends from different parts of the country were welcomed to the service led by Rev'd Claire Curtis. While Maureen only relatively recently joined us at Calverleigh in 2019 and she soon became a faithful regular. She will be greatly missed by many within the church community. Our thoughts, and indeed prayers, are with Maureen's family and as well as with anyone else who has recently lost a loved one.

During Lent donations of dried and tinned foods along with toiletries for CHAT were collected. A lovely amount was taken to their office just after Easter. Thank you to all who generously gave. Collections for CHAT are always welcome and collection points can be found at all the major supermarkets.

On 7 April a Taize service was led by Rev'd Tim. We were joined by friends from around the valley and enjoyed the chants, they are beginning to feel more familiar and easier to sing each time. This was a prayerful and reflective service. Thank you, Tim and Jill for leading the singing.

Our congratulations go to Carol and Trevor on becoming great-grandparents for the first time, a baby girl: daughter for Mollie and Alex and granddaughter for Abbie.

If you have celebrated a significant birthday or anniversary recently, please accept our very good wishes.

To those who have been unwell, are waiting for or receiving treatment we hope that you will be feeling much better very soon. There is a prayer box in the church should you wish to receive prayer - even if you wish to do so anonymously.

Forthcoming Events

Our Annual Day of Prayer will take place on Saturday 4 May from 9am - 9pm. The 12 hours are split into half hour prayer times, that can take place wherever you feel most comfortable. The sign-up time sheet will be in church, on the font and prayer suggestion sheets will be handed out closer to the time. For more details please contact Aubrey, Jackie or Julie.

The Calverleigh Annual Produce Show will take place on 24 August 2024. We'd like to remind you that schedules for this years' competition are out now and can either be downloaded from the church website or if anyone would like a printed copy please contact Paul and Maureen.

See:

<https://exevalleychurches.org/events/6259-calverleigh-produce-show-2024.php>

Dates for your diary:

4 May - Day of Prayer

Jun/Jul - Potato Competition

7 Jul - Open Air Service @ 3pm

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24 Aug - Produce Show
14/15 Sep - Harvest Weekend
16 Nov - Autumn Fayre

Flower rota

28 Apr - 5 May: Mrs T Pugsley
12 May - 19 May: Mrs R Tapp
26 May - 2 Jun: Mr M Ravnkilde
9 Jun - 15 Jun: Mrs G Tucker
23 Jun - 30 Jun: Herniman Family

Cleaning rota

22 Apr - 4 May: Mrs S Greenslade
6 May - 18 May: Mrs R Tapp
20 May - 1 Jun: Miss S Goldsworthy
3 Jun - 15 Jun: Miss J Herniman

Mowing rota

29 Apr - 11 May: Mr K & Mrs C Hayes
13 May - 25 May: Mr C Durnan
27 May - 8 Jun: Mr A Hancock
10 Jun - 22 Jun: The Webber Family

attended, helped and provided fun activities and delicious cakes.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be held on Wednesday 29 May at 7.30pm. 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.

Flower and Cleaning Rota

Apr 29 & May 6: Cindy Trick
May 13 & 20: Diana Vincent & Val Randerson
May 27 & Jun 3: Marian Kingdom
June 10 & 17: Sarah Cruwys
June 24 & July 1: Claire Miller

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are unwell at this time and to those who have suffered a bereavement.

For upcoming services in our church please see the central pages of this magazine.

Cruwys Morchard Fete

This year our fete is on Saturday 15 June, 12-3pm (BBQ 12-2pm), at the Parish Hall. Please come and join us for fun and games, stalls, BBQ and refreshments. Donations of cakes, raffle and Tombola prizes would be much appreciated. We do need help to run stalls, if you are able to lend a hand please contact Val at The Cruwys Arms, 01363 866662.

Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall

The Easter Bingo held on Saturday 23 March raised over £200.00 for parish hall funds. Thank you to Viv for calling

and to all that attended, helped and donated raffle prizes.

Flower Show

The Annual Flower Show will take place at the Parish Hall on Saturday 10 August. Schedules are now available with many new classes to enter. For more information, please contact Pauline on 07968 101121 or pauline.8@hotmail.co.uk

Cruwys Morchard YFC

We would firstly like to thank all of you who have been involved in the Cruwys Arms Quiz nights for the donation of £300.00 to our club.

At the South West Area weekend our Disco Dancing performance came 2nd as did the Group Choir, both have qualified for Nationals later on in the year.

We are currently completing a Skills 4 Life course in Floral Arts, undertaking a Community Project at Poughill Village Hall and have just had excellent results at the Stock Show and Sale on Wednesday 10 April. To top it all off Devon County Show takes place in May (followed by Mid Devon Show in July) so we are busy getting our entries ready.

This is only a snapshot of what we've been doing and of what there is 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 Morchard and Puddington Gardeners

The topics discussed at our March and April meetings reflected the awakening

CRUWYS MORCHARD

Church of the Holy Cross

On Palm Sunday we had a full church and very lively service that was led by Steph and Claire. The Exe Valley Community Choir were with us, and it was a joy to listen to them singing so well. We then enjoyed refreshments after the service.

The Easter Fun Morning event at the church and parish hall was well attended. The rain was thankfully absent enabling all to enjoy the activities and treasure hunt. It was great to get together and enjoy a community event. Thank you to all who

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PARISH ROUND-UP

interest that Spring stirs up; seed swapping, sowing and growing. In addition, in March we brought along books to give away or share.

For gardeners Spring is the most exciting time of year matched only by harvest time. For me it is a time to sleep with the bedroom window open to be woken by the dawn chorus "when morning stands on tiptoe twixt darkness and dawn". Birds are laying claim to nest sites and territories and gardens are an important resource for them.

We are engaging in a bit of citizen science, recording what species of birds we observe or hear in gardens and surrounding area over the year running from April to March. There is no counting involved, just a tick in a column on a printed form. If anyone would like to take part (you don't have to be a gardener) text or email Clare 07760643828 clarepenney25@gmail.com and she will send you a form.

This year everyone has been slowed down by the unrelenting rain which has turned some gardens into a bog at worst and unworkable at best. Ever optimistic we discussed vegetable varieties planned and which flowers have survived the winter wet. Pauline has sent out her 2024 Cruwys Morchard Flower Show schedule and Puddington is holding its annual Plant Sale (and cream tea) event on Sunday 26 May.

It is the time to lift and divide perennials and give away surplus plants plus seedlings that there is no room for. We will be doing this at our next meeting in Puddington Village Hall, 1 May, 8.00pm. Our meetings are informal, welcoming

new and experienced gardeners, whether your growing space is a window box or the size of a football pitch.

Congregational Churches
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Sunday services
2.30pm Nomansland chapel *
4.30pm Pennymoor chapel *
* Except for 3rd Sunday of the month, all join Way Village chapel 3pm.

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

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

A reflection service was held on Good Friday taken by Tim Gorringe.

Our APCM will have taken place on the 14 April after the service. Thank you to all for fulfilling their roles and serving the Church community so well throughout the year.

The monthly prayer weekends will be the first in each month. 4/5 May & 1/2 June. Anyone wanting prayer or prayer pointers contact Jean on 01884 881400 or Carol 01884 881480.

After lunch on 10 April, some 14 members of the Guild of Clerical Ringers rang at Loxbeare whilst on their Guild lower week annual tour, from our benefice they also rang at Calverleigh, Cruwys Morchard, Oakford, Rackenford, Stoodleigh & Washfield.



Our three bells date from 1450, in 1912, the then rickety old bell frame was replaced by a new oak frame constructed by Harry Stokes & Son, bell hangers of Woodbury. To make this day a very special occasion we also welcomed Harry's great-grandson Roger Stokes and his son Simon. A historic day for all.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are unwell, recovering from operations and those waiting for

LOXBEARE

Although the weather has not been good with rain and wind!, we are, at the time of writing enjoying some sun and warmth. It is good to see the spring flowers, trees and shrubs budding and new life in the countryside. A couple of swallows were seen this week so summer must be on the way!!

On Mothering Sunday we had a continental breakfast in the Hall followed by a service. Thank you to all who prepared and helped with the breakfast and also those who led and took part in the service.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

treatments or operations. We remember also those who have lost loved ones recently.

Our services for May/June. 5 May & 26 May will be self-take Mission Praise. There will be no service on 2 June. Self-take on 16 June. Forward notice 7 July, Songs of Praise at 6.30pm again self take.

Our cream tea on 13 April raised £78 for Children's Hospice South West.

On 11 May there will be a ploughmans lunch (ham or cheese) 12.30-2.00.

On 8 June cream tea 3.00-4.30.

On both days there will be a plant bring and buy stall. Come and join in for food and 'natter'.

Happy Birthday to all with birthdays in May/June and congratulations to all celebrating special occasions.

OAKFORD

As I write the Oakford report in early April the rain is still pouring down but I hope that by the time you receive the May/June edition of Today Magazine the sun will be shining, the birds singing and gardens and hedgerows will be full of colour. The Devon countryside will be green and lush of course, thanks to all the rain!

The Mothering Sunday service was led by Dawn and her music machine which helped us all to sing more bravely. Posies were given to the mums and coffee and mini cakes were enjoyed by all.

The Palm Sunday service was held at Cruwys Morchard with Steph and the Exe valley Community Choir and was well attended.

Easter Sunday on 31 March was Holy Communion at Oakford. A joyful service in St Peters, with Steph, Dave, Levon and Dawn and a congregation of 69 children and adults. The bells rang out, the church was full of spring flowers, we played Steph's Easter bingo and all enjoyed coffee and biscuits after the service.

The Poppy Craft group meet on Tuesday evenings at 6.45pm in the Church, anyone who would like to come along to help make poppies, using a variety of materials, for a village display in November will be welcome.

Sat 13 April saw the village 'clean up the community area' and a team of villagers turned up to tidy the community area in readiness for summer events.

St Peters Church Tower Restoration Fund

We have been busy applying for grants to raise money for the bells. Two applications have been successful, which means that we are moving closer to our target amount needed to refurbish the bells and bell frame and re-ordering. During the coming year several exciting events are planned to raise more funds. Look out for news of the events.

The villagers and parishioners of Oakford have been very supportive of our efforts and we owe them a huge vote of THANKS.

THANKS also to our enthusiastic band of ringers who turn out to practice every week and ring at all our services.

On 10th April we welcomed a visiting team of ringers to ring at St Peters. The Guild of Clerical ringers, mostly Clergy who were also very experienced bell ringers. They rang for 45 minutes and filled the village with a beautiful sound.

Moorland Ladies Club.

March saw the ladies decorating chocolate Easter Eggs after the AGM.

April was an evening open to all when the club welcomed Gavin Haig who gave a talk on the trials and tribulations of a surgeon. A most interesting and entertaining evening.

Dates for your diaries.

Red Lion Quiz

19th May 8.00pm

23rd June 8.00pm

Sat 15 June - Croquet at The Manor - By kind invitation of Patrick and Nadia Barrett. To raise funds for the Tower Restoration Fund. Oakford Manor 1pm - 5pm. There will be Cream Teas and the chance to play croquet, followed by a BBQ.

Admission, to include a cream tea - £5. Entry fee to play Croquet £10 (let Patrick know if you want to play) There will be posters around the village soon.

June 29 - Oakford Village Fete. 2-5pm on the Oakford Community Area. All the fun of a proper village fete, with the ever popular dog show and at time of going to press, a line-dancing demo and 'join-in' for all. Plus the usual games and stalls, BBQ, teas and a beer tent, all to help you have a great day. Fun for all the family and free entry and car parking, what's not to like!

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5 MAY

Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 10: 44-48
1 John 5: 1-6

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise
David Edwards

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Prayer

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise

OAKFORD

10.45am Holy Communion
Tim Gorringe

RACKENFORD

See Oakford

STOODLEIGH

See Oakford

TEMPLETON

10.45am Family Service

WASHFIELD

6.00pm
Evening Prayer

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Family Service

12 MAY

Sunday after Ascension Day
Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26
1 John 5: 9-13

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

See Washfield

CRUWYS MORCHARD

No Service

LOXBEARE

See Washfield

OAKFORD

No Service

RACKENFORD

9.15am Explore
Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and David Edwards

STOODLEIGH

9.30am A reflective service
with breakfast

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise
Tim Gorringe

WASHFIELD

10.45am Holy Communion
David Runcorn

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

24 MARCH PENTECOST

Acts 2: 1-21
John 15: 27; 16: 4b-15
9.30am Zoom Service

**OUR MISSION
COMMUNITY
HOLY COMMUNION
GROUP SERVICE
WITH EXE VALLEY
COMMUNITY CHOIR
AND A THANK YOU
TO OUR
CHURCHWARDENS
AND PCC'S**

is at
**10.45am in
OAKFORD**

**Steph Gordon-Jeffs
Everyone welcome**

ASCENSION DAY SERVICE

LOXBEARE

THURSDAY 9 MAY

6.30pm

Steph Gordon-Jeffs

Exe Valley Lunches

12.30pm - 2.30pm



Thurs 9th May - The Beeches
Templeton

Thurs 13th June - A trip to
Knightshayes Court



Contact the church office
to book 01884 250417



26 MAY

Trinity Sunday
Isiah 6: 1-8
John 3: 1-17

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

9.30am Family Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Holy Communion
Tim Gorringe

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise

OAKFORD

No Service

RACKENFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise
David Edwards

TEMPLETON

WASHFIELD

10.45am Family Service

WITHLEIGH

See Cruwys Morchard

2 JUNE

First Sunday after Trinity
1 Samuel 3: 1-10 (11-20)
Mark 2: 23; 3: 6

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Prayer

LOXBARE

No Service

OAKFORD

See Rackenford

RACKENFORD

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

STOODLEIGH

See Rackenford

TEMPLETON

10.45am Family Service
Tim Gorringe

WASHFIELD

6.00pm Evening Prayer

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Family Service

9 JUNE

Second Sunday after Trinity
1 Samuel 8: 4-11,16-20
Mark 3: 20-35

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

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

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Praise

LOXBARE

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

See Calverleigh

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Service of the Word

16 JUNE

Third Sunday after Trinity
1 Samuel 15: 34-16:13
Mark 4: 26-34

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

9.30 Family Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Templeton

LOXBARE

10.45am Morning Praise

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

No Service

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

TEMPLETON

10.45am Holy Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

WASHFIELD

10.45am Family Service
Tim Gorringe

WITHLEIGH

See Templeton

23 JUNE

Fourth Sunday after
Trinity

9.30am Zoom Service

**OUR
MISSION
COMMUNITY
HOLY COMMUNION
GROUP SERVICE**

is at
10.45am in

RACKENFORD

**Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and David Edwards**

Everyone welcome

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

Baptism and Confirmation

We have had a wonderful number
of Baptisms booked in this year.

What a joy it is to welcome so
many families into our churches.

Do please get in touch, if you or
your child, would like to be
baptised.

Maybe you have been baptised
but never confirmed.

If you are interested in being
confirmed and would like to find
out more, do please contact the
church office and speak to Steph.

30 JUNE

Fifth Sunday after
Trinity

9.30am Zoom Service

**OUR MISSION
COMMUNITY GROUP
SERVICE
WILL BE A**

SONGS OF PRAISE

At 10.45am in
STOODLEIGH

**Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and David Edwards**

Everyone welcome

PARISH ROUND-UP

Moorland Ladies.

9th May at 3.30pm in the Village Hall cream tea and plant sale & exchange
13th June a trip to Fursdon House and Garden visit at 2.30pm

Oakford Village Hall

15th July - Race Night at the village hall (dress for Ascot) more information in the next edition and also keep an eye out for the posters.

20th July - Oakford's Soap Box Derby more information in the next addition and posters around the Village

10th August - Moorland Club Flower and Produce Show in the Village Hall. 2 - 4 pm visitors £1

Schedules and entry forms available from 3, Manor Cottages and 3 Ashleigh Park, Bampton.

17th August - Boules and Bubbly with a cream tea at Greenslade House. By kind invitation of Marjorie and Geoff Baylis. More information soon.

India received her Green Blue Peter Badge, the second one for her wildlife and environment conservation work she has done. Well done India.



Our thoughts and prayers go to all who are poorly at home or in hospital. Best wishes to everyone with a birthday or special anniversary in May and June.

Wonderful news - Congratulations to Brenda and Bun on the birth of their great grandson, Oliver George. Love and best wishes to his Grandparents and Mum and Dad, Kirsty and Richard.

RACKENFORD

Refreshments of tea, coffee, juice, biscuits and a catch up with friends proceeded our combined Mothering Sunday and Explore service with Claire. The children were invited to colour in a card with a flower print and glue seeds into the centre. They could spray the flower with any fragrance provided by Claire. This was such good fun. Claire referred to the fragrance of Jesus which can be found in the Bible.

The PCC provided an abundance of spring posies which the children could choose from to give to their mums or someone special in their lives, to give with love and thanks. After the children had made their choices the adults were able to do the same. The remaining flowers were left on the bench outside by the church porch for anyone passing to help themselves. Thanks to Elliott and Margo for reading to us.

Rackenford Gardening Club held their Spring Show in church on Saturday 30 March.

The viewing and enjoyment of delicious cakes and cuppa were able to be enjoyed from 2.30 onwards after judging had been completed. Such a wide variety of categories and such a wonderful display from the children ranging from under 4 years, 4 to 6 years and 7 to 13 years. A draw and

presentation of trophies by Sarah C. completed a very enjoyable afternoon.

Thank you to members of the gardening club and entrants for leaving some beautiful flowers and displays for the PCC to use after the show finished to help with our decorating for Easter which took place after the show. We very much appreciated your kindness.

On March 31 our Easter Sunday Lay Led service took place with Liz and Mary officiating. Helen led the prayers, Ruth and Sarah reading lessons, not forgetting our organist Graham.

It was a pleasure to see so many enjoying this special service together. Many thanks to Liz for her extra special chat about the Easter message. It was wonderful to have Rupert from school who was so knowledgeable and answering all the questions Liz was asking in such great detail. Thank you Rupert. A variety of Easter eggs were offered to all the congregation as they left just in time to join in the village Easter egg hunt. We hope everyone, family and friends enjoyed your Easter and CHOCOLATE!!!!

A few from in and around the village will remember the 'Snell' family who, many years ago lived in our village. Sadly we have heard of the death of Michael one of 7 siblings. We send our love and deepest sympathy to all the family.

Our very best wishes to Brian P and Micheal P, who have had operations after having accidents. We hope you are well on the mend and look forward to seeing you out and about again soon. We continue to pray for Jacques, Joan, Sharon S and anyone who is struggling with health issues, both mentally and physically and to all who mourn.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

STOODLEIGH

We pray for King Charles and Princess of Wales.

A whole churchyard cut has now been completed. We hope to plant wild flowers in some appropriate areas when the time is right.

We are now very lucky to have our volunteers Abdula and David cutting various paths and suitable areas in the churchyard. Our many thanks to them, not an easy task especially when we have had rain month after month.

A little reminder that we cannot have glass containers or artificial flowers in the churchyard as it can cause damage to the volunteers and equipment. Let us pray that we will soon be enjoying long sunny warm days again.

Congratulations to all who are celebrating special birthdays or anniversaries.

RACKENFORD SCHOOL REUNION

This will be held on May 11 from 2pm to 4.30pm at the school.

You are welcome to bring a plate of food to share, tea /coffee will be available.

If you can bring any of your school photos that would be wonderful. (Please put your names on the back) Contact Gwen if you can attend.

gbeele@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01884 38216

If you have anything you feel should be included for the Rackenford Parish please get in touch.

Parish Hall

The Spring Market at the Parish Hall was a great success, with many villagers and guests enjoying a busy market, coffee, cakes and local produce, and a wonderful raffle. The event raised over £500 for the hall funds. In addition, the wonderful retiring organiser of the 100 club, Christine Palfrey presented us with a cheque for £250.

Our next event is the ever popular coffee morning, at 10.30am on Saturday 4th May, and each first Saturday of the month thereafter.

The June event, on 1st June, will include an optional walk and lunch for the more energetic.

By then, we should have had the roof cleaned, windows repaired and initial plans agreed for the refurbishment of the lobby area. The hall is Grade 2 listed, making any alterations and modernisations fraught with difficulty: if anyone has skills in navigating listed building applications, any help would be appreciated! We will give an update at the Annual Parish Meeting on 29th May. Many thanks for all the support from the village, and the dedicated management committee.

100 Club Draw Winners

March: Angela Hill, Linda Sharrock, Mandy Widdowson and Rebecca Brown
 April: Geraldine Talbot, Sam Earl, Mandy Widdowson and Lesley Ayre

Flower Rota

Here is the flower rota for May and June

4th to 11th May - Dionne Mansfield
 18th to 25th May - Mary Harding Banks
 1st to 8th June - Yvonne Lang
 15th to 22nd of June - Geraldine Talbot

St Margaret's Church

Penny would like to thank everyone for their prayers, good wishes and offers of help following her recent illness. We are very glad to see Penny beginning to be part of our activities again and we pray for her continuing recovery.

We continue to look for ways to bring more people to worship at St Margaret's. Our monthly breakfast services are an opportunity to start the day with focus and quiet reflection before returning to our increasingly busy lives. We have also held a lunchtime "Hotpot Service" serving homemade soup and bread and cheese. Following on from the success of this service, we will be looking to run another lunch time service later in the year.

Easter will be well behind us by the time we go to print. It is a special time and we had a good number of people join us for a very moving Good Friday service led by Claire. Sadly Spring has been a long time coming this year but a big thank you to Phyllis, Angela and all our flower arrangers for bringing a bit of Spring into our church at the beginning of April.

Looking to the future, we are holding a Charity Auction on 4 May with all proceeds being split between Devon Air Ambulance and St Margaret's. Further ahead from 19 to 21 July we will be celebrating our Patronal Saint's day



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PARISH ROUND-UP

with a flower festival and Songs of Praise Service.

Stoodleigh Garden Club

Members had a most enjoyable visit to Ashley Court, Tiverton in February, where we were introduced to some historically important gardens, along with a woodland walk amongst the snowdrops.

In March, members tried their hand at stained glass, making snowdrops to hang or with a spike and also fusing glass beads. It was good to be inside on such a wet day!

The Club ran a successful plant stall at the Spring Fair in support of the Parish Hall.

Please look out for information about the Stoodleigh Annual Show (Sat 24th August) in the next edition of this magazine. Details can also be found on the Stoodleigh website, Garden Club page, if you would like to get planning your entries.

Quoit at Cross Vineyard will be open for wine tours and tastings from May 1st to Sep 30th. Vineyard walk and talk followed by sampling of 3 wines. Views over Stoodleigh and the Exe Valley. For more details contact Tim Hill: quoitatcrossvineyard@gmail.com 07983 974 957 www.quoitatcrossvineyard.com

TEMPLETON

What a wet and windy Easter holiday we had. As this copy of the magazine goes to press, we are still waiting for Spring. Let's hope that warm, sunny days are just around the corner. We will certainly

appreciate the good weather once it finally arrives.

St Margaret's Church and Churchyard Specialist repairs to the interior walls of the church are ongoing – Adrian Hunt and his team are hoping to continue their work once the weather improves.

A big thank you to the team of local volunteers who have been pruning, hedge-cutting, chain-sawing, clearing leaves and generally tidying up the churchyard despite the awful weather. There is always more to do but a lot of love and care goes into this work and we do appreciate everyone's time and efforts.

Services

The church was full for a lovely Easter Sunday Service with Holy Communion led by Claire. The service was followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for the children. During the service, the children were able to create their own beautiful Easter gardens with all the equipment laid out for them. Thank you, Claire and Laurel, for making it such a special day for adults and children alike. We also had the pleasure of hearing Chris Newnes ring the church bell before the service.

The Sunday services for May and June are published in the centre pages of this magazine. The Sunday services for May and June at St Margaret's Church, Templeton are all at 10.45am and will be on May 5th (Lay-Led Family Service), May 12th (Morning Service with Tim followed by the Annual Church meeting), June 2nd (Family Service with Tim Gorringer), and June 16th (Holy Communion Cluster Service with Steph). 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 parishes. If you or your

family have any favourite hymns that you'd like to sing at one of our services, just let our churchwardens Reg or William know (contact details on page 2). In July, we hope to have a joint Explore and Templeton Pet Service at Templeton – more details to follow!

Annual Church Meeting: Templeton's Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Sunday 12th May following the Sunday Service with Tim. The first part of the meeting is open to everyone in the village and the second part of the meeting is for those on the church electoral roll and the parochial church council (PCC). Do come along and have your say about ways that the church can move forward and support the community.

Past Events:

Curry and Quiz Night: Ciara's Curry and Quiz Night in February was a wonderful evening. The curry was delicious. This was a real family event and many thanks to Ciara, Naomi, Laura, Andy and their extended family for their hard work in putting this event together. Ciara made an amazing £515 towards her fundraising, and the family appreciate everyone's support – such a great community.

Templeton Trail: On Sunday 24 March 2024, the Exe Valley Rotary Club and the South West Road Runners organised their annual Charity Templeton Run. This event involved runners selecting either a 10-mile run or a 5km fun-run. The course followed a route from Templeton through beautiful countryside into the Cruwys Woods, which Guy Cruwys opened for the occasion.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Here is a message to Templeton from the Exe Valley Rotary Club:

"We want to pass on our special thanks to the whole village for being so welcoming to everyone. Their forbearance enables the event - which this year raised £3,200 for the Calvert Trust on Exmoor (<https://calvertexmoor.org.uk/>). The chair of that organisation, Chris Gregson (who also ran in the 10m event), has also asked that the organisation's thanks to be passed on to everyone. Thanks also to the team at the Village Hall who did such an amazing job in providing all the catering for the Templeton Trail event. A change this year to enhance the parking arrangements worked really well - thanks to everyone who so generously agreed to parking on hardstanding at their properties. Fortunately, the weather on the day this year meant we did not need any of the parking down Titchens Lane - but the opportunity to have done so at those properties was truly appreciated. Guy Cruwys was once again key to the event by allowing everyone access to the Cruwys estate - and thanks too for his role at the presentation ceremony. Thanks also to Will Moreton and Charlie Hill of the Cruwys Shoot who were incredibly generous in lending the shoot's 4X4 minibuses, organising the insurance and even cleaning them after the event for us!"

Bruce Pearson and William Withers on behalf of the Exe Valley Rotary Club

Future Events:

Police and Crime Commissioner Elections - Thursday 2nd May at Templeton Village Hall. You will already have received a polling card for these elections and if you would like to know more about the candidates, go to the Mid-Devon Website:

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/police-and-crime-commissioner-elections-2024>

Templeton Tractor Run - Sunday 12th May. Reg and Roland have finalised plans for the popular Templeton Tractor Run. This is a great fund-raising event when vintage and classic tractors are invited to take part. Tractors will arrive at Templeton Village Hall from 10am, and leave for their run at around 11.15am, and return to the village hall about two to three hours later. The owners will drive their tractors along a planned local route. Entry fee: £12.00 per tractor owner (which includes a pasty and a pint for tractor drivers on their return). There will also be a grand draw and refreshments will be sold! Funds raised will go to The League of Friends of Tiverton Hospital and St Margaret's Church, Templeton. For more information about this contact Reg - 01884 860246.

Templeton Village Hall and Social Club Annual General Meeting - Wednesday May 29th at 7.30pm at Templeton Village Hall

This is your opportunity to join the committee and making a difference for all our community in Templeton. We have a great village hall with plenty of space, a bar, table tennis, pool, darts, skittles, parking space, and grounds with so much potential for us to make good use of all the facilities. Come to the meeting and share your views.

Thursday 6th June 2024 marks the 80th anniversary of D-Day. Parishioners have been invited to light a Beacon at 9pm on that day - representing the "light of peace" that emerged from the darkness of war. Templeton has a brazier which was built by a local blacksmith to be used to commemorate the late Queen's

Platinum Jubilee celebrations, and this brazier may be used as a beacon to mark the D-Day anniversary. More information to follow.

Other events lined up this year for your diary:

Summer Fete at Templeton Village Hall: Saturday August 10th

Barbecue at Templeton Village Hall: Saturday 31st August or Sunday 1st September

Duck Race at Templeton Bridge: Saturday 7th or Sunday 8th September

Harvest Festival Weekend: Saturday 5th October (Harvest Supper at Templeton Village Hall) and Sunday 6th October (Harvest Festival at St Margaret's Church, Templeton).

Regular Gatherings

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

Yoga: Over the past year we have benefitted from Pat's excellent experience as a yoga instructor. Sadly, Pat has decided to stop the classes in Templeton due to the small numbers attending, but Pat has invited people to join the groups at Calverleigh Village Hall (Mondays at 10.30am and Tuesdays at 7pm). There is also space at West Anstey and Bishops Nympton which are of course further away. If you would like to join another group, do contact Pat at pat_bell@hotmail.co.uk. Book Group meeting at Templeton Village Hall on the 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.

Garden Group: Now that Spring is nearly here, Ginah is hoping to start up

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PARISH ROUND-UP

the Garden Group again. If you are interested in joining the Garden Group or would like to know more about it, please get in touch with Ginah at ginahpalmer@gmail.com

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!

Templeton Village Hall and Social Club: Come up on a club night for a drink and a chat or maybe you would like to have a game of darts, pool, table tennis or skittles? Club nights are held on Monday and Saturday evenings from 8.00pm to 11pm. Club membership is £2 and the drinks are very reasonably priced. Or maybe you'd like to use the built-in barbecue at the village hall with friends? The barbecue grill and all the tools are in the shed ready for you to use. 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 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 May and June 2024

Phillida Strong	5th – 12th May
Julie Dent	19th – 26th May
Liz Walker	2nd June – 9th June
Val Hopley	16th June – 23rd June
Ginah Palmer	30th June – 7th July

WASHFIELD

Greetings from our church to everyone, and our warm thanks to all those willing people who help at every event and occasion in the busy life of the church and village community. It is never a problem when volunteers are called for - they always turn up! Too many to mention by name, but you know who you are!

During Lent our Mothering Sunday service was run by PCC members and families and was much enjoyed by children of all ages. Every mother received a posy of spring flowers.

Lent was marked by weekly Compline Services on-line or by telephone. The Agape Meal on Maunday Thursday at Witleigh was very well attended as were all the Easter Day services in the Exe Valley.

On Good Friday Steph came to Washfield to lead our quiet Service of Reflection, which was a wonderful and most moving way to mark this most special day.

Easter Saturday in Washfield followed the historic pattern as always and we thank the Tobey family for giving us all such an enjoyable time. Oliver's crowd management in dodging the heavy showers was masterly!

Cleverly decorated eggs were judged by Holly Fathi in the church porch and prizes awarded, in the church, which sheltered us all from the rain. The sun appeared suddenly and the keenly contested egg rolling took place with cheers resounding round the village! Hot Cross buns and hot drinks, and

home made cakes were very welcome. Plant, produce stalls and raffle were well supported and as well as the enjoyment of refreshments and chat, a grand total of £389 was raised for the church funds.

We thank everyone who helped, and contributed so generously to this happy occasion, pioneered by Hilary and family many years ago.

Our thoughts and prayers are always with those who are unable to be with us on all these occasions and with those who have lost loved ones, whether recently or longer ago.

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting will have taken place before you read this but please look for the PCC Annual Report and the Rector's Review of the Year . They will be on the font for all to see and take. The church is always open from 10 am until about 5 pm, thanks to Allison and Paul and you will be able read of all that has been going on both in Washfield and all around the Exe Valley Group of Churches, as well as plans for the future. Our sincere thanks go to Steph and her team for all they do for us.

The month of May is often described as the gateway to summer and, after the record rainfall of winter and spring, don't we all hope this will be the case this year?

The Social Club's now-traditional May Day event is planned for Monday 6 May with bar, barbecue, games and (of course) Maypole Dancing. 4pm – late, all welcome.

And talking of traditions, the Social Club is planning a Car Treasure Hunt. It's on Saturday 8 June with cream teas in the



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PARISH ROUND-UP

Hall before the actual hunt. Contact Tony and Ann for details, look on FB or posters.

Sunday 16th June, Gardens of Washfield. A number of villagers have kindly agreed to open their gardens for an afternoon in aid of raising funds for the church and the village social club. Route maps available from the village hall from 12.30pm finishing with a cream tea at Cotleigh Coach House from 4.30pm. Tickets £5 per person. Please email gardensofwashfield@tobeys.co.uk

Don't forget also, teatime@thehall is still as popular as ever. On 2nd Tuesday of each month between 3.00-4.30pm. All ages welcome to these friendly, inclusive afternoons.

SAVE THE DAY

The Hall celebrates its centenary this year, being built in 1924 as a memorial to Madame De Las Cassas of Worth House. The Hall committee has plans to celebrate this huge milestone in style on SATURDAY 13th July. Look out for details of this event as it unfolds and please come if you are able. We need to keep the hall as relevant now, as it was back then. You, as parishioners, are the life blood to keep the heart of the village beating. Please join us to strengthen this vital community facility.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Ron McAllister of Ennerleigh Lodge who has died at the grand age of ninety-nine! Ron originally lived in London and experienced some of the horrors of wartime there. Whilst serving in the Navy he was involved in the D-Day landings and drove landing craft; his hearing was irreparably damaged during his active service. Later he was a chauffeur and sometimes drove clients into Buckingham Palace. After his move

to Devon (and Washfield) he often re-homed unwanted dogs and loved walking them. He enjoyed listening to music (particularly organ music) An indomitable man.

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

May 5	Mrs Frankpitt
May 12/19	Mrs Boundy
May 26/June 2	Mrs E Arnold
June 9/16	Mrs Trout
June 23/30	Mrs Balment
July 7/14	Mrs Bassano

Family Service; guided by Paul set about practising both tunes and words. It was apparent that most of us knew, however slightly either the words or tunes, or both and enjoyed our impromptu "Choir practise" and look forward to having them included gradually over the coming months services.

Witleigh Wildlife Group. (WWG)

Wild Gardens and a look beyond In March, Witleigh Wildlife Group enjoyed a wonderful presentation from Devon artist and ecologist John Walters, describing the gradual development of his beautiful garden, which is also wildlife friendly.

We were treated to stories and fascinating facts about insects and birds visiting his garden, and wildlife on Dartmoor, where he observes the beauty of nature and records what he sees in enchanting sketches and watercolours. Take a look at his website.

Dates for your diary

Come and join us for a community coffee and chat morning at Witleigh village hall. We swap/donate our excess seedlings, vegetables, fruit saplings.

Saturday 13th April, Sat 18th May, Sat 8th June, Sat 13 July, Sat 10th August, Sat 14th September and 12th October.

Village Hall Notes April 2024

Thank you to those who organise the monthly Bingo's, it is great to get together for an enjoyable evening and perhaps even win a prize or two. The May bingo clashes with the Elections so our next bingo will be on Thursday 6th June, eyes down 7.30 pm in the village hall.

WITHLEIGH

Good Friday saw us enjoying hot cross buns and coffee in the village hall and a chat amongst ourselves. We then had an interesting and thought provoking, reflective service of hymns and readings put together by Paul on the theme of who killed Jesus.

A recent Sunday service at St Catherines was billed as "with a difference" where no one knew in advance what to expect! Our worship team had been discussing the possibilities of widening our range of hymns to be sung at our usual morning services.

As a result, Paul and Elizabeth drew up a list of 4 hymns and a Taizé chant which they considered we could handle.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

A great evening was had for our Annual Easter Beetle Drive. The cost of living crisis had not impacted on the Easter Egg supply, in fact the Creme Eggs that we normally win for a complete Beetle, had grown into a small boxed Egg with a Chocolate Bar! Thank you, Duncan, for getting the Easter Eggs and for keeping us all under control during the evening.

The Village Hall AGM is to be held on Tuesday 28th May, in the Hall at 7.30 pm. Please do come and let us know what you would like to see happening in your hall.

WOW

It is more than a year ago since we broke away from the auspices of the WI and we continue to flourish as a women's group in the village. Each member takes it in turn to suggest and organise a month's activity. In March we had a happy social evening in the village hall with refreshments, chat, a quiz and each producing a small item to talk about. April will be a talk by our own member Rosemary about her life in horticulture. We meet on the second Thursday of the month at 7.15 p.m. May's gathering will be at Plainsfield farm. Please Contact Susie on 258492 for information.

Congratulations to Lucy and Fred who were married in our Church on 9th March. We send them best wishes for their future life together.

Congratulations also to anyone who has a special anniversary, and to any who have a special birthday.

Get well wishes also to those known to us who are receiving treatment recovering from operations, or who are unwell now.

Are there any readers able to help us please? We have a seat in our churchyard in memory of the late Vera Matheson of Withleigh Farm, which is

now beyond repair. The diocese has advised us to contact the Matherson family before any decisions can be made but have drawn a blank as to the whereabouts of any remaining family. If anyone has any information regarding the family of the late Alan and Vera Matheson, we would be very grateful if you could contact either of the Churchwardens, Brenda or Stephen, whose details are in this magazine. Thank you in advance.

Flower Rota.

May 5th & 12th Rosie Edmonston-Low
May 19th, 26th & June 2 Linda Taylor
June 9th, 16th & 23rd Rachel Pugsley

Future Dates for your Diary,

Tuesday 28th May, Village Hall AGM in the hall @ 7.30 pm.

Thursday 6th June, Bingo in the Hall, eyes down 7.30 pm.

Carers Week is Monday 10 to Sunday 16 June with the theme "Putting Carers on the Map"

Devon Carers have arranged a variety of events and information stands for unpaid carers. See what is happening near you by following this link: Carers Week - Devon Carers, Devon Carers Facebook page or telephone Devon Carers on 03456 434 435. If you are registered already with Devon Carers, you can use your Devon Carers card for free entry to Killerton House, Lydford Gorge, Arlington Court and Buckland Abbey, among others. Visit the information stands to find out how Devon Carers can support you in your caring role.

Unite Carers in mid-Devon will be celebrating Carers Week on Thursday 13 June. Join us between 12:00 and 14:00 for a chat, tea and cakes at Number 4, Bridge Street, Tiverton, Telephone 01884 257511 for more information.

Unite Carers will also be holding a Dementia Awareness Day on Thursday 9 May. Join us between 12:00 and 14:00 for a chat, tea and cakes at Number 4, Bridge Street, Tiverton, Telephone 01884 257511 for more information.



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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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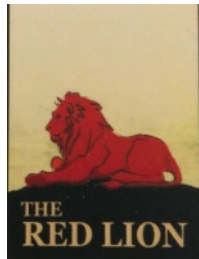
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