

JULY / AUGUST 2025

Price £1.00

GOOD NEWS!

Recently, Sue and I had the joy of attending a concert given by our son, Tim and a good friend of his, James Lascelles, along with four very talented Indian musicians.

Tim and James had spent three weeks on tour in India making music and recording and now it was time for the Indian musicians to come to England and make music together here.

It was a fabulous evening – a fusion of Western and Indian music with Indian drums and Indian instruments combined with keyboards, mandolins, saxophone and violin.

At the end of this joyous occasion some friends remarked as they were leaving that it was brilliant seeing different cultures and religions working together with such enjoyment! Proof that there can be harmony among the nations in our troubled world.

Totally different musical traditions and different languages were coming together in one place and at the same time.

We have recently, in the Church's year, celebrated Pentecost.

The disciples of Jesus had just had the Holy Spirit poured upon them and they went out to tell the people



in Jerusalem about the Good News of Jesus' love for them.

There were in the city hundreds of people from different countries (Luke in his writing mentions at least twelve languages) and yet the disciples were able to communicate their message in those different languages.

Talk about simultaneous translation, it must have been amazing to have heard it!

The wonderful thing was that the message – the Gospel – was available to all, from wherever they

originated. And of course that is equally true today. There can be unity in diversity and that same Gospel (good news) is available for each one of us now.

Andrew Herniman

Our Rector, Steph Gordon-Jeffs is still in hospital in Plymouth recovering from major surgery. She is in good spirits and would like to thank everyone for their prayers and messages. Please continue to pray for Steph and her family, thank you.

Dawn

**Copy Deadline for
September / October 2025 issue**

Monday 11 August 2025

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WHAT'S ON

NATURE NOTES

I have been struggling with "writer's block". Blank mind, unused pencil and an equally blank computer screen. Various ideas have come and gone without so much as a whisper of enthusiasm. I was thinking too narrowly. I needed to broaden my outlook. Nature is world-wide.

Being a farmer's daughter, I grew up surrounded by animals – Jersey cows, Suffolk x Border Leicester sheep and Large White pigs – but there were also the ones we grumbled about. The blind moles with vicious tiny white teeth and soft velvet grey fur warming a sausage body with pink paws and strong claws which should have belonged to a much bigger creature. Minding its own business, busily digging tunnels underground, a mole would cause my Father "a furry fury" when he found heaped mounds of soil in the pasture or on the lawn.

Rabbits provoked a similar tantrum, when their burrows destroyed the hedgerows or they nibbled on newly-planted trees or invaded the vegetable garden. As soon as they caught a whiff of a human, nose and ears would twitch and away they would scamper, white scut disappearing into the hedge, while we surveyed the evidence of their visit.

Rats were unspeakably unpleasant residents. Sly and bold with no endearing characteristics, they would eat anything and chew everything.

There were also the beautiful and welcome creatures, like the swallows, filling the air with their joyful twittering and graceful flight. We heard the hoot of hunting owls, while hedgehogs cleared the garden of slugs and snails. When they crept off to a cosy nest of dried grass and crisp, curling leaves in a corner of the woodshed, the dawn chorus began. The glorious wake-up call of blackbirds, thrushes, blue tits, robins, wrens, goldcrest, nuthatch, woodpecker, wood pigeon and sparrows waking the world with their warbling, whistling, chirping and chattering.

Like chubby-cheeked, grubby-kneed schoolboys, the sparrows hop-scotched amongst the rustling leaves under the holly hedge. In the fairy's place on the old Christmas tree, a robin perched, red chest puffed out like a

tenor as he poured forth another aria. The bullies – the raucous rooks and sharp-eyed magpies, would sneak to the bird table to steal breakfast, sending the little birds scattering in panic.

I moved from Warwickshire to Devon, with Exmoor and Dartmoor nearby, with the wild ponies, badgers, foxes, deer, bats and buzzards and the creatures of the rivers – otters, voles and kingfishers. We delighted in the wildlife of the hills and valleys, and the butterflies and birds which visited our garden.

Warwickshire to Devon was not so far, but from Devon to Borneo was a little different. Borneo – magical, mysterious, far-away island. Land of sunshine and rain, home to precious rainforest and an amazing diversity of wildlife and many different tribes people, all with their own traditions, culture and language.

I read of a tribe who were head-hunters, of ladies whose ears were stretched to their shoulders, of semi-naked people whose bodies were painted with black patterns and who roamed the forest. Animals that looked like orange-haired men, spiders as big as your hand and snakes so big they could eat a full-grown man.

The reality was as amazing as the stories we had read. The first creatures we encountered were geckos. They live everywhere: in trees, rocky outcrops, rotting vegetation, the beach edge and in houses, hotels, shops, offices, huts, garden sheds and longhouses. Homes with geckos rarely suffer with mosquitoes, flies or spiders, so it is really a choice of which you prefer.

Geckos (or chit-chats) are small lizards that, depending on type, can range from 8.5 to 35 cms in length, including tail, when they are fully grown. They have splendid names such as the Smooth-backed Gliding Gecko, which has skin fringes to help it glide away from danger. There is also the Cardamom Slender-toed Gecko and the Wandering Round-eyed Gecko. For such small creatures they are extremely noisy—especially at night. Their startling cry of chit-chit-chat often wakens one from dreams—they are so loud they can be heard calling from neighbouring houses, so there is no point in trying to locate the offender and evict it.

Geckos have a remarkable ability to "lose" their tails if in danger of being

caught, or eaten. My husband picked his shorts off the dressing table where he had thrown them the previous evening. As he put them on, a gecko scabbled down his leg, dropped to the ground and scuttled away to safety—tail-less. Its tail was left, wriggling madly, caught up in the hairs on his leg. Everyone had horror stories about geckos: finding them in one's bed or undies drawer; falling from the ceiling and landing on your head, or in the dinner; standing on one accidentally with bare feet, or unpacking them along with the contents of a suitcase; taking off your boots and finding a squashed gecko in your crumpled socks. . . the list was endless.

I lay enjoying a soak in the bath when I felt something moving in my hair. I thought it was the shampoo bubbles popping, until a slight splash next to my shoulder made me turn my head. A small Flat-tailed Gecko was doing doggy paddle.

We checked the kettle every morning for the presence of wildlife. I was about to boil the kettle one morning when I heard a splashing sound. Upon investigation, I found a chit-chat swimming inside. I was lucky. A friend only realized a chit-chat had been swimming in her kettle when she emptied the last few drops of water and out fell a decomposing chit-chat which had obviously drowned there several days previously.

They are interesting little creatures. Depending on their type, their colours vary from pink and orange to black to mottled patterns or stripes of browns, greens and yellows. At night, when chit-chats do most of their hunting, they sit near the lights, darting out suddenly to catch unwary flies and insects. Their suckered toes and fingers allow them to walk vertically and upside down, even on glass. The eggs are tiny, off-white and appear in strange places. Sometimes, they have fallen and smashed on the floor with the little one inside. Ants rapidly move in to carry the feast away. Often, chit-chats are squashed in door frames, and it is incredible to watch an army of industrious ants carrying the flattened, dead lizard up walls and across the ceiling to their nest.

Industrious Ants. There are 12,000 ant species worldwide. But perhaps I better save ant stories for another day.

Fiona Bladon

Parish Diary

JULY

- 2 St Peter's Oakford Books, Coffee & Chat 10.30am
- 3 Withleigh Bingo eyes down at 7.30pm
- 5 Washfield Fete at 2.30pm
- 5 Rackenford Village Day
- 6 Calverleigh Village Hall Afternoon Tea 2.30pm
- 6 Oakford Village Hall Silverstone Grand Prix on the big screen from 1.30pm
- 8 Moorland Ladies Plant sale & afternoon tea at Oakford Village Hall 2.30pm
- 8 Washfield teatime@the hall 3-4.30pm
- 10 Exe Valley Community Lunch at Calverleigh Court 12.30pm
- 12 Ploughman's Lunch at Loxbeare Village Hall 12.30pm-2.00pm
- 12 Oakford Village Fete 2.00pm
- 19 Withleigh Village Fete 12-3.00pm
- 20 Calverleigh Open Air Service at 3.00pm
- 20 Red Lion Quiz Oakford at 8.00pm
- 24 Oakford Village Hall AGM at 7.00pm
- 26 Mid Devon Show at Knightshayes

AUGUST

- 2 Stoodleigh Village Hall Coffee Morning 10.30am
- 3 Friends of St Catherine's lunch at Nomansland
- 3 Croquet at The Manor Oakford from 1.00pm
- 5 St Peter's Oakford Books, Coffee & Chat 10.30am
- 7 Withleigh Bingo eyes down 7.30pm
- 8 Loxbeare Cream Tea at 3.00pm
- 9 Oakford & District Flower and Produce Show at Village Hall at 2.00pm
- 9 Templeton Summer Fete at 1.30pm
- 9 Cruwys Morchard Annual Flower Show
- 12 Exe Valley Mission Community Lunch at North Esworthy Farm 12.30pm
- 12 Washfield teatime@thehall 3-4.30pm
- 14 Exe Valley Community Lunch at North Esworthy, Oakford at 12.30pm
- 17 Red Lion Quiz Oakford at 8.00pm
- 23 Calverleigh Produce Show at 2.30pm
- 23 Stoodleigh Annual Show at 2.00pm
- 30 Withleigh Cream Tea 3-5pm
- 31 Rackenford Tennis Tournament at The Manor



Exe Valley Lunches

12.30pm - 2.30pm

Thursday 10th July - Calverleigh Court

Thursday 14th August - North Esworthy Farm, Oakford EX16 9HA

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

01884 250417



PARISH ROUND-UP

CALVERLEIGH

At the time of writing, we're having our first blast of Summer. By the time that you are reading this we will have passed the longest day and hopefully the Summer weather is continuing. Gardens are blooming, the bees are busy, crops look as though they are doing well, and fruit trees appear to be producing a good crop. The fields had a well needed good soaking mid-June so that should help our farmers and growers as well.

We send our very best wishes to Rev'd Steph for a good recovery and a return to better health. To anyone else who has been in hospital, waiting for or recovering from treatment at this time, we hope you will be feeling much better soon too. Our thoughts and especially our prayers are with you.

The funeral of Robert Butler took place on 11 April at Calverleigh, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends at this sad and difficult time. Our prayers are also with all those who have lost a loved one either recently or longer ago, remembering the Pilkington family on the loss of Rupert. If you'd like prayer for anything, whether publicly or privately, do contact our PCC - or put a note in the prayer box in the church. Our APCM was held after the service on 13 April where Rev'd Steph chaired the meeting. Mr A Goldsworthy and Miss J Herniman were nominated and returned as Churchwardens for another year. We are extremely grateful for all they have done through the past year to help keep St. Mary's available for services and visitors alike. J Herniman also continues as Treasurer and J

Goldsworthy as PCC Secretary and Safeguarding Officer. Members of the PCC are D Burton, P & M Furneaux, S Goldsworthy, L Thomas, J Goldsworthy. S Greenslade decided in February that she would like to step down from the PCC and thanks were given to her at the APCM for all she had contributed to the PCC, church life and fundraising over many, many years. We would like to thank you once again and we look forward to your continued support at church events. A Goldsworthy is the Deanery Synod Rep. Rev'd Steph gave thanks to all, which also includes everyone on cleaning, flower and mowing rotas, for all that they give of time and energy towards the running of the church.

During Holy week a number of activities and services were available around the Mission Community; Agape was at Cruwys Morchard where we heard the stories of some of the women who were witnesses of the final week of Jesus life. Very touching and thought provoking. Thank you to the different villages who provided a lovely meal and thank you Steph for a well thought through service.

On Good Friday there was a reflection service at Templeton again giving plenty to think and pray about.

On Easter Saturday an Easter Vigil was held at Calverleigh church. This was the first time that we had held a service of this type, and it was very good. The service started outside beside a fire pit where words were said, and candles lit before making our way into the building to continue. During the service Rev'd Tim sprinkled water over the congregation, as a renewal of baptism vows, using Rosemary. Thank you, Tim we didn't really know what to expect but it was a lovely service.

Easter Sunday saw a large congregation come together to celebrate our Risen Lord at a Family Easter service, led by Tasha and Nikki. During the service the children were invited to come forward to don unusual glasses that gave the ability to see something around the church that the rest of the congregation couldn't. They saw 'stars, hearts and rainbows' which contributed to the theme of the service 'Do you see what I see?'. Three children took in turns to bring the Easter Sunday reading to us. Well done to Francis, Lauchlan and Tilly. At the end of the service all children were treated to an egg hunt along the church paths and there was a little chocolate treat for the adults as well. Thank you, Nik and Tash, for a lovely service.

During Lent a sizeable collection of tinned and dried goods along with toiletries was made for CHAT and delivered to their office just after Easter. Thank you to all who donated. We will be collecting again leading up to our harvest celebrations.

Saturday 3 May was our Annual Day of Prayer from 9am - 9pm. Over 30 people took part with half hour prayer slots throughout the 12 hours. We are extremely grateful to all who took part in what has become an important day in our church year along with our two-hour prayer time on the first Saturday of each month.

A coffee morning was held on 10 May to raise money towards the Restore the Floor fund. A huge thank you to all who attended and helped to raise £385.00. Thank you also to all who helped in any way to set up, provide cakes, bring and buy items, give

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PARISH ROUND-UP

donations, serve the refreshments and pack away.

On 1 June we welcomed Woody, family and friends to St Mary's for his baptism and the beginning of his faith journey. Rev'd Steph brought a 'friend', in the form of Bluey to the service and gave a talk about family life in the Bluey household. It was quite surprising how many adults also knew about the antics of this well loved and very entertaining cartoon canine family.

To all those children who are leaving primary/secondary school or further education, we wish you well for the future and hope that you have a safe and fun summer break as the end of the school year approaches. For those of you who work in any way in education we wish you a restful, relaxing time to re-charge your batteries.

Many happy returns to those who have celebrated a birthday recently and congratulations go to those who have been celebrating a birth in the family or special anniversary. Please get in contact with Dave Burton if you would like to share any news with the parish or advertise an event, or to add a birthday or anniversary message.

Forthcoming Events

On Sunday 6 July there will be an Afternoon Tea at the village hall from 2.30pm - 5.30pm with a Bring and Share tea and fun for all the family. All welcome.

On 20 July we will be holding our Open-air service, hopefully in the churchyard, which will begin at 3.00pm. This is a change to the date stated in the last edition. If the weather is unkind to us, we will be inside. All are welcome to come and join us. Chairs are provided for outside but if you prefer you can bring your own. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

The annual Calverleigh Produce Show: We would just like to remind you that schedules are available online or from Paul and Maureen (07967 989724), entries need to be in by Friday 8 August, and on the day (Saturday 23 Aug) all exhibits need to be in place by 11am. 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.

More Dates for your diary:

Harvest Thanksgiving: Saturday 20 - Sunday 21 Sept

Autumn Fayre: Saturday 15 Nov, 10.30am - 2.00pm

Church cleaning rota:

30 Jun - 12 Jul:	Mrs M Furneaux
14 Jul - 26 Jul:	Mrs A Balsdon
28 Jul - 9 Aug:	Miss S Goldsworthy
11 Aug - 23 Aug:	Mrs N Burton
25 Aug - 6 Sep:	Mrs A Webber
8 Sep - 20 Sep:	Mrs J Goldsworthy

Flower rota

30 Jun - 6 Jul:	Mrs M Furneaux
13 Jul - 20 Jul:	Mrs S Greenslade
27 Jul - 3 Aug:	Mrs A Turner
10 Aug - 17 Aug:	Mrs N Burton
24 Aug - 24 Aug:	Mrs A Webber

Mowing rota

30 Jun - 12 Jul:	The Heathcoat-Amory Family
14 Jul - 26 Jul:	Mr D White
28 Jul - 9 Aug:	Mr A Goldsworthy
11 Aug - 23 Aug:	Mr K & Mrs C Hayes
25 Aug - 6 Sep:	Mr A Hancock
8 Sep - 20 Sep:	Mr C Durnan

If you would like to be prayed for as part of our monthly prayer time (first Saturday of each month) or during a service please contact Julie by email at thegoldsworthys@yahoo.co.uk or on 01884 255248. Dave is always ready to receive any news under Calverleigh

whether it be a celebration, an upcoming event or news of interest to the community. Email Calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org.

CRUWYS MORCHARD

Church of the Holy Cross

Throughout spring and early summer, the wildflowers in our churchyard have been beautiful. Now mowing has begun and we thank all who give their time to keeping 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.

We are saddened to hear that Steph is unwell and keep her and her family in our thoughts and prayers. We also pray for a speedy recovery and send best wishes to all that are unwell, have been in hospital, are awaiting treatment, recovering from surgery or having a tough time at present.

Thank you one and all for joining us at our Summer Fete. Even the changeable weather couldn't dampen our spirits, and much fun was had by all. Many thanks to everyone who gave generously of their time and contributions for the various stalls. We couldn't do it without you! We raised £1060.55 for church funds.

This year's Harvest Festival Service, sports and tea will be held on Saturday 27th September, at 2:15 pm. More details to follow in the next issue.

Flower and Cleaning Rota

June 30 & July 7	Marilyn Hill
July 14 & 21	Diana Vincent & Val Randerson

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PARISH ROUND-UP

July 28 & Aug 4 Anne Gillbard
 Aug 11 & 18 Sarah Cruwys
 Aug 25 & Sept 1 Cindy Trick

Our thoughts and prayers are with those grieving the loss of a loved one at this time. We send our deepest sympathy to Val and her family and friends as they mourn the loss of Rod Randerson.

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

Exam Period

Congratulations to all, you have made it! We hope that all has gone well and wish you the very best for your results and future endeavours. Have a lovely, relaxed summer holiday.

Beer and Boogie

Date for your diary. The Black Dog Boogie Band shall be back this year on Saturday 13 September at the Parish Hall. More details to follow in the next issue.

Big Breakfast

Thank you to all who supported our Big Breakfast. We raised £521.00 for Parish Hall funds.

Yoga at the Parish Hall

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

Cruwys Morchard Flower Show

The annual flower show is taking place on Saturday 9 August. Please take a look through the schedule. We still have some 'grow on plug plants' available. Entries need to in by 26 July, these can be emailed to tracey.gillbard@gmail.com or dropped off at 8 Moor View or at the Social Evening on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. For more

information contact me at the above email address or on 07871 300783.

Cruwys Morchard YFC

Thank you to all who attended our Bingo and Tractor Run in June. These are enjoyable events for our club, and we greatly appreciate everyone's support. We continue to raise money by collecting aluminium drinks cans. So please let us have yours! If you have cans that we can collect please contact Ali Vincent, 07801 480806.

Members were kept busy with the Devon County Show. Well done to everyone who entered classes. Congratulations to the club for 12th place with the Cubicle and collective exhibits, to Evie Rice for her 1st place in Junket Making, and to Star Baker Harry Cole.

Looking ahead there is the Mid Devon Show, Saturday 26 July, for which the members will be busy making entries and then competing on the day within a series of events. In August, we have the much anticipated South West Area YFC Junior Activities weekend. Wishing you all lots of fun and an amazing summer. This is only a snapshot of what we've been doing and there is so much more to come! If any of this sounds tempting, please come along and join us. We hold our monthly meetings at Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm. Club email, cruwysm.yfc@gmail.com

Cruwys Social Evening

On the second and fourth Wednesday of every month there is a social evening at the Parish Hall from 6pm to 10pm. Come and join your neighbours for a chat and a drink and perhaps partake of the quiz that runs between 7.30pm and 9pm. All welcome! For more information, please contact Ali Vincent, 07801 480806.

Congregational Churches

Please join us for:

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

Sunday services

2.30pm Nomansland chapel *

4.30pm Pennymoor chapel *

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

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

Magazine Contact

If you would like something included in the Cruwys Morchard parish round-up, please contact Ali Vincent on 07801 480806

alisonpvincent@hotmail.co.uk

LOXBEARE

At the time of writing these notes, our

Rector, Steph, is currently in hospital awaiting surgery. Our love and thoughts are with her and her family and we are praying for a speedy recovery.

It was a joy to welcome Pretoria Lara into the church family at her baptism and a delight to welcome so many families and young children, as well as our friends from Calverleigh and Washfield, at our cluster service in May.

We were sad to hear the news of the passing of Libby Ford, who lived for many years with her husband Peter in Loxbeare, before moving to Bampton a few years ago. They were both much loved members of Loxbeare church and community.

We send our deepest sympathy to David and all the family on the sad news of the passing of Les Tidball, who

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PARISH ROUND-UP

had lived and farmed in Loxbeare all of his life and will be very much missed.

Our thoughts are with young people who have taken exams this summer and will be awaiting results-an anxious time for them.

Congratulations to all who have celebrated special milestones recently: birthdays anniversaries and marriages.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are unwell at this time and for those who care for them and support them. If you would like the church family to pray for anything, there is a prayer request box on the table in the church where you can place a written request. Also, there is a network of people who pray via a prayer chain in the Exe Valley Mission Community, which can be accessed by telephoning the church office on 01884 250417 to request prayer. Both the prayer request box and the prayer chain can be anonymous, if preferred, and are completely confidential.

Community events in the village hall:
The Cream Tea held in April raised £116 for Hospicecare and the Ploughman's Lunch held in May raised £145 for the British Heart Foundation. There will be a Ploughman's Lunch on 12 July from 12.30-2.00pm and any monies raised will be donated to Help the Heroes.
On 8 August there will be a Cream Tea from 3.00-4.30pm and monies raised at this event will be given to Multiple Sclerosis.

A huge 'thank you' to Ruth for her dedication and faithfulness in writing the notes for the Today magazine for many years; it has been very much appreciated.

St Bartholomew's Day 24th August.

"All the tears St Swithin can cry,
St Bartlemy's mantle wipes them dry".

In the past month the weather has been kind to us, lots of sunshine and some rain to help farmers and gardeners. Grass is being cut for silage, sheep are being shorn and gardens are beginning to look full of colour. - here comes summer 2025.

Services at St Peter's in May and June have been varied, led by Rev'd Tim Gorrington, Dawn with her music box and Wendy who gave a very interesting service despite being challenged by no available music and the church resembling a builders yard due to all the restoration work being carried out. Thank you.

St Peter's bells have now been removed from the tower and are at the foundry where they will be refurbished and retuned. The old wooden bell frame has been taken down and a new steel frame will be put in its place. The floors in the tower and the back area of the church have been dug up revealing some interesting facts from the past. New pipe work and floors will be put in place to facilitate a WC. A photographic record is being made and will be available for anyone who is interested, to see when things return to normal.

Several events were held and enjoyed in May and June.

The Moorland Club held a tea party, with the members wearing red, white and blue in remembrance of VE day, followed by a sale of plants from member's gardens and greenhouses. Thanks to the committee members for arranging the afternoon and for the delicious tea.

The June meeting involved a car treasure hunt followed by a bring and share supper. This was a great fun evening with 23 people taking part. Thanks to Chris and Kelvin for organising the event which took the teams through glorious Devon countryside and villages before returning us to Oakford's village hall for a delicious supper. Well done everyone.

The winning team was 'Lou's Ladies', but they generously shared their chocolate prize with us all.

The June Books and Chat group meeting was postponed due to the extensive and very dusty work being carried out in the church. Hopefully we can meet as usual in July - Wednesday 2nd July.

Events were shown on the big screen in the village hall, with more to look forward to in July.

The Parish meeting took place in the hall with representatives of village organisations giving reports, The new Parish Council Chairman James Levick was introduced.

There is now a new defibrillator in the old 'phone box.

Dates for your diaries.

2nd July - Books and Chat coffee meeting, 10.00am at St Peter's

6th July - On the big Screen - F1 Silverstone Grand Prix. Doors open 1.30pm. Lights out at 3.00pm for the race. Licensed bar, and food available. Prizes for race predictions and Quiz.

10th July Moorland Club BBQ - 5.00pm. at Louise's. Members please bring own crockery, cutlery and glassware.

12th July - The Village Fete at the Community Playground 2.00pm

Top of the Bill is a display by Tiverton Town Majorettes, plus a chance to learn how to 'twirl' a baton. There will be an extended set of games for young and old to join in, including a tug o' war, races and of course egg throwing. Crockery smashing, hook a duck, petanque and other games. A beer tent, BBQ and teas to keep you going. A fun afternoon, do come along. Free entry and parking.

What's not to like.

24th July Oakford Village Hall AGM at 7.00pm. Come along and hear what we have been up to and let us know how you think the hall could develop in the future. Share a drink with us to

OAKFORD

This edition of Today magazine begins with two Saints day weather predictions

St Swithins Day - 15th July .
"St Swithins day, if it do rain
For forty days it will remain.
St Swithins day an it be fair
For forty days twill rain no more".

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PARISH ROUND-UP

welcome new committee members and say goodbye to others.

3rd August Croquet at The Manor - 1.00pm - 5.00pm. Entry with tea/coffee and cake and a glass of fizz - £5 Competition entry £10 per player. Beer and BBQ and the chance to win a Magnum of Champagne. To support St Peter's Tower restoration.

7th August - Moorland Club meeting - 7.00pm at the Village Hall. A presentation by North Devon Hospice.

9th August Oakford and District Flower and Produce Show 2.00pm at the Village Hall. Schedules and entry forms are available from 3, Manor Cottages Oakford, the old telephone box in Oakford, the Village Hall, The Red Lion, The Church, or from Chris Holdom - 01398 332039.

Lots of categories to enter, including photography, cookery and handicrafts. Pick up a schedule and have a go!. If you want to know more please phone Chris on the number above.

A useful gardening tip from Oakford's Jenny Bee. - Plant Basil among your tomatoes to deter pests.

Books and Chat Group meet on 1st Wednesday each month 10am in St Peter's. Come along for coffee and biscuits and friendship. Contact Patsy - 01398 674094 or Theresa 07866 894198

Poppycraft Group meet on Tuesday evenings at 7.00pm at present at Bluehayes, Oakford. Contact Julia - 07917 770075 Pilates held on Monday mornings 10.00am in Oakford Village Hall. If you are interested contact Nancy@edgemoorpilates.co.uk

Our thoughts and prayers are with anyone in the parish who is ill or feeling

down at home or in hospital. Especially prayers for Brenda and Bun. Please pray for Steph and her family as we wait to hear of her treatment plan.

Happy greetings to those with birthdays and anniversaries in July and August.

Thanks to the organisations that sent in news of events and a reminder to others that everyone in the parish receives copy of Today Magazine every 2 months, so it's a great way of advertising your events.

If any of the village organisations have news of events that they would like to share in the Today magazine, which reaches everyone in the Parish, please send copy to patsyphili@aol.com or tel: 01398 674094

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

RACKENFORD

We were lucky to have had such a lovely spring to enjoy and now into summer we hope to have more of the same.

In the last issue we mentioned the passing of Olive. Since then Olive's funeral has taken place where family and friends gathered to pay respects and support the family at this difficult time. She was laid to rest with her husband George. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. Rev'd Steph Gordon-Jeffs conducted the service.

Sadly we have heard of the death of others. Betty Highman who use to reside at Jubilee Cottage some years ago has passed away. Her funeral and internment with her late husband was

held at our church in May. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family and friends.

More sad news followed when we heard of the death of Carolyn. Some will remember her from years ago when she lived with her parents and siblings at Bulworthy. She was a sister to Christine, Rick and late brother Simon. Later in life she was living with her brother Rick at Tiverton. Her funeral service and burial took place at Great Bradley Natural Burial Ground on 28 May. A large gathering joined together to support family at this difficult time. We remember you all with our love and deepest sympathy.

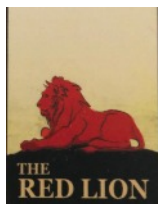
Sadly we hear that Phil Hall who lived in our village has passed away. We send our deepest sympathy to his daughter Stephanie (Steph) and all his family and friends. You are very much in our thoughts at this difficult time.

On a happier note our Easter Praise Lay Led Service was taken by Liz and Mary. We were delighted to welcome a good congregation who sang so heartily and all the better to hear plenty of male voices. Thank you to all readers of lessons and prayers which contributed to a very enjoyable service. Easter Eggs were offered to everyone as they left. Thank you to those provided flowers and foliage for decorating and to the ladies who decorated. The wonder of nature giving a mixture of beautiful colours. Joan's vases were used for the first time on the altar with a beautiful display of flowers.

There was excitement on the common as the children enjoyed another easter egg hunt and no doubt enjoyed eating what they found.

On Easter Monday (April 21) the death of Pope Francis was announced at the

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6 JULY

3rd Sunday after Trinity
(Green)

Growing community

Galatians 6: (1-6), 7-16
Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

9.15am 'Explore'
Tash & Nik

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Praise

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise
David Edwards

OAKFORD

See Stoodleigh

RACKENFORD

See Stoodleigh

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Holy Communion

Tim Gorringe

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

6.00pm Evening Prayer

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Family Service

13 JULY

4th Sunday after Trinity
(Green)

Encouraging words

Colossians 1: 1-14
Luke 10: 25-37

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Holy Communion

Tim Gorringe

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Family Service

LOXBEARE

No Service

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

9.15am 'Explore'
with Nik, Tash & David Edwards

STOODLEIGH

10.00am Reflective Service
with breakfast

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

See Calverleigh

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

20 JULY

5th Sunday after Trinity
(Green)

Seeing the invisible God

Colossians 1: 15-28
Luke 10: 38-42

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

3.00pm Open Air Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Withleigh

LOXBEARE

10.45am Songs of Praise

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise
with Baptism
Christopher Rowley

RACKENFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

TEMPLETON

See Withleigh

WASHFIELD

10.45am Family Service

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Holy Communion

Tim Gorringe

27 JULY

6th Sunday after Trinity
(Green)

What really matters

Colossians 2: 6-15, (16-19)
Luke 11: 1-13

9.30am Zoom Service

OUR MISSION COMMUNITY HOLY COMMUNION GROUP SERVICE

is at

10.45am in

WITHLEIGH

with

Georgie Bell and

David Edwards

Baptism and Confirmation

We have had a wonderful number of Baptisms booked in this year. What a joy it is to welcome so many families into our churches.

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

Maybe you have been baptised but never confirmed.

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

Bible Study Group

Looking at Galatians

The next meeting will be held at The Cottage, Washfield

Monday July 7th 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

3 AUGUST

7th Sunday after Trinity
(Green)

A new focus

Colossians 3: 1-11
Luke 12: 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
Georgie Bell

RACKENFORD

See Oakford

STOODLEIGH

See Oakford

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

6.00pm Evening Prayer

WITHLEIGH

9.30am Family Service

10 AUGUST

8th Sunday after Trinity
(Green)

Keep going in faith

Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16
Luke 12: 32-40

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

See Loxbeare

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Family Service

LOXBEARE

10.45am Holy Communion
Tim Gorringe

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise
with Baptism
Georgie Bell & David Edwards

RACKENFORD

No Service

STOODLEIGH

10.00am Reflective service
with breakfast

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

See Loxbeare

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

17 AUGUST

9th Sunday after Trinity
(Green)

Who's running with you?

Hebrews 11: 29-12: 2
Luke 12: 49-56

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.00am 'Explore and more'
with Nik, Tash &
David Edwards

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Holy Communion
Tim Gorringe

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

TEMPLETON

See Cruwys Morchard

WASHFIELD

10.45am Family Service

WITHLEIGH

See Cruwys Morchard

24 AUGUST

10th Sunday after Trinity
(Green)

Awesome!

Hebrews 12: 18-29
Luke 13: 10-17

9.30am Zoom Service

**OUR MISSION
COMMUNITY
HOLY COMMUNION
GROUP SERVICE**

**is at
CALVERLEIGH
at
10.45am
with
Tim Gorringe**

31 AUGUST

11th Sunday after Trinity

**Our 5th Sunday Special
Service
is at
RACKENFORD**

**at
10.45am
with Guest Speaker
Ron Cross (Open Doors)**
Georgie Bell and David
Edwards

Everyone is welcome

31 AUGUST

9.30am

WITHLEIGH VILLAGE HALL
'Poems, prayer and praise'

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

PRAYER CHAIN

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

PARISH ROUND-UP

age of 88 years. His funeral was held on April 26, he was buried at Santa Maria Maggiore. The new Pope Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost aged 69, was announced on May 9. He will be known as Pope Leo XIV.

If you see our Children's Explore Service advertised in our magazine (second Sunday in the month) come along and take part, this service is for you to enjoy and take part in . refreshments are available before the service begins at 9.15am

Rackenfords Gardening Club held a plant sale on May 31 by the tennis court ,any plants remaining were taken to Bradford Tracy House open gardens which was held on May 31 / June 1. A stroll around the garden also enjoying tea and delicious home made cakes completed a lovely afternoon out. Many thanks to Liz and Mike.

Thank you to our kind volunteer David who continues to cut paths and certain areas of our churchyard for us all.

Thanks also to Glenn for keeping our clock ticking, other jobs he notices and our flag in position at certain times.

Our water butt was also in need of attention and an overdue clean, thanks to Liz and Tim for coming to the rescue taking it home, hosing it out and putting back in position in a much better condition with fresh water for flowers only of course.

A very warm welcome to Bruce and Rhona and family who have now made their home at South View. We hope you will enjoy living in our village and hope to meet you at our coming functions maybe.

On July 5 Rackenfords Common will be the venue for Village Day. We look forward to a good gathering to enjoy the day together with many stalls etc to view. Rackenfords PCC will welcome you to our area for your tea/coffee and

a wide range of delicious home made cakes on offer. Come along and treat yourselves.

We are so grateful to RAETT (tennis tournament) for once again deciding on Rackenfords Church as your chosen charity. Many thanks to the committee and players. The final at Rackenfords Manor is a great treat and we look forward to attending on Sunday 31 August.

Our Sponsored Walk this year will be on Saturday 27 September. Organised again by Liz and Tim who always recce the route. Thank you to them for always giving this event so much thought and finding interesting walks. Hopefully good weather will accompany the walkers. Forms and details will be available nearer the time.

Another date for your diary is our Harvest Praise Lay Led Service with Liz and Mary, being held on Sunday 12 October. We look forward to welcoming you for this special service and raising the roof with your voices.

Thanks to Debbie we are being welcomed to Rackenfords Club for this years Harvest Supper. It helps so much to be able to take over the club for the day to prepare and then welcoming you all in the early evening. Tickets will be limited due to space and booking information will be announced nearer the time.

We continue to remember all those who suffer and struggle both mentally and physically and all those who are awaiting or receiving treatment - also the bereaved. Our prayers remain for Jacques. We are deeply saddened to hear that Rev'd Steph is poorly in hospital and send our love and prayers. You are very much in our thoughts Steph.

If you have anything you feel should be included in this magazine, please make a member of the PCC aware.

We continue to pray for our troubled world and PEACE .

STOODLEIGH

Report from St Margaret's

It is early June as I write this, our first summer month, with a full 'Strawberry' moon rising on June 10th/11th. Everything seems to be green and growing (including the Strawberries) and looking glorious in the beautiful Exe Valley.

Our churchyard is looking very smart as it has recently had new pathways laid, and the flagpole is being re-established late June. Our thanks to Julian Mansfield and Paul Hemingway for their work in liaising with the contractors as this has taken quite a while to sort out. There will be a new mechanism for raising and lowering the flag, and we have 2 volunteers (hooray!) willing to hoist the flag for display when required as this is wind and weather dependent

We thank all those involved in maintaining St Margaret's and it's grounds, from the bell ringers, grass maintenance (cutting and disposing of cut grass), flower ladies, cleaning, members of the PCC....and those taking services and supplying a much appreciated coffee at the end! All this help, makes our village church and grounds a welcoming place for visitors and local people to enjoy.

Our Reflective Services are now held at 10am rather than 9.30am.....giving people that extra half an hour to gather their thoughts on a Sunday. The services are informal and come with coffee, croissants and chat amongst a friendly group. Do come along if you

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PARISH ROUND-UP

would like, you will be made most welcome.

St Margaret's hosted the Group Ascension Day service on 29th May for the Exe Valley. This was well attended, and thought provoking. Lovely to see members from around the parishes joining us and enjoying a chat and refreshments afterwards.

Stoodleigh is also hosting the Exe Valley Lunch in June held at the Parish Hall. This is a lunch provided by volunteers for about 20 parishioners. They will be sitting down to homemade Stoodleigh Cottage Pie followed by Loxbeare Pudding. Yum!

We will be having a 'walk & lunch' fundraising event, held jointly with the Parish Hall, on Saturday October 18th. We do hope you can come and enjoy supporting this much needed fundraiser. More details will follow in the next Today newsletter.

Stoodleigh Church Flower Rota:

5 - 12 July	Phyllis Hill
10 - 26 July	Paula Hullett
16 - Aug. - 6 Sept.	Penny Norman

Garden Club

A date for your diary.... Saturday 23rd 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. 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 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 held a garden visit and cream tea at Shilhay, to celebrate two of our members' upcoming birthdays, when they will reach the great milestone of 90 years of age. We wish them well and hope they will continue to remain active members for some years to come.

Swap-Box

Stoodleigh Swap-Box has opened again this year after a major refurbishment. It 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 100 Club

Have you signed up for membership to the 100 Club 2025/26? only £15 for the year; a chance of winning one of the four prizes every month (£20, £10, and two £5's) and extra Christmas prizes; some community fun; profits to St Margaret's Church and Stoodleigh Parish Hall; There's still time to join for this year so please contact Geraldine with cash or cheque or for BACS details - geraldinetalbot@live.com or 01398 351391.

Recent winners:

April: Ann Smith, David Wotton, Trevor Cope and Elaine Morison

May: Heather Burmeister, Matt Hamidullah, David Webber and Alison Palfrey

June: Tim Herbert, June Jones, Shirley Cope and Becky Morton

Stoodleigh Parish Hall

Easter market was held on Easter Saturday with a cake stall, The garden club plant stall, Mike with his local honey, Eliza with her fantastic crochet items were a big hit, Roger with his adventures of Tupper the tractor, Geraldine with a chance to join the 100 club. It was a lovely morning despite foot fall being a little less than previous years. We raised £316 for hall funds. Thank you to all the helpers and stallholders and all of you that came along to make it a success.

Monthly coffee mornings are an opportunity for villagers to come along, have a cup of tea or coffee and have a chat. Cake is always available. This has proved to be a popular monthly event and it is so good to get out and talk to someone. So 1st Saturday of each month 10.30 to 12.00. Come along and join us.

Dates for future

Monthly coffee morning Saturday 2nd August, 6th September and 4th October 10.30 to 12.00 at the hall.

Autumn walk and lunch Saturday 18th October. Future details and booking from Linda 07818433046 email linda.brice21@yahoo.com

Autumn Market and coffee morning will now be 15th November from 10.30 to 2pm. Light lunch will be available as well as coffee and cake. Any businesses, crafters or stallholders wishing to book a table or need future details please contact Linda on 07818433046 or email linda.brice21@yahoo.com



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PARISH ROUND-UP

If you have news within Stoodleigh village that you would like to share in the Today magazine, please email Mandy Widdowson on mandy@exevalleyeggs.co.uk or telephone/text 07729 406646.

TEMPLETON

Templeton is a farming community. When we see the tractors busily going up and down the lanes, we must remember what they are doing and why. This is hard work in all weathers. There's an old saying that only once in your life should you need a doctor, a lawyer, a policeman, and of course, a preacher on Sundays, but every day, three times a day, you need a farmer.

St Margaret's Church and churchyard
The churchyard has recently undergone a big clear-up and harsh tree and hedge pruning over the past couple of months. Thank you, Reg and Don, for carrying out the major part of the work and thanks to everyone else who helped to clear the churchyard. Now the wild flowers are blooming and it looks stunning.

Many thanks to Bertie Dent who has been treating the wooden pews, tables and lectern within the church as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award. We are also very grateful to Marjorie and Eleri for playing the organ for our church services. Eleri has recently moved to Bampton and we wish her well in her new home.

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 Sunday 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 Church Meeting: On Sunday May 4th after the service, there was Templeton's Annual Church Meeting led by Steph. We are grateful to Reg and William, who have agreed to continue as Churchwardens. The other PCC members are Lynda, Val, Laurel, Ginah, and Bindy.

Sunday Roast: On Sunday May 4th Shaun and Sue restarted their popular Sunday Roast Dinners at Templeton Village Hall. The bar was open and it was a great event. The roast beef was delicious! Many thanks to Sue, Shaun and Alicia!

VE Day celebrations: On Thursday 8th May, parishes around the country were invited to light a beacon at 9pm to commemorate and celebrate VE Day. Templeton's beacon was commissioned and made by local blacksmith Colin Dayment in 2022. Although this date fell during a spell of lovely, warm weather, the night of the 8th was cold and misty. However, Don persevered with the barbecue and everyone enjoyed the burgers, hot dogs and range of salads, as music from the period played in the background.



Tractor Run: On Sunday 11th May, over 30 beautiful classic and vintage

tractors set off on the Annual Templeton Tractor Run from Templeton Village Hall. Everyone made it back to enjoy a barbecue meal and a beverage. Thank you, Reg, Roland and Lisa for organising the route, and to Don, Sue, Val and Mark for providing the delicious food, drink and support services! A special thanks to all the tractor drivers for supporting the event and giving so generously to raise funds for the RSPCA and St Margaret's Church. Over £500 was raised to support these two charities.

Village Hall and Social Club AGM: On May 29th Templeton Village Hall and Social Club held its Annual General Meeting. Several valuable suggestions were offered on this evening. The committee agreed that while the Village Hall has had many improvements with the addition of a dishwasher, glasswasher, more kitchen equipment, an alarm system, and improved Wi-Fi, it still needs to undergo some important repairs. The committee is also exploring ways that the village hall could be used more by young families in the village, particularly during half-terms and summer holidays, when as we know, the weather can often be inclement.

Templeton Social Club Musical Evening: On Saturday May 31st, local musician Jak Furlong, entertained everyone at Templeton Social Club with his guitar and a set comprising old and contemporary favourites. This was followed by audience participation and a sing along before Jak closed the evening. We hope Jak will come back and play for us again soon.

Jak also offers guitar lessons - basic guitar chords, strumming patterns, guitar basics and more. This could be offered as a group, on a one to one basis, virtually or in person. So, if this

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PARISH ROUND-UP

is something you have always wanted to try, then why not start now! If there is interest, then this could be a new club for us here in Templeton, with Templeton Village Hall as the venue for lessons and jam sessions. Jak can be contacted at jaklewis17@aol.com. Jak's own song, 'Circles,' was recently signed to a record label and uploaded to a major streaming platform. It has since gained over 12,500 listeners and almost 700 monthly regular listeners on Spotify. The song, of a House/dance genre with elements of Raye's vocals and James Hype's flavour / energy, is credited as being by Red Moose.

Future events

Saturday August 9th - Templeton Summer Fete from 1.30pm at Templeton Village Hall. Don't miss this popular community event! As always, 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 much more. Please take a look through your cupboards and glory holes now for any items you no longer need. It takes a village and we will need volunteers to help with the stalls and make the day great fun for everyone. If you can spare some time in 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. Gates open to the general public at 1.30pm.

Saturday 4th October - The Harvest Festival weekend will begin with a Harvest Supper at Templeton Village Hall. Do come along and enjoy this annual, delicious and plentiful supper to celebrate the harvest. All proceeds in aid of St Margaret's Church.

Sunday 5th October at 10.45am - Templeton's Harvest Festival at St Margaret's Church.

We would be grateful if you could please bring any fresh fruit, vegetables, packaged or canned produce to the porch of St Margaret's Church during the week before the service so that it can all be displayed in the church. All the produce will be donated to the Churches Housing Action Team (CHAT), and this is always very much appreciated by the charity.

Saturday 1 November - Bonfire and firework display from 6.30pm for 7pm. 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 for sale. So, put the date on your diary now.

Sunday September 14th (Date to be confirmed) - Duck Race at Templeton Bridge at 2pm.

Come and join us for this great family fun afternoon when hundreds of ducks are released into Templeton's River Dart. The ducks have already started training. There will also be cream teas, pasties, books for sale, a plant sale, and bric-a-brac. All proceeds to village Funds.

Regular groups

Templeton Art Group

The art group has been a huge success. Thank you so much Lynda for leading this. The art group meets at Templeton Village Hall fortnightly on Tuesdays from 10am to 12 midday. Everyone is invited. No charge. Just come along 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 2nd Wednesday of each month at 3pm at Templeton Village Hall with

coffee, tea and cake. Please contact Julie on 01884 233507 if you would like to know more.

Knit and Natter

Templeton Knit and Natter is on the last Friday of each month between 10.30am and 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.

Templeton Village Hall and Social Club

If anyone would like to use the hall at any time, for table tennis, darts, skittles, a barbecue, or just a get-together, please 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. Membership is only £2 a year.

Gardening Club

Now that the summer is well under way, the gardening club is a chance for people to get together and talk gardens, help problem solve, suggest places to visit, share any other questions, eat cake and have a coffee. If you want to know more and would like to join in next time, please email Ginah at ginahpalmer@gmail.com

Thoughts and prayers

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.

Our thoughts are particularly with Steph, our Rector, who is currently in hospital. We send all our prayers and best wishes to Steph and her family.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Funerals and Memorials

Our thoughts are with Ann and Bernie and their family. Ann's mother, Betty Highman, died on 7th April. The funeral was held at All Saint's Church, Rackenford on 7th May. Betty lived with the family at Middle North Coombe for several years, and often joined local Templeton events, as well as Bingo nights in Tiverton.

On Saturday 10th May, there was a service at Cruwys Morchard Church in memory of John McInerney who died on March 5th. John, his wife Audrey and their family lived at The Old Rectory, Templeton from 1984 until 2018, after which they moved to Nailsworth in Gloucestershire in 2018. After the memorial service, everyone gathered at Templeton Village Hall for refreshments and an opportunity to catch up with Audrey and John's family and good friends.

Sadly, Karen Woollacott died on 26th April. Karen grew up in Templeton. Her funeral service took place at St Margaret's Church, Templeton on 22nd May. There were refreshments after the service at Templeton Village Hall, where friends and family met and shared their many memories. Our thoughts and deepest sympathies go to Gloria and Ron, Jess, Poppy, Julie, Teresa and all the family.

Flowers / cleaning rota

29 June – 6 July	Phillida Strong
13 July – 20 July	Ginah Palmer
27th July – 3rd August	Julie Dent
10 August – 17 August	Sue Coffin
24 August – 31 August	Lynda Newnes

WASHFIELD

Here comes summer although it may not always be kind. Keep your face to the sun and you will never see the shadows.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Steph, our Rector, who is in hospital awaiting treatment. We wish her well and are missing her very much. Our good wishes go to all who are not well and finding life difficult. If you need help, please ask - the Church is here to help.

Summer is here - unpredictable weather but lots of sunshine and rain to make things grow! The churchyard is looking splendidly neat and tidy and the church is newly decorated and with all the damp patches expertly dealt with. Do go and see the transformation and see how your generous giving has been spent, with the aid of The Worth Trust, our kind American Benefactors.

Easter Celebrations were a wonderful coming-together of families here for the hollisays who gathered at the church on Easter Saturday for traditional egg decorating. There were so many imaginative and talented entries that it was hard to give prizes, so Oliver announced that everyone was a winner! Exciting egg rolling followed - classes for all ages and competition keen! Refreshments in the Hall were welcome, with stalls and a Raffle, which also brought in over £300 for the church. Warm thanks are due to the Tobey Family and to all the helpers in the Hall and in the kitchen; a wonderful effort. On Easter Day Church members led the Service, celebrating the Good News of Easter - a happy occasion, with good singing!

You can see the Services for the next two months in the Magazine middle pages, or on the Exe Valley Churches website.

The Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting was chaired by Steph, and we thank all those who are continuing to serve, and to hold office for a further term.

A big vote of thanks must go to all the willing people who tidied up the village recently. It was such a transformation and Annabel and the Parish Council did a wonderful job - THANK YOU! to the volunteers. Thanks so much to everyone who helped tidy the village on 3 June every little effort helps, and we are also grateful for those kind folk who trim, cut and clip the green throughout the year.

The next big event is the Church Fete - Plans are in hand, led by Camilla. Please see details following this --- something to look forward to!

We look forward to a great turnout for the Washfield Church Fete on 5 July, opening at 2.30 - this is always a wonderful occasion, as well as our major annual fundraiser. There's fun for everyone so do bring your friends and family. All offers of support to run a stall or activity please contact Camilla Albery.

A future date for your diary is 7 September, for our Animal Harvest Service - all animals welcome (with tame owners!). There is talk of a dog show afterwards so watch this space.

Church Fundraising

Our beautiful church is the heart of our village, even for those who don't regularly go to church or realise its importance within our community. Many of us are in tune with the clock chiming, the bells peeling and the flag

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PARISH ROUND-UP

flying on high days and holidays. It's often standing room only on Christmas Eve, and it's a stunning setting for our Easter decorations, for celebrations of marriage, christenings and harvest, and a comforting sanctuary for commemorations at the end of life and Remembrance Services.

The Church fabric is in relatively good condition but it relies on a dwindling tribe of volunteers and regular maintenance to keep it in shape. Bills for repairs, maintenance and cleaning are increasing as collections fall. Whether you regularly come to services, enjoy our family services or just notice the presence of the sturdy tower we are asking for donations towards the upkeep of our Church and Churchyard.

We know family finances are hard to balance, so regular subscriptions of (for example) £10/month may be more sustainable, or one off donations would also be greatly appreciated and very important. And any fundraising efforts are very welcome too! BACS transfers can be made to Washfield Parochial Church Council sort 60-21-27 account 06504272 Gift Aid forms can be found in the church.

Events at the Social Club keep coming! Tony and Ann (taking over from Alastair and Rachel) have taken the seeds from last year's pumpkins, brought them on and now they are all sold! We hope to see how yours has fared at the end of October. They (T&A) also spent an inordinate amount of time travelling around our area, searching for things of note in the countryside, sorting them into clues, and setting them on paper for the car Treasure Hunt. Nine hardy teams set off with question papers in hand (car) and set off on the road to solve these. Luckily all the teams returned (all happy with the results of their efforts) and Tony and Ann marked

the papers. The worthy winners were Alison and Tanya who went the extra mile to make sure each clue was seen and attempted. Well done ladies and all the other teams. They were all rewarded with a lovely cream tea and a welcome drink from the bar! Please keep taking part in these lovely events to support YOUR village Look out for the next event (to be publicised)

The flower tubs outside the hall have now been re-planted with fresh plants and look lovely again (When we see them, we think of Enid) x

Also, the Produce Stall has been given a 'spruce up' and is still attracting sales of the goods left on it. Thanks John and Tony.

Several interest groups meet on the Social Club evenings and you are most welcome to join those taking part. These include a Book Club, Table Tennis players, Craft Group and Scrabble players. Come along on a Club night, pay your subs, and join in!

Don't forget also, teatime@thehall is still as popular as ever. Held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (now, in British summertime) between 3.00-4.30pm. All ages are welcome to these friendly, chatty afternoons. Come along, you'll be most welcome.

To those with significant anniversaries, birthdays or the like...e wish you much happiness! Just three of those we know of are Hilary at 95 years young, also Maurice celebrating 95 and Tony at ..hrmm years old

We welcome Baby Jude, previously expected at Fern Bank, but now official. Congratulations to Beth and George on his arrival.

We wish all those waiting for GCSEs or other exam results, Good Luck!

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.

Flower Rota

July 6

July 13/20

July 27/Aug 3

Aug 10/17

Aug 24/31

Carol Bolt

Jenny Raynes

Jessica Lampard

Alison Frankpitt

Caroline Nicholson

The Parish Council extends sincere thanks to Martin Balment as he stands down as Deputy Chair. Martin continues to be a Councillor and his contribution to the Parish is difficult to quantify or replicate – so much of his work goes on quietly in the background. He has been a solid rock in support of the Council and of the current Chair, Annabel Taylor-Ross.

The Parish Council continues to serve the village, highlighting current issues to our District Councillors Martin Stratton and Chris Adcock and Devon Councillor Steve Lodge including the state of the roads and lack of broadband coverage, which is extremely alarming given the imminent switch off of analogue networks, reliance on landlines by some households, and the isolation of many of our dwellings.

We also need to highlight the tireless work (and miles!) covered by Ann and Tony Roberts, for setting up and running the Footpath P3 Scheme. They have established excellent relationships with landowners, tenants and the Council footpath managers, and done so much work themselves to get our footpaths in the best state ever. Our aim is to keep the rights of way in a good state – please do report any damage to gates, any missing signs,

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PARISH ROUND-UP

impassable tracks, overgrown paths to the new Deputy Chair, Will Wood.

WITHLEIGH

Traditionally July and August is the start of summer holidays with the hope of warmth and sunshine, fun, relaxation and enjoyment with long light evenings to enjoy. It is also the time of exam results and children's thought of a new school after the school holidays. So, for everyone looking forward to a new start I give you some quotes.

Every new day is an opportunity to start afresh.

Make a positive impact on the world.

Trying your best can lead to new wonderful results.

So, whatever you do enjoy the sunshine the new places you may visit and your holidays.

PCC Meeting

At our PCC meeting in May the following officer were elected.

Vice Chairperson – Brenda

PCC Secretary – Vacant

Minute Secretary - Elizabeth

Treasurer – Sara

Electoral Roll Officer – Peter N

Safeguarding Officer – Margaret

Our chosen charity this year is FORCE, and we will be inviting a speaker from FORCE to one of our services, probably in July.

Withleigh notes – July / August, 2025.

The Easter weekend began on Good Friday with tea, coffee and hot cross buns in the village hall, followed by an informal reflective service led by Paul. Easter Sunday began with breakfast in the village hall, followed by a service of Holy Communion in church led by Steph and David Edwards.

We were saddened by the death of David Smith on 22nd April at the RD&E Hospital.

He had been a regular member of our church congregation for a number of years, helped at fund-raising events, and also enjoyed sharing in the community lunches. By the time you read this his funeral will have taken place at St. Pauls with interment in our churchyard.

Pentecost Sunday saw a double celebration, not just for the birthday of the Church, but also for completion of the refurbishment of our church organ. The 'Songs of Praise' service was led by Paul and Elizabeth, and included six hymns, three readings, prayers for Pentecost, and a reflection which compared our reliance on the power of electricity with our reliance on the power of the Holy Spirit in our everyday lives, and how the 'voices' of the organ help us to raise our voices in praise to God. We were so pleased to be able to welcome Professor Paul Whitty and his wife, Hazel, with Paul playing the organ, and making it 'sing' for us. Professor Paul is the son of Rev. Harold Whitty, former rector in the Exe Valley team. As a member of the congregation said after the service, "It was wonderful to hear the organ being played so skilfully, a real celebration."

When someone carries on doing a job in an organisation or community, it is all too easy to take it for granted that they will just continue ad-indefinitum. Christine has been our PCC treasurer for very many years but has now stepped down from the role. Similarly, David has maintained the churchyard immaculately for many years but has also decided that he needed to step down. Both are hard acts to follow, and our grateful thanks go to both of them for their dedication down the years. We wish them both happy 'retirements'. In recognition of their service, Christine and David have each been presented by St Catherine's with vouchers for The Old Well Garden centre.

Our annual 'Friends of St Catherine's' lunch will be on Sunday 3rd August at The Mount Pleasant at Nomansland.

Please contact Sara if you would like to join us. Our Family Service that day will begin at 9.30am.

Withleigh village fete is on Saturday 19th July 12-3 p.m. at the village hall. Please join us at this social event. There will be tombola, books, plants, cakes nearly new, ice creams, refreshments and a draw. All proceeds to St. Catherine's Church.

Our Annual Garden and Produce show is on Saturday 16th August. Doors open at 7.30pm for anyone to come and see the produce and winners of the various classes. Attached to this magazine is the schedule of classes for anyone to enter, please do take a look and give it a go. Entries need to be with Henry by Tuesday 12th August. If you have any queries or would like a schedule sent electronically, please contact Brenda 07591000479/01884252431.

Our monthly Bingos in the Village Hall continue throughout the summer as usual on the first Thursday of each month. The next Bingo will be on Thursday 3rd July, followed by Thursday 7th August, eyes down at 7.30pm.

We send our sympathy to Alan on the death of his wife Charlotte. Our prayers and thoughts are with you and all your family.

Please join us for a cream tea, homemade scones and cakes, in the village hall on Saturday 30th August 3-5 pm to boost our Churchyard Fund. This will help us maintain a tidy Churchyard.

Our thoughts are with all those awaiting exam results. We hope these will allow those to pursue their chosen careers.

Dates for your diary.

Thursday 3rd July, Bingo in the Village Hall, eyes down @ 7.30pm.

Saturday 19th July, Summer Fete, in the Village Hall 12 noon to 3pm.

Thursday 7th August, Bingo in the Village Hall, eyes down @ 7.30pm.



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WHAT'S ON

Saturday 16th August, Garden & Produce Show, in the Village Hall, doors open from 7.30pm.

Saturday 30th August, Cream Tea in aid of the Church yard fund, 3pm to 5pm.

CORRECTION – The donation to the League of Friends of Tiverton Hospital was £133 and not £33 as printed in the last magazine.

WOW

We enjoyed the wonderful, sunny May weather and took good advantage by having a walk (possibly better described as a meander) along the towpath of the canal. We all met up at the Canal Tea Rooms for (a cream) tea.

There was an impromptu gathering at The Banana Cafe for a morning coffee in late May.

In July we are having a talk entitled "How I Accidentally found a husband" give to us by one of our member's daughters.

WOW continues to flourish, and we all enjoy the opportunity to meet one another once a month. If you would like to join us, call Susie on 258492.

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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		

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