

July / August 2026

Price £1.00

SUMMER, SUN AND SOUL WORK

I love the summer! As an eternal optimist I am hopeful that we will return to some hot sunny days, like the few we've just had. I love the feel of the sun on my face. I love cooling off in the water, floating around on my donut.

I love eating outside. I love the gift of freedom the summer provides. I love hearing the children laugh and play. I just love it. I love the change of rhythm the summer brings - more opportunities to meet with friends, to talk, to laugh, to think and reflect. It's a time to recharge our batteries and to find refreshment.

Since I came out of hospital, I have been doing a lot of thinking and reflecting. One of my favourite authors who has helped me as I ponder and pray is a woman called Margaret Silf. My granddaughter may well be a Swifty but I am definitely a Silfy! Margaret calls it our 'Soul Work'. She asks the question: Have you done your Soul Work today/this week/this month/ this year? She would argue that Soul Work is a necessary and vital thing to do.

We spend so much time and effort working: our jobs, in our homes, in our gardens, for our families, for our churches but

how much time do we give to working on our souls? It's a good question. John Ortberg, tells this story. It goes something like this: High up in the Alps there was a town. Through the town there was a beautiful stream. The waters of the stream came from springs of water that were as old as the earth and as deep as the sea.



The water was pure and clear. Children played in it. Swans and geese swam in it. Fish swam in its depths. Right at the top of the hill was a very old man. Long ago he had been hired as the Keeper of the Stream. He looked after the springs that fed the stream. He removed fallen branches and leaves and anything that might pollute the water. No one ever saw him do it. Most people had forgotten he existed.

One day the Town Council held a meeting. They had lots of things they needed to do with their money: pot holes to repair, services to offer. The decision was made that the Keeper of the

Stream was no longer necessary. It was a luxury they couldn't afford. So, the old man left. The springs that he had looked after were neglected. Over time, the stream turned stagnant. At first no one noticed. Then the water turned brackish. The swans and geese flew away. People in the town became ill. The town no longer had a beautiful clear stream running through it. The stream had become an eye-sore, a hazard! The life of the town depended on the stream, and the life of the stream depended on the Keeper.

The Council regretted their decision. Money was found. The Keeper of the Stream was re-employed. Illness was replaced by health. The swans returned. The children played. The town came back to life.

The stream is your soul. And you are the keeper.

As theologian Dallas Willard writes: 'Your soul is like a stream of water, which gives strength, direction, and harmony to every other area of our life...the most important thing in your life is not what you do; it's who you become. That's what you will take into eternity.'

May the Son shine on you this Summer and give you the time

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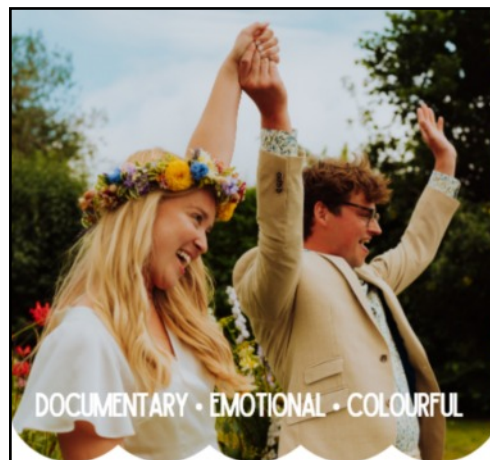
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WHAT'S ON

NATURE NOTES

A walk along a Devon country lane

I talk often with people who have a diagnosis of dementia. Many have difficulties with their memory – and feel that big chunks of their life are missing. However, with subtle reminders using sensory powers, we can support them to find reassurance, comfort, joy and even forgotten memories. Music is a powerful medium and can affect our mood as soon as we hear the first few notes of a song or melody. How many of us have a favourite song we whistle when we are happy, or listen to when we are sad?

Walking our dog along Devon' narrow country lanes, I listen out for birds. I scan the base of hedgerows looking for telltale tracks of animals – the grass trampled down over time, little holes in the banks, gaps through the hedges, footprints. I breathe in the smell of newly-made hay and the flowers colouring the hedges. I begin to think more deeply about our senses and memories.

Those wood pigeons calling take me back to when I was five or six years old, lying in a big soft bed under an eiderdown and a counterpane at my grandparents' farm. The pigeons cooed, cows and calves lowed in the yard and the hum of the milking machines in the parlour told me Grandpa was busy. I could hear Nan in the kitchen preparing breakfast. I heard the back door scrape open on the granite step as she took a bowl of warm milk outside to feed the feral tabby cats in the barns. I loved being with my grandparents. Nan with her lavender terraces, and roses. Making me a boiled egg and toast soldiers for tea. Grandpa and I standing on the poplar tree trunks in the garden at Poplars Farm and shouting, "the king of the castle" before we jumped down, hand in hand.

The dog roses in the hedges – yellow centres and white heart-shaped petals triggered a memory of cold fried eggs! As children, Mum made us sit at the table until we had eaten everything on our plates. I didn' like fried eggs – floppy and slippery. Being a very slow eater, they were always cold by the time I came to force myself to eat them.

So they were not only floppy and slippery, but cold and rubbery too. The hedge parted to permit a gate. In the field beyond were ewes and lambs. The lambs racing each other along the mound beside the ditch. Frolicking and four-legged jumping, tails wiggling as they practiced head butting, oblivious to the bleats of their mothers calling them. How many Springs had Dad and I laughed at our lambs and never bored of watching them? The smell of sheep reaches me – warm and pungent. How many times had I removed smelly, green-stained clothes after lambing or shearing? Hands so soft from the lanolin in the wool. It was the only time of year Dad' work-roughened hands were soft.

Poppy was enjoying her walk. I bent to pat her and feel her soft, shining coat. Touch – the reassurance of a hand held, or stroking the silky fur of a favourite cat or dog; the smooth, worn handle of a familiar walking stick; the joy at feeling the sand between your toes, or the grass beneath your feet – touch is immensely powerful.

Bracken unfurling their feathery leaves, blossom on the blackberry bushes reminding me of walking along leafy lanes on holiday in Cornwall; bright yellow buttercups – we picked from the village green as children; wild garlic' starry white flowers – my son filling his Thomas the Tank Engine lunch box and sharing the garlic flavour with his friends at school, whose parents were not impressed!

The hedges and fields brought back so many memories as I wandered along and I realized the power of nature and our senses in enabling us to relive precious memories. Previously, I had focused on music, but on reaching home, I began researching:

"The brain is a complex organ, and different parts of it handle different senses. Research shows that smell is closely linked to the parts of the brain responsible for memory and emotion. The olfactory system, which processes scent, connects directly to the limbic system – the region of the brain involved in emotional memory "the emotional centre" Because of this connection, certain smells can trigger powerful memories or feelings, even in people whose cognitive abilities have significantly declined due to dementia or Alzheimer' disease." (Source: [How familiar scents can trigger memories in](#)

[dementia and Alzheimer' - Livewell Estates | Dementia and Alzheimer's Care](#))

"Here' how it works: when we inhale a scent, it sends signals to the brain. If the experience is emotionally charged, like a favourite perfume or a delicious meal, the brain decides to turn that experience into a long-term memory. This is why smells often evoke vivid, emotionally-charged memories more effectively than sights or sounds." (Source: [The Science Behind Why Smells Trigger Memories in Dementia - HelpDementia.com](#))

We understand our senses are vital to us and it is interesting to see how entwined they are with our memories, and that "rain link" between the two! Next time, you smell lavender, or carbolic soap, Pears or Fairy toilet soap – will you think of your grandmother? When you taste apple and blackberry pie (which is probably not something many youngsters eat today), will you remember your Mum? Next time you think about or mention your school days, your first date, your first car or dog, consider which senses triggered the memory!

Fiona Bladon

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Brenda celebrates her 92nd birthday at the lunch at Templeton

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 Thursday 9th July - Calverleigh Court

12.30pm - 2.30pm
 Thursday 13th August - North Esworthy EX16 9HA

Contact the church office to let us know if you will be joining us or if you need transport.
 01884 250417



Coffee and a chat

Steph will be in Banbury's Cafe on Friday
 3 July and 7 August
 from 10.30am - 12.30pm
 for a coffee/tea and chat if you would like to join her.



Rogation Sunday - Oakford



Tony celebrates his 99th birthday at the lunch in Witleigh



Messy Church Rackenford

WHERE DO YOU FIND CHURCH?

You're walking down the road in your village. A car draws up, winds down the window, the driver leans over and says, 'Excuse me, where can I find the church?'

What do you say?

'Just go down here about 200 yards, you'll see a turning on the right. Go up there and you'll see the church on the left. You can't miss it. But there's no parking'.

Wrong Answer! Try again.

'Excuse me, where do I find the church?'

'Er, well, I'm a member of the church. I'm just going to see Matilda – She's a member as well. We're rather busy, but I'm sure you'd be welcome for a cup of tea. How can we help you?'

The reason that you gave the wrong answer is that 'church' is the most common example of metonymy in English. Metonymy: a figure of speech in which a word is used to describe something related to it. Another example: the White House- meaning the US administration.

The church is the people of God, made up of all its members, all of whom have charisms, all of whom are equal. It is served by 'ministers' (Latin for 'servants') who have 'taken orders' because the church is one body, throughout every land and culture, and not little groups everywhere doing their own thing.

Churchill said, We shape our buildings then our buildings shape us.

Churches have buildings to shelter them from the elements. These shelters, in our benefice, are mostly mediaeval, or if not, built to look as if they are. When they were built the idea of the church was hierarchical: there was a nave, for the people, ignorant, unable to read; a choir; if you were looked after by a monastery the choir was probably made up of monks and they signified the angels; and the sanctuary where the priest celebrated the Mass and the miracle of transubstantiation took place. The social order was hierarchical: villeins, yeomen, gentry, aristocracy, monarchy, angels, archangels, God. The nave might be 20 foot, 30 foot, 40 foot high. Most of the people who lived in the village were villeins who lived in hovels. The lord of the Manor lived in a great house somewhere. The church shelter was for God, the Lord of lords. It had to signify God's greatness. Keeping warm or even dry was not a consideration, not to mention having a loo (read Chaucer if you want to know how they dealt with that; they were less inhibited than we are).

For a long time now we have realised that the Church is the body of Christ. The appropriate shape for a shelter for the church is circular- the whole people of God gathered around the LORD's table. Ironically the denomination which best understands what a shelter for Christians should look like is the Roman Catholic Church. Next time you are in the Netherlands try to go to mass in The Hague. The service is in English, there are 2 to 300 people, 50 to 60 children of every nation under heaven, and it's celebrated in the round. Or, next time you are in Vezelay in France, forget the cathedral, drop down the hill to the tiny Franciscan church. Mass is celebrated in the round, in absolute simplicity, with a small group all of whom know the liturgy and the music off by heart, and you celebrate the eucharist with the risen Lord.

The issue is not warmth, not facilities for tea and coffee afterwards, not even loos. It's how we understand what it means to be the people of God. And we need to shape our buildings according to that understanding.

by Tim Gorringe

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PARISH ROUND-UP

CALVERLEIGH

Gardens are really starting to show off their wonderful colours, bees are buzzing, birds are flitting from tree to bush and back again and the on off promise of summer may just be around the corner.

Mother nature gives us many surprises through each season in one way or another.

The Explore service back in April was led by Tash who talked on the road to Emmaus. The congregation were each given a piece of playdough and asked to shape a loaf of bread and then reflect on something, change it to another kind of bread, reflect, then change again and a final reflection. Thank you to all who took part and to Dave E for providing the music.

Explore on 17 May was about supporting each other and led by Nik, Tilly, Francis and Lauchlan took turns to read a part of the bible reading. Well done to the three of them, their confidence is really growing.

Our annual day of prayer was held on 2 May from 9am - 9pm. Over 30 people took part with prayer in half hour slots, wherever they felt most comfortable. Thank you to all who joined in with this special time of prayer.

The following day saw the baptism of Francis. A special day made even more special as Nana, who conducted the service, is Bishop Helen from Qu'ppelle in Canada. It was quite an emotional time. Mum Julia, made cakes that were enjoyed by the congregation, with tea and coffee after the service. Thanks to all involved in making this an occasion to remember.

The coffee morning held on 9 May to

raise money for 'Restore the Floor' also saw the launch of the Big Picture. Those taking part bought a square of a larger picture of the church to colour or paint however they wish. When they are all received back the squares will be assembled and displayed somewhere in church. Over £1,000 was raised towards the floor repair fund, during the morning. Thank you to all who helped with serving drinks, making cakes, supplying draw prizes, provided produce, plants or helped out on a stall and of course to those who came along on the day. Your help and support has been really appreciated. As this goes to print here are still a few squares left, if anyone else would like to have a go and have your name recorded as taking part. The cost of a square is £5. Please contact Aubrey on 01884 255248.

Calverleigh Village Hall Committee has started a series of fundraising events to contribute to the refurbishment of the old Billiard Room. They will also be applying for grants, with advice from Devon Communities Together, and will eventually have a room with modern facilities to use for community events and for hire by outside organisations.

On Thursday 23 May the hall committee held a very popular Antiques 'Call My Bluff' evening. They were visited by three Auctioneers from Bearnas, Hampton, & Littlewood who brought with them a series of objects and presented each one to us with contrasting descriptions. Those present then had to choose the genuine antiques, and the person with the most correct answers won a prize. Refreshments were served during the interval, and a raffle drawn. The evening proved a resounding success and £760 was raised for towards hall funds. A big thank you to everyone who came to support us.

The daughter and granddaughter of Rev' Stuttaford, who was the vicar of Calverleigh and Witleigh from 1944 to 1961, came to visit both churches as part of a trip to Devon. Aubrey met with them when they visited St. Mary's and was able to show photos of the time and share a few memories with the family.

Congratulations to Ben and Zoe who were married at Chevithorne church recently. We wish you a long and happy marriage.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who have recently died thinking of Herbert Smith (of Rackenford) and Margaret Tidball (of Loxbore) both who have played a very active part in church and village life in throughout the Exe valley over many, many years and will be greatly missed.

Best wishes to all who have been or will be celebrating either a special birthday or anniversary in the coming two months and hoping that you have a lovely time whatever is planned.

If you'd like your special birthday, anniversary or a special event here? Please contact Dave by emailing: calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org or call 01884 561499.

Forthcoming Events

On Saturday 20 June, Calverleigh Village Hall Committee are running their annual Tea on the Green, which will take place from 3-6pm, hopefully outside - weather permitting. There will be cream teas, activities for the children, stalls selling bric-a-brac, toys, books and plants, and a raffle. All welcome to join us.

Our annual open-air service will take place on 5 July in the churchyard at 3pm, weather permitting, or inside if wet. Please join us if you can. The service will be followed by refreshments.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

The annual Calverleigh Produce Show will take place on Saturday 29 August. We would just like to remind you that the schedules are available online or from Paul and Maureen (07967 989724), entries need to be in by Friday 14 August.

On the day all exhibits need to be in place by 11am (the hall will be open from 8:30am). Doors will open for viewing at 2:30pm. Any donations for a Bring and Buy stall or draw prizes would be very gratefully received and refreshments will be available on the day. This is a fun event, and hopefully there is something for everyone to have a go at or come along and see what a talented community we have, good luck.

The church's monthly Explore Service is a fun and interactive all age family friendly service starting at 9.15am with tea, coffee, squash and biscuits for a 9:30am start. Explore usually takes place on the third Sunday of each month, though exceptions do apply. See the magazine centre pages for dates and please join us if you can!

More Dates for your Diary:

19 Sep @ 7:30pm - Harvest Supper
20 Sep @ 10.45am - Harvest Service followed by Picnic
21 Nov @ 10:30am - Autumn Fayre

Church cleaning rota:

22 Jun - 4 Jul: Miss J Herniman
6 Jul - 18 Jul: Mrs M Furneaux
20 Jul - 1 August: Mrs A Webber
3 Aug - 15 Aug: Miss S Goldsworthy
17 Aug - 29 Aug: Mrs A Balsdon
31 Aug - 12 Sep: Mrs J Goldsworthy

Mowing rota:

22 Jun - 4 Jul: Mr D White
6 Jul - 18 Jul: The Heathcoat-Amory Family
20 Jul - 1 Aug: Mr A Goldsworthy
3 Aug - 15 Aug: Mr K and Mrs C Hayes
17 Aug - 29 Aug: Mr A Hancock
31 Aug - 12 Sep: Mr C Durnan

Mowing rota

22 Jun - 4 Jul: Mr D White
6 Jul - 18 Jul: The Heathcoat-Amory Family

Altar Flower rota

28 Jun - 5 Jul: Mrs M Furneaux
12 Jul - 29 Jul: Mrs S Greenslade
26 Jul - 2 Aug: Mrs L Carrey
9 Aug - 16 Aug: Mrs N Burton
23 Aug - 30 Aug: Mrs A Webber

CRUWYS MORCHARD

Church of the Holy Cross.

Throughout the spring the wildflowers in our churchyard have been beautiful. Now mowing has begun and we give our thanks to all who keep the grounds of the church tidy. We are always in need of more help, so, if you are able to volunteer to do some mowing, please contact Diana Vincent, 07801 937401.

Thank you all for joining our Summer Fete. Many thanks to everyone who gave generously of their time and contributions for the various stalls. We couldn't do it without you.

This year's Harvest Festival Service, sports and tea will be held on Saturday 26 September at 2.15 pm. More details to follow in the next issue.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who are not well, have been in hospital, are awaiting treatment, recovering from surgery or having a difficult time. We wish you a speedy recovery.

Beer and Boogie

Come and join us for an evening of fun live music at Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall with the Black Dog Boogie Band

on Saturday 4 July 7.30 pm - 11.00 pm. Entry on the door is £.00 under 16's free. Hot pasties available. Cash bar. For more information, please contact Diana Vincent 07801 937401.

Exam period

We hope that all has gone well, and we wish you the very best for your results and your future endeavours. We hope you have a lovely, relaxed summer holiday.

Cruwys Social Evening

On the second and fourth Wednesday of each month there is a social evening at the Parish Hall from 6.30pm to 9.30 pm. Come and join your neighbours for a chat and drink and perhaps take part in the quiz that starts at 7.30pm. All welcome. For more information contact Diana Vincent 07801 937401.

Flower & cleaning rota

June 29 & July 6: Marilyn Hill
July 13 & 20: Diana Vincent and Val Randeron
July 27 & August 3: Anne Gillbard
August 10 & 17: Sarah Cruwys
August 24 & 31: Cindy Trick
September 7 & 14: Marilyn Hill
Please let Cindy know if there are any problems.

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

Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall

For enquiries regarding hall hire, please contact Diana Vincent, 07801 937401.

Yoga at the Parish Hall

General Hatha yoga class at Cruwys Parish Hall Thursday 10am - 11.15am. All abilities & ages welcome. Call Hilary on 01363 866245

Cruwys Morchard Flower Show

This year's show is on Saturday 8 August 2026. There are still some seed



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PARISH ROUND-UP

potatoes and plug plants available to grow on. Contact me for more information tracevgillbard@gmail.com or 07871 300783. Closing date for entries is 25 July 2026.

Open garden

Sunday 5 July 2026 2-6pm £5 pp

Hi, my name is Nicholas and I will be volunteering at a school in Zanzibar. Whilst I'm there, I will be helping to upgrade school facilities like building classrooms, repairing kitchens and bathrooms and overall making the place a safer and more engaging space for learning. To go on this amazing experience, I will need to do some fundraising, I am therefore holding an open garden event at my Grandma's place to show off her fantastic garden. I shall charge a small entry fee and there will be refreshments available for everybody.

What3words:

acrobatic.shine.note

Westland, Pennymoor, EX16 8PG. If using satnav, look out for the signs as you may be directed to the wrong garden.

Cruwys Morchard and Puddington Garden Club

The first of our monthly meetings this year was held on the 1st Wednesday in February when we discussed topics and activities for the year.

So far we have discussed soil as the fundamental basis for all gardening. Members brought along samples from their gardens and using a kit we tested them for type and any deficiencies. We have discussed trichomonosis in the light of advice from the R.S.P.B. re feeding garden birds and reported back on the results so far of our bird survey. As usual each year we had a 'seed swap' and brought along surplus plants to give away in addition to providing 'mystery seeds' to sow.

We went on a visit to the charming Walled Gardens of Cannington where we had a very informative tour from the head gardener.

We are currently assisting a new resident with a 'garden makeover' drawing on the design and hard landscaping skills of members. In response to suggestions we are

planning a visit to a local wild flower meadow, a talk on mosses and lichens and another on funghi.

If you would like to join this small but lively group we meet on the first Wednesday of each month in Puddington Village Hall at 8.00pm. For more information contact Claire and Allan Miller cmiller94@yahoo.co.uk

Cruwys Morchard YFC

A big thank you to landowners that permitted access across fields and woodland to allow the YFC fun ride to take place and neighbours and riders for supporting us. We welcomed over 100 riders taking part in a 5-mile or 10-mile course. The bluebells were in abundance, and it was a privilege to enjoy the ride across privately owned woodlands. A total for the event is not yet finalised, but we hope to have raised ~£1000 for Macmillan.

We enjoyed a walk & talk at Weeke Farm this month. Thank you to Dave & Ginny for showing us around the new calving unit, robotic milking parlour and wider farm set up.

The club performed well at the recent show and sale, with several members taking part. Congratulations to Susan, James, Elodie, Luke, Tommy, Riley, Max, Maggie & Esme and special mention to Harry taking best presented and supreme champion with his calf. Oscar was awarded reserve supreme champion with his tame lamb.

Cruwys did well at the Devon County Show, placing 3rd for pallet art and 5th for club cubicle across the 37 YFC's in Devon. They had fun preparing entries and attempting to master the art of corn dolly making.

We have a fund-raising bingo at the Parish Hall on Saturday 27 June, eyes down at 7.30pm.

Our charity tractor run is Sunday July 19th 2026. Please look out for further information.

We continue to raise money through the collection of aluminium drinks cans. Please let us have yours. If you have cans that we can collect, please call Helen on 07810 502623.

If you are aged between 10-28 years and would like to see what else we get up to, monthly meetings are held at the Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall on the first Tuesday of every month at 7pm. Club email: cmyfc.devon@gmail.com

Congregational Churches

Please join us for:

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

Sunday services

2.30pm Nomansland chapel *

4.00pm 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.

Cruwys Social Evening

On the second and fourth Wednesday of every month there is a social evening at the Parish Hall from 6.30pm to 9.30pm. 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!

Magazine contact

If you would like something included in the Cruwys Morchard parish round-up, please contact Helen on 07810 502623 or email helenkeeble@btinternet.com.

LOXBEARE

How lovely it is to have the long days of summer together with sunshine and showers which makes the landscape look so green and vibrant. We hope that the weather is good for people on holiday and for the school summer holidays.

It was with very great sadness that we heard of the death of our much-loved friend and neighbour, Margaret Tidball, who will be remembered for the kindnesses, care, hospitality and love she showed to so many. Her funeral service was attended by many people and the service held in the church was

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PARISH ROUND-UP

also relayed to the village hall, where the warmth and love for her was also felt. She had a wonderful community spirit and contributed greatly to any event which was taking place. Her support could always be relied upon, whether it was cleaning the hall or church, making a pudding or two for a community meal, hosting a course for the safari supper, providing supper for the carol singers, as well as going around the parishes carol singing for 3 nights. She also helped with the Holiday Club and provided accommodation and support for a succession of youth workers employed by the Exe Valley Mission community. Despite being a very hard-working lady, she always made time to go the extra mile. As part of the Millennium celebrations back in 2000, there was a hymn writing competition and Margaret entered not one, but two hymns. She was a very talented lady who lovingly used her gifts to bless others. She will be very much missed and we send our love and sympathy to Angela, Julia Marilyn and their families. Many people attended the funerals of the late Linda Taylor who has been laid to rest in the churchyard at Loxbeare, and Herbert Smith, who has been laid to rest in the churchyard at Withiel Florey. We continue to remember their families in our prayers.

We send our good wishes to Colin and Margaret for a speedy recovery and our thoughts are also with others who are not enjoying good health or waiting for treatments or surgery. We also think of those who care for loved ones and the daily challenges they face. We continue to pray for you all. Our thoughts are also very much with students who will receive exam results during August.

Welcome to Geoff who has recently moved into Loxbeare. We hope you will be very happy in your new home and the community.

On 5th July, there will be a picnic service at the church from 1.00pm, followed by a service at approximately 2.00pm. Please do join us if you can, for this friendly and informal time to enjoy a meal and worship together.

A speaker from Tear Fund along with Steph & Dave Edwards will lead the worship at the Tear Fund Service on 30 August at 10.45am.

Please check centre pages for details of other services: the 1st Sunday of the month during the summer months is at 10.45am and the 3rd Sunday is at 6.30pm. The 2nd & 4th Sundays are group services, which are held in various parishes, at 10.45am.

A forward date for your diary: the Archdeacon Andrew Beane will be taking the Harvest service on 20 September at 6.30p.m. Everyone is welcome at all services.

Community Events

There will be a Ploughman's lunch from 12.30-2.00 on 11 July. Proceeds from this will be given to Alheimers Society. Donations given at the Cream Tea on 8mAugust from 3.00-4.30, will be towards International Animal Rescue. Both these events will be held in the village hall.

Loxbeare Barton is the venue for Cruwys Morchard & Withleigh Ploughing Match & Produce show to be held on 5 September. Please contact Arthur or Carol for more details.

OAKFORD

We had a short heat-wave in May but have now returned to typical English summer weather so take your sunglasses and an umbrella with you when you go out! The feathered residents of Rookery Hill in Oakford provide a very early wake up call so it has been lovely to appreciate the beauty of early morning with no rush.

St Peter's Church

During the Group Service at the end of April Steph gave thanks to the Craft ladies of Oakford for the lovely window displays. On May 10 by kind permission of Phil and Sue Llewellyn we celebrated Rogation Sunday at West Tapps. (see photo on page 4)) On 31 May we celebrated Trinity Sunday with Steph and Tim Gorringer at St Peter's.

St Peter's Harvest Festival will be at 10.45am on Sept 6 with Steph and Dave followed by lunch in the village hall.

The bells have at last returned home to St Peter's and by the time your magazine arrives the ringers should be back practising and getting to know the rehung and retuned bells. There will be a service led by The Bishop of Crediton, Bishop Moira and The Rev Steph Gordon Jeffs on 12th July at 10.45am to rededicate the bells and to bless the new loo! Please come along and celebrate this historical marker in the life of St Peter's bell tower.

We are very grateful to Geoff Baylis who has been capturing the journey of Oakford's bells on camera from the start back in April 2025 and we aim to have a presentation on the big screen in the village hall soon. Everyone is welcome, it will be an interesting

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5 JULY

The 5th Sunday after Trinity
(Green)

Going God's way

Genesis 24: 34-38,42-49,58-67
Matthew 11: 16-19,25-30

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

3.00pm Open Air Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Holy Communion
Tim Gorringe

LOXBEARE

1.00pm Picnic followed by
2.00pm Service

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

10.45am Family Service

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise
with Steph and David Edwards

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

3.00pm Evening Praise

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Family Service

12 JULY

The 6th Sunday after Trinity
(Green)

9.30am Zoom Service

OUR MISSION COMMUNITY HOLY COMMUNION GROUP SERVICE WITH REDEDICATION OF RING OF EIGHT BELLS AND CELEBRATION FOR FAITH

is at
10.45am in
OAKFORD

**Bishop Moira
Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and David Edwards**

**Everyone is welcome to
stay for refreshments
afterwards**

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

19 JULY

The 7th Sunday after Trinity
(Green)

God is in this place

Genesis 28: 10-19a
Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

9.15am 'Explore & More'
with Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and David Edwards

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Praise

LOXBEARE

10.45am Holy Communion
Tim Gorringe

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise
with Baptism
Christopher Rowley

RACKENFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

TEMPLETON

10.45am Family Service

WASHFIELD

10.45am Family Service

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Charity Service
Mid-Devon Messenger

26 JULY

8th Sunday after Trinity
(Green)

Navigating the mess

9.30am Zoom Service

OUR MISSION COMMUNITY HOLY COMMUNION GROUP SERVICE

is at
10.45am in

TEMPLETON

**Christopher Rowley and
David Edwards
Everyone welcome**

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.



2 AUGUST

The 9th Sunday after Trinity
(Green)

I will not let you go

Genesis 32: 22-31
Matthew 14: 13-21

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Praise

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise

OAKFORD

10.45am Holy Communion
Christopher Rowley

RACKENFORD

10.45am Family Service

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Family Service

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

3.00pm Evening Praise

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

9 AUGUST

The 10th Sunday after Trinity
(Green)

Holding on to hope

Genesis 37: 1-4,12-28
Matthew 14: 22-33

9.30am Zoom Service

OUR MISSION COMMUNITY GROUP HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

**is at
10.45am**

**in
WASHFIELD**

**with
Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and David Edwards**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

16 AUGUST

The 11th Sunday after Trinity
(Green)

From the heart

Genesis 45: 1-15
Matthew 15: (10-20),21-28

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Praise
with Baptism
Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and David Edwards

LOXBEARE

6.30pm Evening Praise

OAKFORD

6.00pm Songs of Praise

RACKENFORD

10.45am Holy Communion
Christopher Rowley

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

TEMPLETON

10.45am Family Service

WASHFIELD

10.45am Family Service

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Family Service

23 AUGUST

The 13th Sunday after Trinity
(Green)

9.30am Zoom Service

OUR MISSION COMMUNITY GROUP HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE WITH BAPTISM

**is at
10.45am
in**

WITHLEIGH

**with
Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and David Edwards**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

30 AUGUST

The 13th Sunday after Tinity
(Green)

9.30am Zoom Service

OUR MISSION COMMUNITY 5th SUNDAY HOLY COMMUNION GROUP SERVICE WITH GUEST SPEAKER FROM TEAR FUND

**is at
10.45am in
LOXBEARE**

**Steph Gordon-Jeffs and
David Edwards**

Everyone is welcome

30 AUGUST

**WITHLEIGH
9.30am**

Poems, Prayer & Praise



PARISH ROUND-UP

occasion as the bells have been in the tower for 200 years prior to the re-ordering.

The Books and Chat Group are going to take a short summer break but will meet again in August. Everyone is welcome to borrow books at any time and also to come for coffee and a chat when we meet again in August.

The Moorland Ladies enjoyed a treasure hunt followed by a bring and share supper in May and an Ascot themed afternoon with racing shown on the big screen in the village hall followed by a cream tea and fizz in June.

The Parish Council invited villagers to meet for a village clear up morning concentrating this year on the Community Area.

The Community Mini Bus has been replaced by a blue version for a short time while it has an automatic opening door fitted and decals added. It would be a good time to thank all the loyal volunteer drivers who give their time to keep this much needed service running.

In June the Village Hall Committee presented 'Benidorm Bingo' an evening with a summer theme and plenty of Sangria.

Oakford's Dare Devil Tony Holmes completed his wing walk on a vintage biplane on his birthday 29th May raising over £1000 for the Devon Air Ambulance. There followed a film show and a series of photographs taken by Geoff Baylis at the cheque presentation in the Village Hall on 6th June. (see photo on page 4)

Dates for your Diary.

Moorland Ladies.

9th July The Annual BBQ for members hosted by Louise and John.

6th August Charity speaker for 2026 charity followed by refreshments at the

Village Hall.

8th August (Saturday) The Flower and Produce Show at the Village Hall

There is a copy of the schedule on the village massive, or for a hard copy contact Julie Cridland 01398 351174 or pick one up in Bampton Fresh, LARCS in Bampton or in the phone box in Oakford.

Future events at the Village Hall.

Saturday 4th July – Picnic in the Park Community gathering in the park, bring your own food and drink with a chance to meet up and listen to some music and play petanque.

Monday 20th July - Village Hall Annual General Meeting at 7pm. All welcome, come and see what your hall committee has been doing and bring your ideas for future events. Refreshments provided.

31st October – Halloween Party. – Fancy dress, bring and share supper, games and disco.

27th February 2027 - Bavarian Night. By popular request the return of the Bierkeller Boys featuring fun, games, dancing and bratwurst.

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

Best wishes to anyone with a birthday of special anniversary, especially to John and Patsy on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

The Lord's Larder - feeding hope

St Peter's, Oakford is joining hands to support CHAT. Every tin of soup, packet of pasta or box of cereal makes a real difference to families and people in need.

CHAT provides supplies to people facing difficult times. With your help, we can ensure that no one in our community goes hungry.

CHAT helps in many ways, debts, housing and there are leaflets in church.

So, how can we help? Together we can share God's love in practical ways. Please consider giving - your kindness will bring hope and nourishment to our neighbours.

You will find a basket near the back of church where you can add your donated items. All donated items will be collected regularly and go directly to CHAT. There is a list of the most wanted items.

RACKENFORD

As we went to print for the previous issue, we were experiencing very cold winds and heavy showers. We were longing for a change and what a change we had during the last few weeks of May! It became so very hot - unbearable for some, but really welcome for others. At least we could sit out and enjoy if we wished, or hide away for shade. The weather does not please all of us all the time. Now, on June 3, it's windy, cold and wet again!

A service of celebration for the life of Herbert was held at St Mary Magdalene Church, Withiel Florey on Thursday May 14 followed by interment in the churchyard. The service was led by The Reverend Dowell Conning - Keyboardist Mr Phillip Parker. Herbert and Marjorie were married in this little church. The church was full of family and friends with others having to stand outside. Friends from all Exe Valley parishes attended as Herbert was so well known by many and over many years. Our deepest sympathy and prayers continue for Marjorie and all the family.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

On May 17, Katie and Thomas brought Henry David Michael to be baptised during our Morning Praise service. Christopher Rowley officiated at this warm and welcoming service. Such a pleasure to see all the young families and little ones looking on as godparents and parents gathered around the font as Henry was welcomed into our church and presented with a gift, as were the godparents. So good to have a large gathering in church to support Henry now and throughout his life.

The Gardening Club held a plant sale with tea and coffee available by the tennis court on Saturday May 16. Lots of bedding plants and pot plants available to purchase.

One of many gardens open for charity on The National Garden Scheme took place at Bradford Tracey House, not far from Rackenford Village. Plants and jams etc on sale and refreshments to enjoy and a walk around the garden.

On May 31 we were warmly welcomed to Oakford for the Mission Community 5 Sunday Holy Communion Group Service with Tim Gorringer, Steph Gordon-Jeffs, also David Edwards on his guitar and fine voice and Levon on on his mouth organs. After the service we were invited to join our friends for refreshments. A thought provoking and special service to enjoy with others in another parish, in the beautiful Exe Valley.

A reminder about our Village Day which is on Saturday 4 July on our common. Various stalls to view. Come and enjoy refreshments in our marquee, lot of delicious cakes to enjoy and treat yourselves. If you have been before, you will remember there is lots to enjoy and mingle with your friends and village folk. Rackenford Garden Club is also playing

a part on the common with a competition: Arrangements of summer flowers - a riot of colour.

Miniatures and floral art.

Children's Table:

Arrangement of wild flowers in a jam jar.

Entries to be judged on the day.

Thank you to all our volunteers at the shop. We do appreciate all your hard work and the time you give up to support the village in many ways. The shop looks transformed and how nice to see a coffee machine installed, so we can sit, have a coffee and chat and shop.

We warmly welcome any newcomers into the village. We hope to meet you in the future.

We now have some willing hands to help with tidying the churchyard. We are so pleased and thankful to have any help. So if you feel you can spare some time, please do get in touch with Ruth.

To all those celebrating Wedding Anniversaries, Birthdays, Births, congratulations to you all.

Best wishes to all who are taking exams. We wish you well.

Our thoughts and prayers to all who are poorly, are in hospital or are receiving treatment or generally under the weather. We are thinking of Derek and Jean, Jacques and Mary, Marjorie and family and our Steph. If you know of anyone you would like us to remember, please get in touch. We may not have heard of everyone in our community.

Dates for your Diary

4 July - Village Day

12 September - Sponsored Walk

4 October - Harvest Evening Praise, 6:30pm

7 October - Harvest Supper

28 November - Christmas Fayre

We continue to pray for peace and all those who are suffering.

STOODLEIGH

A Slice of History...

It is now 100 years since the sale of the great Stoodleigh Court Estate took place due to financial reasons. During 1925 and 1926 the estate was auctioned off in lots including 20 surrounding farms, cottages, the Smithy, Post Office, Grocers shop, Rectory, salmon fishing off the River Exe, Trout fishing in Mill Stream, woodland and a total of nearly 4000 acres. The sale must have been a heartbreaking and difficult time for the owners, however it introduced a new era for Stoodleigh village and gave the public the opportunity to purchase farms, land and property.

Stoodleigh Court itself became Ravenswood School during 1928, when it was purchased to provide larger premises for a school originally based in Paignton. Ravenswood became a boarding school for boys aged 7 to 13 years and housed and educated students for the next 78 years. During the 1970's girls were allowed into Ravenswood and a Nursery school began in the 80's until its doors finally closed in 1992. St Margaret's church played a big part in those school years, and amongst services there were Remembrance Day Parades from the school down through the village to our church, along with weekly walks down Church Path for Sunday service and choir. For those who would like to delve more into the history of Stoodleigh there is a very well researched short book written by Carol Shore in 2000, which shows snippets of Stoodleigh life

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PARISH ROUND-UP

throughout the years and tales of, and from, local people.

Whilst watering flowers late one afternoon in the churchyard, during that week in May when we all wilted under the record breaking temperatures, a couple walked down the path and asked if the church was open. "Of course, go in" I said. The gentleman told me he used to attend Ravenswood School in 1973, and he was on a nostalgic visit since leaving all those years ago. He was delighted to be back in St Margaret's and his reminiscing was full of school day tales, walking from school as a young boy down Church Path to church with the school Masters, and lots of memories. He was truly happy to re-visit this old part of his childhood and to find it hadn't changed. He trotted off a happy man back up Church Path to show his wife the breathtaking view from our cricket pitch.

It appears to me, that although our congregation at St Margaret's can be few at times, the footfall we have in visitors and the village fondness we have for our church is great. There has been a place of worship on the church site since 1264. But our present church was built during the 15th century and then enlarged during the 19th. Like the Stoodleigh Estate our church has seen many folk walk through its doors. Four hundred years of services, occasions and communities getting together. That's an awful lot of folk, and how wonderful it is to know that people think so fondly of it, that they want to re-visit, sit a while and enjoy the presence of our truly beautiful village church.

Mrs Christine Palfrey
One of our longest standing PCC members is Christine Palfrey.

Christine has been a member of St Margaret's PCC for 60 years and has helped fundraise and advise for our church in a very active capacity. Christine moved to Rifton Barton when she married Gerald Palfrey in 1961 and they farmed and raised their family there until moving into Stoodleigh village in 2005. Between them they have both been involved in a lot of village fundraising and decisions, and Gerald was a member of the Parish Council when the children's playground was created. Married for over 50 years, sadly Gerald passed away in 2014, but Christine has remained very much part of our church community. Christine has now decided to step down from the PCC and we would like to Thank her wholeheartedly for her 60 years of advice, commitment and wisdom both at our meetings and Church services. We will miss you Christine, and if you want to join us for a cup of tea at any point, you are most welcome.

St Margaret's Flower Rota:
Julie Hubbard 5th & 12th July
Paula Moore 19th & 26th July
Dionne Mansfield 2nd & 9th August
Mandy Widdowson 16th August
Penny Norman 23rd August
through September

Stoodleigh Village Meeting
Stoodleigh recently held its annual village meeting. Organised by the Parish Council it was very well attended by many residents. Reports from various organisations were read out to update everyone on how their year had been...the parish hall, the gardening club, our community email and whatsapp groups, St Margaret's church and the Stoodleigh Inn. The possibility was looked into for having a Snow Warden and also training from Devon County Council on their Road

Warden scheme for training, and provision of materials, for filling in minor potholes in our area. Yes, you read me right people, filling in potholes in our area! Several volunteers stepped forward from those attending the meeting, and an email was also subsequently sent out to the wider community. Big round of applause for all those volunteers....and there's a big pothole developing on the road from Champles into Stoodleigh, if you can get to that one pronto please!

Stoodleigh Play Area
The Parish Council are pleased to announce that the children's play area is now finished in its refurbishment. The framework for the slide and swings has been completely re-built and the see-saw has had new handles and seats. Its ready for playing on children - Yay!

And finally we would like to extend our prayers and thoughts to anyone going through difficult times at the moment. Whether it be illness, bereavement, the relentless wait for results, or concerns and worries that just don't seem to go away. We are thinking of those we know, sending good wishes and hopes for improvement going forward.

Garden Club
A date for your diary... Saturday 22nd August is the day of the Stoodleigh Annual Show!
This is an open competition and we do hope you might like to enter into some classes and come along to view the event at the Parish Hall at 2pm, where you can also enjoy tea and cakes and various garden related stalls. The details and schedule for this event are available on the Parish website under the Garden Club section. Those of you living in Stoodleigh will find a printed schedule and entry form in this magazine. Further entry forms will be

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PARISH ROUND-UP

available in Stoodleigh from the beginning of August...in the Church porch, in the Swap-Box, at the Parish Hall or from Rowhill, for those not receiving one.

In May the Garden Club organised a garden visit to Holam House, Dulverton, which was much enjoyed. The weather was kind and mostly dry! The gardens were beautiful, with many flowering shrubs and well maintained, landscaped areas.

At the end of May, a charity coffee morning and bring and buy plant sale was held at Wheatland Barn in aid of the Brain Tumour Charity, raising £00. Our thanks go to our hosts and to all those who came along and contributed to this splendid figure, for which the charity is most grateful.

The first Garden Club visit in June was to Goran Farm Wild Flower Meadows; a popular and delightful place to explore.

Swap-Box

We are now coming to the season of surplus produce in our gardens. Please don't let it go to waste! Stoodleigh Swap-Box, which is located in the old telephone box at Hillcrest and is available for people to donate spare plants, produce and any small items in good condition, that are surplus to requirements and may be of use to someone else. Anyone is welcome to leave any such items in the box...and you may find something in there that would be really useful to you.

Stoodleigh Parish Hall

Spring Fair - 11 April

What a lovely atmosphere in the Hall - thank you to our community who came to support the Fair. Village residents and visitors enjoyed the opportunity to browse and purchase from the stallholders' displays and an amazing selection of goods they provided. Thanks to our local artists who offered

items from willow, wood, ceramics and jewellery and visitors could buy locally made honey, childrens' books, plants and book vineyard tours. Popular as usual was the chance to catch up over coffee, cake and pizza.

Village Walk & Lunch - 9 May

This turned out to be a great day - thanks to the weather and those who joined in for the walk and lunch afterwards. Twenty walkers, and three well behaved four-legged friends, set off from the Parish Hall. After the steep descent to Rifton Woods, the group enjoyed the climb up through the magnificent display of bluebells before dropping down to join the road at Rifton Lodge and continuing through Coleford Bottom to Aldridge Mill and on to Trowbridge. The final long climb from Trowbridge up to Ash Cross was rewarded by the magnificent two course lunch (and welcome cold drinks!) which awaited the intrepid group of walkers on their return to the Parish Hall. After the Stoodleigh 100 Club May draw, which helps to provide welcome funds for both the Hall and St Margaret's Church, there was a hearty, and well deserved, round of applause for walk leader, Linda, and members of the hall committee who provided the lunch.

Thank you all for helping to raise funds for the Parish Hall at our events - all towards the maintenance and repair of our community building.

Saturday Coffee Mornings at the Hall

These continue to be popular opportunities to catch up over a coffee and a slice of cake. Don't forget the Hall is open on the first Saturday of the month between 10.30am and 12noon - 4 July, 1 August, 5 September and onward. Everyone is welcome.

We'll be able to report next time on the

Big June Tea Party, a summer special being run jointly by the St Margaret's and Parish Hall teams and there'll also be news of planned events coming up at the Parish Hall.

Stoodleigh 100 Club

The new year started in May but if you haven't yet renewed or signed up for your membership, it's not too late! Contact Geraldine at geraldinetalbot@live.com or 07734 451741. Membership is £15 a year and the monthly prize money is 1st - £20, 2nd - £5, and 3rd - £10. You can pay be cash or BACS - contact as above please. Profits are split between St Margaret's Church and Stoodleigh Parish Hall.

Recent Winners: May - Pat Robinson, Angela Hill and Viv Crowland.

Welcome to new residents, Paul and Donna. We hope you will enjoy living in Stoodleigh.

TEMPLETON

Welcome to our summer issue of Templeton news!

Now that the days are getting longer, warmer and drier, there's more opportunity for us to be outside, to spend time in the garden, to meet up with family and friends outside, to go for long walks, and enjoy picnics and barbecues...and to be prepared for unpredictable changes in the weather! We must make the most of it whatever, as the summer will fly by!

Church and churchyard:

Our church always needs attention. After having the walls painted by an expert team a few years ago, the paint is now peeling off the walls and a mould appearing on the walls. This has led our churchwardens, William and Reg,





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PARISH ROUND-UP

to test out some sealing paints and also seek further advice from the experts.

The churchyard is also awaiting a big clear-up of brambles and overgrowth around its perimeter. Reg and William will be calling for help from a team of us to get the churchyard in order. The wild flowers in the churchyard are beautiful and blooming. We are grateful to Pete who has maintained the churchyard so well over the years. We would appreciate your views about how you feel about some parts of the churchyard being left unmown so that wild flowers and insect life can be encouraged? Contact Reg or William to let them know your thoughts.

The Sunday Services at St Margaret's Church are usually held twice a month, with a mix of lay-led services and group or cluster services, rotating between all the nine parishes.

The Services in Templeton and the other parishes over July and August are shown on the centre pages of this magazine.

Past events in Templeton:

Templeton PCC Annual Parochial Church Meeting: On March 19 there was Cruwys Morchard, Withleigh, Templeton, and Washfield's Annual Parochial Church Meeting at St Catherine's Church, Withleigh, led by Steph. We are grateful to Reg and William, who have agreed to continue as our Churchwardens. The other Templeton PCC members are Lynda, Val, Laurel, Ginah, and Bindy.

Templeton's Bluebell Walk on Sunday 10 May was a perfect day! We all met at Templeton Village Hall to enjoy bacon rolls, tea and coffee and then walked down to Templeton Bridge and up through the woods to The Beeches for more refreshments and cake served

from Bob, Claire's mobile cafeteria! The final leg of the walk passed St Margaret's Church returning up the lane to the Village Hall. Thank you Laurel, Jo, Val, Sue, Shaun, Julie, Claire, Nina, Sara, Jane and many helpers, for organising a lovely walk around our beautiful Templeton, with bluebells and wild flowers everywhere, and for providing delicious refreshments.

Village Hall and Social Club AGM: On May 27 Templeton Village Hall and Social Club held their Annual General Meeting: Several valuable suggestions were offered on this evening. The committee all agreed that the Village Hall has had many improvements and expenses with the repairs to the leaking roof, but it still awaits some important work and the need for fund-raising to be able to pay the increasing charges in gas and electricity. We are grateful to Templeton Parish Council for their financial support towards the repairs to the hall.

Future events this year – put these dates in your diary:

Monday 15 June at 7.30pm: Defibrillator and Basic Life Support training at Templeton Village Hall! By the time this magazine goes to print, the Devon Ambulance Service will have kindly provided twelve residents in Templeton with training in basic life support and will have helped us to be more familiar with the four defibrillators that we are lucky to have positioned around the village (one at the Village Hall, in the church, at Mill Cottage, Templeton Bridge, and at Lower North Coombe Farm). Thanks so much to Templeton Parish Council and the British Heart Foundation for helping Templeton to be well equipped with defibrillators!

Saturday August 8 - Templeton Summer Fete from 1.30pm at Templeton Village Hall. Don't miss this popular community event! This year's Summer Fete will include cream teas, hot dogs, pay bar, bric-a-brac, nearly new clothes, books, produce, tombola and games ...and so much more. Please take a look through your cupboards now and seek out any items that you no longer need. We need lots of volunteers to help with the stalls and make the day great fun for everyone! If you are able to spare some time during the afternoon of the fete, or on the evening before to set everything up, or if you want to find out more, please email templetonvh@gmail.com. 50p tokens will be available to buy with your bank card if you don't have enough cash with you.

Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 October - Harvest Festival weekend! This will begin with a celebratory Harvest Supper at Templeton Village Hall on Saturday evening and Harvest Festival at St Margaret's Church on Sunday morning, with donations displayed in the church for CHAT.

Friday 23 October: Halloween Party at Templeton Village Hall for everyone – that includes adults as well as children! Plan your scary costumes now!

Saturday 31 October (date to be finalised) Bonfire and firework display at Templeton Village Hall from 6.30pm. This very popular event will take place at Templeton Village Hall. People really do come from far and wide to see it. The bar will be open and there will be delicious hot dogs on sale.

Sunday 8 November: Remembrance Sunday Service at St Margaret's Church, Templeton honouring the efforts, achievements and sacrifices



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PARISH ROUND-UP

made in past wars.

Friday 20 November: Wine and Cheese evening and Art Sale on the Friday, and Art Sale all day on Saturday 21 November at Templeton Village Hall. There will be an amazing display and sale of paintings, drawings, cards, and other gifts created by Templeton's talented Art Group.

Sunday 13 December: Christmas Children's Party - at 3pm at Templeton Village Hall! - with a visit by Father Christmas! A wonderful annual family event organised by Tony Loosemore, with a disco, party food and fun.

Regular groups:
Garden Club.

Our garden club goes from strength to strength with numbers increasing monthly. The heatwave proved a challenge for keeping the seedlings etc from being scorched as with the rest of the gardens. We welcomed the rain with open arms! Some of us visited Holcombe Court recently which was a delight and we have other places to visit throughout the year. If anyone would like any information about the club please email Ginah at ginahpalmer@gmail.com.

Templeton Art Group.

The art group has been a huge success and thank you so much Lynda for leading this. The art group meets at Templeton Village Hall fortnightly on Tuesdays from 10am until 12 midday. Everyone is invited. No charge. Just bring yourselves with whatever art work you are doing or want to have a go at, with Lynda there to help if needed. Coffee and cake provided. If you want to know more, contact Lynda at newnes7@mail.com.

Book Group. The Templeton Book Group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 3pm at Templeton Village

Hall with coffee, tea and cake. It's a great time to share and talk about a wide variety of books. If you'd like to join the book group or would like to know more about it just get in touch with Julie at julie.dent@yahoo.co.uk.

Knit and Natter.

Templeton Knit and Natter is on the last Friday of each month between 10.30 to 12 midday, in St Margaret's Church, Templeton. Why not bring any of your repair work, knitting or embroidery with you, or just come along for coffee, biscuits and a chat. Contact Bindy if you need to know more: belinda.linden1949@gmail.com.

Templeton Village Hall and Social Club. If anyone wants to use the hall at any time, for table tennis, darts, skittles, a last-minute barbecue, or just a get-together, please just contact Bindy (01884 860655) who will open up the hall for you, providing there is not already a booking on that day. The Social Club is open every Monday and Saturday evening from 8pm to 11pm - with a wide range of drinks available at very reasonable prices. Club Membership is only £2 a year.

Welcomes!

Welcome to Tracy and Simon Humphrey, and their two beautiful Dobermans, Barron and Vegas, who moved into Uptop in the beginning of May. They have been very busy working on the house and garden since they moved in.

Also, welcome to Albert (Alby) who was born on May 6 and congratulations to mum and dad, Flo and Daniel and Alby's big sister, Olivia, who live at Dart Cottage, Templeton Bridge.

Thoughts and prayers.

Our thoughts and sympathies are with Martin, Phillip and Jane whose mother, Frances Saunders sadly died on 27 May

after a short period in hospital. Frances has lived in Lower South Coombe in Templeton for many years and will be so missed by her family, grandchildren, friends and many of us in Templeton. Our thoughts, prayers and best wishes are with all those who are unwell, who are receiving or awaiting treatment, who have been in hospital, recovering from surgery, or going through a tough time.

Church Flowers and Cleaning Rota July and August 2026

Phillida Strong	28th June – 5th July
Ginah Palmer	12th July – 19th July
Lynda Newnes	26th July – 2nd August
Sue Coffin	9th August – 16th August
Julie Dent	23rd August – 30th August

WASHFIELD

The sounds of lawn mowers, leather on willow, tractors hauling fodder crops: the start of the English summer.

The magic of a village gathering lies not in the stalls, but in the community that builds them and goes the extra mile to make it successful.

The Social club, ever productive, would like to thank all who have supported events this year so far, we are lucky to have so many social club members who support and come to events. A reminder that folk need to be members of the Social Club to attend events, only £ annually. Please see the membership officer, Chas or get in touch washfieldsocialclub@gmail.com Open every Tuesday from 8pm

Upcoming Events

Fri 3 July – First Friday supper incorporating 'Would I lie to you?'

Unite Carers

A carer is defined as anyone who looks after a family member, partner or friend who needs help because of their illness, frailty, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction and cannot cope without the carer's support. The care they provide is unpaid.

Unite Carers supports unpaid carers through free befriending, counselling, peer support groups, advice, training, information and guidance relating to specific diagnoses such as dementia, autism and ADHD. We can help navigate the systems and care pathways, and with completing applications – for example, blue badge, carers' allowance, attendance allowance, etc.

We are delighted that Unite Carers have been chosen as mid-Devon Show's Charity of the Year. Please stop by and see us at the show on Saturday 25 July 2026.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Food 6-8pm, event 8-11pm. Guaranteed enjoyment!

Fri 7 August –First Friday supper

Mon 31 August –Summer BBQ from 3pm. Music, great food, great beer (other drinks are available) and great company.

Fri 4 September –First Friday Supper

Please keep taking part in these lovely events to support YOUR village. Everything is advertised on posters, Friends of Washfield Social Club WhatsApp page and Humans of Washfield and Lower Washfield FB page.

Don't forget our time-honoured teatime@thehall is still as popular as ever. Held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month between 3-4.30pm. All ages are welcome to these friendly, chatty afternoons. Come along, you would be most welcome.

We were thrilled to watch the preparations for Emma and Rohan's marriage celebrations at the end of May, and on tenterhooks should the previous hot spell end before their special day but it was not to be! The sun carried on shining for the day and it only rained the next day! We hope you all had the most wonderful time. Our happy blessings to Emma and Rohan (and all the Tobey family who pulled out all the stops for the happy couple)

The quintessential annual Church Fete is to be held on 11 July at 2.30pm (the second Saturday in July and a change to the traditional day) so please note this in your diary. We ask you please to support this (as you always do) with articles for stalls and foods for the legendary tea! We look forward to seeing you all on that day. Thank you in advance.

We extend many thanks to Colin Radford for his steadfast commitment to the running of the Exe Valley Community Bus. He has driven it continually, has been the Chair and a Trustee and taken an active part in keeping this invaluable service alive and thriving (even more so with the

recent purchase of the latest new bus) for 35 years. He was applauded and recognised for his unwavering support of the bus at the recent AGM and presented with cards and gifts to recognise this incredible achievement. Well done, Colin.

To those who are not enjoying good health at the time of writing (we know of several neighbours/friends who are recovering after illnesses) we wish you a speedy recovery.

To Margaret and Colin who recently celebrated their 65th (Sapphire) wedding anniversary, many congratulations. To top this incredible achievement, they both celebrate their 90th birthdays soon. We wish you both a happy, healthy day celebrating your respective birthdays.

Two long-standing residents have moved away from the parish and we wish you both much happiness in your new homes. Margaret from Parkhouse Water and Kay from Emmerford have both chosen Bampton (not too far away and close enough to come back for Lunch Club and the like) and we send many happy wishes as you settle in. To anyone else we don't know about (whether you are moving in or out, we send best wishes.

Flower Rota

June 28/July 5

July 12/29

July 26/Aug 2

Aug 9/16

Aug 23/30

Sept 6/13

Anne Moore

Allison Trout

Sylvia Balment

Jeanne Jones

Annabel Taylor-Ross

Anne Boundy

month. The birthstone for July is a Ruby which symbolizes contentment and its flower is the Larkspur and Water Lily. There are several special days in this month.

USA Independence Day on the 4th.

World Chocolate Day on the 7th

France – Bastille Day on the 14th

Nelson Mandela Independence Day on the 18th

USA Ice cream month – I like this one!

AUGUST was named after Roman Emperor Augustus; it's birthstone is a peridot and flowers gladiolus and poppy meaning beauty and strength of character, love, marriage and family.

1st Lammas Day when bread made from the new corn was blessed

6th is Hiroshima Day – Peace and anti-war awareness

12th International Youth Day.

I also hope we remember in August all our young people who have completed their exams and are thinking of the next step in their lives.

We had over 50 to our Community Lunch on Tuesday 14th April. It is great to see the hall buzzing, with the chatter of our community getting together to enjoy a few hours together. The charity raffle this time was for the Devon Air Ambulance which made £140. Thank you to everyone who brought the lovely desserts, we always get such a choice it's difficult to decide which to have! Thanks also to the hall committee who provided the main course. Thanks also to those who helped get the hall ready and tables laid, and to those who helped put everything away. It's a great team, working together!

On Saturday 25 May we held a Spring Fayre, which combined with a plant sale. We had a line of tables nearly the length of the hall full of plants. Well done everyone who grew and provided plants to sell, I think that Margaret actually had some space in her greenhouse after the event! There were also various stalls

WITHLEIGH

As I sit to write an article for the next couple of months, I wonder where summer has gone with the winds and rain we are having now, so I thought I would give you a few interesting and silly facts about the next two months. JULY was named after Julius Caesar his birth



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PARISH ROUND UP

including cakes, bring & buy, raffle, with refreshments being served from the kitchen. Thank you to Sara for organising the event and to everyone who helped, as usual there are too many to start naming you all. We made the grand sum of £950 which will go to helping pay the bills for St Catherine's.

It's lovely to see Elizabeth back on her feet after her hip operation. We can only hope and pray that those who are also waiting for an operation don't have to wait too long and that their operations are successful.

Congratulations to Nigel & Brenda on the birth of another grandchild, grandson Isaac Lloyd. Also congratulations to Coiln & Helen, the proud parents and to sister Imogen. We send our love and best wishes to you all.

The Village Hall AGM was on Tuesday 26 May. This was well attended by the hall Trustees, committee members and members from the community. Duncan thanked everyone for all that they had done to for the community and the hall. It is very much a community hall with some lovely friendly events happening throughout the year. Kevin was also thanked for keeping the outside of the hall tidy and the grass cut. The committee and the officers all agreed to continue in their various jobs, thank you one and all.

At the Village Hall AGM we were asked if we could arrange a Village BBQ, it was agreed to hold this on Sunday 12 July from 5pm onwards. Look out for more details on the Village WhatsApp group. Or you could call Sara 01884 252949 or Brenda 01884 252431.

We are so blessed in Witleigh with several different people willing to take

a role in our lay-led services. Thank you everyone! You will find the list of services in the centre pages of this magazine. Just to remind you that for our service on Sunday 19 July, a representative from The Mid-Devon Messenger will be speaking to us about their work. This is our nominated charity for 2026 and was chosen in memory of Harry. There will be a retiring collection for The Messenger.

Our usual Bingo's in the Village Hall are on Thursday 2 July and Thursday 6 August, eyes down at 7.30pm.

This year's Summer Fête will be on Saturday 18 July, in the Village Hall 12 noon to 3pm. We have various stalls for you to buy yourself a treat, or you may choose to have some fun with the games we have. The stalls include tombola, books, cakes, plants, preserves, Bric a Brac, games, raffle, refreshments, ice-creams and probably some that I have forgotten.

With this magazine Witleigh parishioners should have a schedule of classes for this year's Garden & Produce Show. The show will take place on Saturday 15 August, in the Village Hall. Entries need to be staged between 3pm and 4pm. Doors open for anyone to come and see the vegetables, flowers, crafts, cookery and the inspiring children's entries at 7.30pm, after the judging has taken place.

Please do join us for a Cream Tea on Saturday 22 August from 3pm onwards. Proceeds will go to the Churchyard Fund for the upkeep of our churchyard.

Dates for your diary;
Thursday 2 July, Bingo in the Hall, Eyes Down @ 7.30pm.

Sunday 12 July, Village BBQ, around the Hall, from 5pm onwards.

Saturday 18 July, Summer Fete, in the Hall, 12 noon to 3pm.

Thursday 6 August, Bingo in the Hall, Eyes Down @ 7.30pm.

Saturday 15 August, Garden & Produce Show, doors open @ 7.30pm.

Saturday 22 August, Cream Tea in the Hall from 3pm onwards.

We would also like to extend a welcome to the new residents of "Sawyers" and "Uptop" and to send best wishes to Sandy and Cliff on their move to near Crediton.

WOW

"Since I last wrote we have had two gathering of the WOW ladies. In April we discussed the making of a WOW Cook Book and favourite recipes were gathered and discussed. These have since been made into a booklet which will be launched later in the year. Watch this space! In April, Fiona Bladon spoke to us about the charity, Unite Carers. She explained in a very informative and often amusing way as to how they support carers and gave us an insight into dementia and told us of their future plans for the charity. To contact us ring Susie on 258492.

Flower Rota

5,12,19 July	Christine Luxton
26 July, 2, 9 August	Daphne Chown
16,23 August	Sara Kittow
30 Aug, 6 Sept	Steph Gordon-Jeffs





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