

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026

Price £1.00

STEP THROUGH THE DOOR

Some of my family are about to move house – and they are going to a very nice house too. In fact, it is perfect for them and I am delighted. My granddaughter went to see it for the first time the other day. She was thrilled and very excited. I asked her what she liked about it. ‘Was it the view of fields at the back?’ I asked. She shook her head. ‘Was it the lovely new kitchen?’ No, it wasn’t that. ‘Was it her lovely new bedroom?’ No, it wasn’t that either. I was grasping at straws by now! ‘Was it the close proximity to a corner shop?’ (She has, for unbeknown reasons got a particular penchant for a corner shop!) Apparently, that wasn’t it, either. ‘What?’ I asked, having run out of ideas. ‘The front door,’ she said. The front door! It’s blue – a lovely shade of blue. It has cut out shapes which have been glazed – and she loves it! I will never be able to look at that front door in the same way again. It is not just any old front door – it is a door worthy of a child’s wonder and admiration!

I was pondering on all this after our conversation. Doors feature large during Advent – not so much for me but for the grandchildren. The excitement of opening the door on their Advent

calendar is palpable, especially at the beginning of the month before the predictability starts to wear off. After all, they very quickly realise what is behind the doors – chocolate, and more chocolate and even more chocolate. Even the dog has cottoned on.

But the other sort of calendar (the one I remember and still insist on giving) is a different proposition. What is behind the door? A bell? A star? A sheep? Part of a story? I can still remember the excitement I felt as a child, waiting to find out what would be behind the door.



As we stand at the door of this new year, we do not know what lies behind it. How do you feel? Excited? Worried? Eager? Afraid? Would you like to stay with what you know instead of looking ahead? For all the good wishes we give to one another, we are all stepping into the unknown.

Like Lucy in ‘The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe’ she had no idea what she would find when she opened the wardrobe door and stepped inside. ‘Lucy felt a little frightened, but she felt very inquisitive and excited as well. She looked back over her shoulder and there, between the dark tree-trunks, she could still see the open doorway... (C.S.Lewis)

Hopefully, like Lucy, we will step into Narnia, and adventure with Aslan (Jesus Christ).

Or to put it another way, as quoted by the late King George VI in his new year broadcast: And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.”

And he replied:

“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.” So, I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

By Minnie Haskins

Wishing you every blessing for
2026,
Steph

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WHAT'S ON

NATURE NOTES

Mistletoe

Was mistletoe part of your Christmas? Did you pause to think what traditions might lie behind the appearance of its snow-white berries, evergreen leaves and romantic reputation over the festive period?

In Britain most mistletoe is found in the south and west Midlands, with particularly good populations in Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, Gwent and Somerset. There is mistletoe elsewhere, but it is only regionally abundant in that core area of the south-west midlands. Whilst not abundant in and around Tiverton, there is some, one of the most obvious collections being in the large trees along Canal Hill not far from Withy Close and Devonshire Rise.

Change may be happening though – new evidence from the last 20 years suggests that mistletoe is spreading faster than it used to. This is particularly noticeable in eastern areas, where established but seemingly static mistletoe populations are now spreading. Is this change due to climate or to birds? It could be subtle hints of climate change – computer modelling does suggest that mistletoe will head east with climate change.

Or it could be something else? One possibility is better spread of the seeds by Blackcaps, a bird that is particularly efficient at spreading mistletoe. British Blackcaps migrate for the winter so they do not usually affect mistletoe here, but recently continental Blackcaps have started overwintering in Britain, with many thousands now spending their winters here and feeding on mistletoe and then spreading it.

The berries pass through a bird's digestive tract, to emerge little changed and very gloopy. If deposited on a branch, they readily stick to it establishing a new plant if the conditions are suitable. The mistletoe's roots tap into the tree, taking water and nutrients as it grows but, as rule, doing little or no harm to its host in the process. Apple trees, blackthorn and poplars are amongst its favourite hosts.

Kissing beneath the mistletoe is a very old tradition indeed and although part of Christmas revels, mistletoe is rarely allowed inside a church because of its strong pagan associations. It is well known as the most sacred plant of the Druids, the priestly clan of the Celts.

If you have a young fruit tree in your churchyard, garden or elsewhere, how about encouraging mistletoe by smearing some berries onto the bark after Christmas is over. The thin bark of a young trees is easier for the mistletoe to penetrate and establish.

Stephen Powles

(based on an article supplied for the purpose by Caring for God's Acre)

Bible Study Group

Looking at Genesis

The next meeting will be held at The Cottage, Washfield
Monday 12th January
at 2.30pm

If you would like to come please let me know so that there are the right number of handouts. Many thanks.

Tim Gorrington
t.j.gorrington@exeter.ac.uk

A REFLECTION FOR LENT BEGINNING ON SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2026

2 Corinthians 5: 20b - 6: 10

'....having nothing, and yet possessing everything' (6.10)

During a long train journey with a friend who is a Muslim, the conversation turned to Ramadan, the month during which Muslims fast between sunrise and sunset. She patiently answered my questions, and the comment that struck me was: 'It is those who have least who value Ramadan most, because during the fast, rich people realize what it feels like to be poor.'

I am reminded of this by Paul's counter-cultural advertisement for the lifestyle that most effectively witnesses to the richness of the gospel of Jesus. It needs to include perseverance during all kinds of difficulty (6.4,5), integrity in character and conversation (6.6-8), and contentment even during times of pain and deprivation (6.9,10). Ambassadors to Jesus most effectively demonstrate the worth of being reconciled to God not by being fine and full, but by their faith when they are bruised and empty.

On this first day of Lent I need to make a confession. I have never once in my life had a day at the end of which I was hungry. Not one. Even now, as I type the words of this reflection, there is a cup of tea and a banana to the right of me on my desk. Over one billion people in the world are hoping to survive this day in absolute poverty, but I have no experience of any kind by which I can measure what that feels like. I intend this Lent to be different.

Reflection by Peter Graystone

PARISH DIARY

JANUARY

- 31/1 Templeton New Year's Eve Party in Village Hall 8.00pm
3 Stoodleigh Coffee Morning in Village Hall 10.30am-12.
10 Loxbeare Community Soup Lunch 12-2.30pm
13 Washfield teatime@thehall 2.30pm-4.00pm
17 Withleigh Curry Evening in Village Hall 7.30pm
28 Cruwys Morchard Social Club New Year Quiz 7.00pm - 9.30pm
31 Withleigh Full English Breakfast in the hall 9.30am-11.00am
31 Templeton Village Hall Quiz Night 7.00pm

FEBRUARY

- 4 Oakford St Peter's Book & Coffee Club
7 Stoodleigh Coffee Morning in Village Hall 10.30am-12.
10 Withleigh Village Hall Community Lunch 12.30pm
10 Washfield teatime@thehall 2.30-4.00pm
14 Loxbeare Village Hall Cream Tea 3-4.30pm
28 Oakford Village Hall The Bierkeller Boys, Oompah band 7.30pm



Exe Valley Lunches



12.30pm - 2.30pm

Thursday 15th January - Withleigh Village Hall

Thursday 12th February - Venue TBC

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

01884 250417

PARISH ROUND-UP

CALVERLEIGH

As this edition goes to print, we will be in the middle of celebrating the birth of Jesus in a lowly stable shed in Bethlehem, through our many church services with carol singing aplenty, getting together with family and friends along with all the festivities that go with it. We hope that your Christmas has been a happy and blessed one and wish you a healthy 2026 filled with all the things that you are hoping for you and your family.

The funeral of Myrtle Webber took place at St. Mary's on 17 October and was conducted by Rev'd Steph Gordon-Jeffs. The service was relayed to the village hall for the many people who were unable to be seated in church. For many, many years Myrtle was our organist and introduced us to many new hymns during that time. She was instrumental in starting a church choir along with Margaret Goldsworthy and was also involved with helping at Holiday Club, Fish Club and supporting many church and village activities over the years. A single bell was tolled by Steve before the service began, the choir sang during it and five bells were rung afterwards as Myrtle was laid to rest in the churchyard, reunited with Ivan. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Myrtle's family and many friends.

A family bingo was held on 25 October in the village hall and organised by Maureen and Paul. Plenty of prizes were ready to be won by those who packed the hall to play. After a fun evening, the event raised a total of

£416.00 towards church funds. Thank you to everyone involved.

Our Remembrance Sunday service was led by Reverend Christopher Rowley with music played by David Edwards. A piece of reflective music was played before the two minutes silence began. Thank you, Christopher, for a thought-provoking service.

Initial investigations into the partial floor collapse in church took place on 10/11 November with the architect and structural engineer in attendance. We are now awaiting further instruction/information as to how to proceed with rectifying the issue.

On Saturday 15 November our annual Autumn Fayre took place with all its usual mixture of stalls where we welcomed familiar faces and a few new ones. Light refreshments of bread and soup, hot dogs or bacon baps were served. It was great to be able to catch up with friends from the local area and from further afield. After a busy few hours, a total of £1,131.70 was raised, including donations, for church funds. Thank you to all who prepared food, cakes, served drinks, helped in the kitchen, manned stalls, occupied our younger visitors with a craft table or attended. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

The following day, our Explore service on 16 November was led by Tasha, supported by Nikki and music provided by David Edwards. The topic was about appreciation and during the service each member of the congregation present were thanked for whatever part they play in the life of St. Mary's, whether as churchwardens,

PCC members, worship leaders right through to those on the flower, cleaning or mowing rota's and given the choice of a hot drink sachet or tea bag along with a packaged biscuit treat. It was a lovely service, thank you.

The funeral of Leslie Smith took place on 19 November. Son Jonathan gave a moving eulogy for his father as he spoke of a long life lived to the full. Our thoughts and prayers are with Leslie's family and friends and also with those others who have lost a loved one either recently or longer ago.

More recently, on Sunday 7 December saw a large congregation come together for our Christingle service which was led by Nik. The talk, as well as saying what the Christingle represented, also compared it to a walk through the seasons and what you would notice if you were on a walk with nature, giving us much to contemplate in the build up to Christmas.

Forthcoming Events

Don't forget to join us in prayer at your home, at the church or wherever you are on the first Saturday of each month between 9am and 11am. A prayer sheet will be circulated closer to time and can always be downloaded from the website!

Our monthly Explore Service is a fun and interactive all age family friendly service starting at 9.15am with refreshments, for a 9:30am start. The first Explore service of 2026 will take place on 18 January. Do join us if you can!

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Church cleaning rota:

15 Dec 2025 - 3 Jan 2026: Mrs J Goldsworthy
 5 - 17 Jan: Mrs S Greenslade
 19 - 31 Jan: Mrs R Tapp
 2 - 14 Feb: Mrs N Burton
 16 - 28 Feb: Miss J Herniman
 2 - 14 March: Mrs M Furneaux

Flower rota

4 - 11 Jan: Mrs N Burton
 18 - 25 Jan: Mrs A Webber
 1 - 8 Feb: Mrs L. Thomas
 16 Feb: Mrs D Hopper
LENT: No Altar Flowers

CRUWYS MORCHARD

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

Church of the Holy Cross

Our service of Remembrance was held on Sunday 9 November, when we remembered the fallen of our parish and all those affected by war. Diana gave a talk about the history of the poppy and how the sale of them helps those who have served their country.

Congratulations to Imogen Davison and Steven Miller who were married at our church on 6 December. We wish you a long and happy marriage.

It was good to gather for our Christmas services. Many thanks to

everyone who helped with the Carol / Christingle service; from making the Christingles, to providing and serving the refreshments and kindly donating gifts for CHAT. They are always gratefully received.

Our Christmas Craft Fayre, in November, was very successful with many stalls, a Christmas Hamper raffle, soup and pasties for lunch, as well as other refreshments. Many thanks to all who contributed and supported us on the day. We raised £873.30 for Church funds.

Flower and Cleaning Rota

Jan 5 & 12 Cindy Trick
 Jan 19 & 26 Denyse Standen & Jo Hilton
 Feb 2 & 9 Sue & Pauline Guscott
 Feb 16 & 23 Anne Gillbard

Thank you to everyone who helps with the cleaning, flowers and general maintenance of the church.

We are thinking of all those who are unwell or in hospital at this time and wish them a speedy recovery, and to those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

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

Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall

The Bingo, held on Saturday 18 October, raised £205.00 for Parish Hall funds. Thank to all who took part and helped to make it a success.

Dave & Di's Christmas quiz held on Saturday 6 December was well attended and raised £634.84 for

Parish Hall funds. Thank you to everyone involved in the event and to all who attended. Congratulations to Pennymoor Youth Club for retaining the trophy.

Yoga

General Hatha Yoga Class, held in the Parish Hall. Thursdays 10am – 11.15am. All abilities and ages welcome. Call Hilary on 01363 866245.

Cruwys Morchard Flower Show

Apple Day was held on 11 October. This was a charity event and a big heart felt thank you to everyone who supported this in anyway. We raised an incredible £501.28 for Pete's Dragon, who offer support after suicide.

Don't forget our theme for flower show photographs next year are "Peekaboo" and "Winter Wonderland". Schedule will be coming out very soon, watch this space.

Cruwys Morchard and Puddington Gardeners

Do you like to see the birds? Would you like to take part in a bit of local citizen science?

The Cruwys Morchard and Puddington Gardeners are carrying out a survey of all birds seen or heard in our two Parishes over a period of a year. There is no counting or need to set aside a time, simply put a tick in the appropriate column once a month for each listed species if you see or hear them. For example, you may see a blackbird on the grass or hear a tawny owl – one tick for that month and it's done until the following month.

Keep it up for a year if you can but if you miss one or two your record will still be useful to us. It doesn't matter

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which month you start. From the results we can see which birds are thriving and those that perhaps need a helping hand.

The list is divided into 3, one for each conservation status – green, amber and red.

If you are interested pick up the list from Gill and Tony at Long Acre, Pennymoor and return it to them at the end of the 12 months or give/send it to me Clare Penney, Westland, Pennymoor, EX168PG clarepenney25@gmail.com one per household is best to avoid too much duplication.

Please join in if you can, the greater the numbers participating the more useful the results.

Cruwys Morchard YFC

Thank you to everyone who supported our Tractor Run and Christmas Tree collection. We recently enjoyed a night out for our Christmas meal at The Cadeleigh Arms.

At the recent Devon YFC AGM our club was awarded the Skills 4 Life trophy for our achievements and dedication to learning new skills, this is the fifth year running that we have won this award. Milking was a new skill that 16 of our members recently learnt and by the time this news reaches you they will have also completed a Christmas Woodworking skills project.

We are currently busy practising for the Entertainments Competition coming up at the end of January and chilling out with a bit of recreational Ice Skating.

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

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

This is only a snapshot of what we've been doing and there is so much more to come! If any of this sounds tempting, please come along, and join us. We hold our monthly meetings at Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall on the first Tuesday of every month at 7pm. Club email, cruwysm.yfc@gmail.com

Cruwys Social Evening

Happy New Year! Our first get together will be on Wednesday 28 January at the Parish Hall. Open from 6.30pm to 9.30pm, quiz begins at 7.30pm. Look forward to seeing you there.

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

Happy New Year to everyone.

As we look back over the highs and lows, the joys and sadnesses of 2025, we welcome in a new year and appreciate each day that we are given. The collection of £100, taken at the Remembrance service, has been sent to Help for Heroes.

Thanks to everyone who supported the shoe box appeal in any way: donating money, supporting the coffee morning, covering boxes with Christmas paper, purchasing items to put in them, filling the boxes or donating filled boxes. The 37 boxes collected from Loxbeare will bring great joy to men, women, boys and girls in Ukraine.

It was a delight that Steph was able to join us for a relaxed meal and Christmas shopping evening at The Lighthouse in November. The evening was much enjoyed by all and we do appreciate the warm welcome and delicious meal which they so kindly provide for us.

It was lovely to welcome Reverend Paul Kingdom together with friends from neighbouring parishes, to the Group service at the end of November. We are very grateful for all the retired clergy who so willingly lead services at this time.

It was a joy to see young children and their families, as well more mature folk, at the Christingle service at the beginning of December. The Christingle is a symbol of God's love for the whole world and Jesus' love and light shining through, even during dark times. The collection of £120 taken at

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PARISH ROUND-UP

OAKFORD

this service has been sent to the Children' Society.

We are sorry to hear the Steph is suffering with shingles. We continue to pray for her and hope that she will soon be recovered.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Margaret and all of her family at this time. Margaret had a fall and had to spend some time in hospital and is now convalescing in a care home. We miss you so much in Loxbeare – you are always a constant presence and your gentle, kind nature is an encouragement to everyone.

Our thought and prayers are with Herbert and all who are suffering physically, Stephen and all awaiting operations, anyone struggling with mental health, anxiety or loneliness and those who have been bereaved, either recently or longer ago. We think of carers and the daily strain they may be under. We think of children and young people and the pressures they face in today's world and pray for their protection from negative influences. We think and pray too, for guidance for parents, childminders and teachers and all who have the responsibility for caring for children.

Community News

There will be a soup lunch in the village hall on 10th January, from 12.30 until 2.00.

On 14th February there will be a cream tea from 3.00 until 4.30.

Charities from donations at these events to be confirmed.



To you all we wish the best of things and all the blessings a New Year brings.

First, a look back to the end of 2025.

9 November Oakford's Remembrance Service was held around the village Memorial. A good number of villagers came to show their respect to those who served, then made their way to the village hall for lunch and a showing of Michael Morpurgo's film Private Peaceful.

Poppies knitted and crafted by ladies from the village were displayed all around the village and surrounding area. They looked beautiful, well done ladies.

The Poppy craft group have been crafting some lovely flower banners for the church windows to help the church look bright and cheerful at all times in the coming year, come to the church at any time to have a look. Thanks to Jenny Benians for donating the background material.

We would like to say a big thank you to Ben who looks after the churchyard all year round, cutting the grass and keeping the drains and path clear.

22 November - A very interesting and informative talk was given by Dawn Westcott from the Exmoor Pony Project and was followed by the presentation of a cheque for £500 from the Oakford Players to help Dawn continue with her work to protect the precious Exmoor Ponies.

By the time you read this St Peter's Church Carol Service will have been held on Saturday 20 December. Carols, readings and poems were followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

24 December saw villagers singing Carols around the village tree, followed by mulled wine, hot chocolate and refreshments.

All services throughout the Exe Valley Mission Community are listed on the centre pages.

The Lord's Larder - feeding hope

This winter 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.

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.

The Christmas quiz was held at the Red Lion on Sunday 21 December, with a competition for the best Christmas Hat and huge raffle. The charities supported this year are Devon Air Ambulance and Smile Train for children with a cleft palate.

Dates for your diary in 2026.

The Book shelves in the church have been replenished with fresh fiction and non-fiction books. They are there for anyone to borrow or to own. Please leave any donations in the box by the church door.

Everyone is welcome to come to the St Peter's Books and Chat Group who meet in the community area at the back of St Peter's on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 10.00am, to meet friends, chat and have a cup of coffee. Please note there will not be a meeting in January 2026

Moorland Ladies meetings

8 January - Flexercise with Lucinda at 2.30pm

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12 February - Fish and Chip supper
Dulverton

13 March AGM and speaker. Village Hall

9 April - Happy Glaze Pottery

Future events at Oakford Village Hall.

Pilates Classes will continue in the village hall at the beginning of January. If you are interested in joining a class contact nancy@edgemoorpilates.co.uk for more information.

7th February – 14th March The Six Nations Rugby Tournament will be shown on the big screen in the Village Hall. Licensed Bar and snacks and food available.

Saturday 28th February - A Bavarian night with The Bierkeller Boys.

Raise a stein or two with the Oompah band to the stars. Lots of singing, toasting, games and thigh slapping - lederhosen optional.

March The Great Oakford Taste Off details tbc.

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

Best wishes to anyone celebrating a birthday or special anniversary.

A reminder to the village organisations - if you would like to reach everyone in the parish with news of events planned by your group please send copy to patsyphili@aol.com.

RACKENFORD

The bells rang out, the guests arrived, the music played and even the sun tried to put in an appearance for the wedding of Madick and Ian on Saturday October 18. In fact it was a double celebration

as Ian also celebrates his special birthday. Congratulations to you both and we wish you every happiness.

Rackenford School children held their Harvest Service and brought gifts to display around the church. The service and singing was enjoyed by many. Thank you to the children and parents for all your gifts. At a later date, Ruth collected the gifts to take to CHAT who were most grateful to the children and send thanks for your kindness.

Joy, Hilda, Margaret and Marilyn decorated the church ready for Harvest. So pleased to have Marilyn with us and appreciate all her beautiful displays. Thank you to anyone who brought flowers and foliage. On behalf of the Gardening Club and contributions that were given to Amelia, she produced a beautiful display in the window close to the pulpit. Later the display was made into a wonderful basket of produce to be included in the draw after the Harvest Supper. We are so grateful to you all for this lovely gift, thanks to you all.

Our Mission Community Group Harvest Festival Service and Holy Communion Service was held on October 12 and taken by Tim Gorringer who gave a warm welcome to our congregation. So pleased to have you all with us and hope you enjoyed the refreshments and a good chat after.

On October 15 we were once again delighted to be welcomed by Debbie to have the use of Rackenford Club to hold our Harvest Supper. It means so much to us to be able to continue this tradition and to enable us to raise funds for Rackenford Church. We are sorry we are unable to accommodate more, but we are restricted with space and try to do our best for you all to enjoy the

evening. Thank you to all the helpers and providers of the delicious puddings we were able to serve. We must mention Rachel who helps all day and takes the day off work for our Harvest Supper. We were pleased with all your positive comments on our evening and how much you enjoyed it. We had an amazing draw, including the hamper from the Gardening Club, thank you for all your donations. We raised £300. Thank you so much for your warm welcome Debbie.

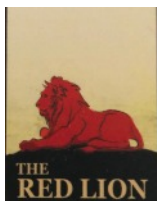
Our Fashion Swap was held at Hillcrest (many thanks to Ruth and Graham for making this event possible). A good selection of clothes were available, wine, snacks, tea and coffee were enjoyed. A lovely afternoon for a get together and £250 was raised for church funds. We hope you all enjoyed it.

Halloween!! Some of us were amazed when opening our doors. Little faces in fantastic costumes were very happy to receive treats, all very polite and walked away happily with goodies in their baskets accompanied by adults. Hope you all enjoyed your dressing up and fun you had.

Bonfire Night was extremely popular, a warm fire, stunning fireworks display that lit up the skies with spectacular colours. Long queues stretched across the common to enjoy the refreshments. Thank you to all who worked so hard to continue this tradition for us to enjoy.

Our Remembrance Service was held at our War Memorial on Sunday 9 November at 10:50. We were very grateful to Jackie for taking our service, reminding us of the sacrifices many

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4 JANUARY

Epiphany
(White)

Arise, shine

Isaiah 60: 1-6
Matthew 2: 1-12

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Praise

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise
with **clergy**

RACKENFORD

10.45am Family Service

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

3.00pm Evening Praise

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Holy Communion
and David Edwards

11 JANUARY

**PLOUGH SUNDAY
THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST**

The 1st Sunday of Epiphany
(White)

9.30am Zoom Service

**OUR MISSION
COMMUNITY
HOLY COMMUNION
GROUP SERVICE**

is at
10.45am in

CALVERLEIGH

**Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and David Edwards**

Everyone is welcome



18 JANUARY

The 2nd Sunday of Epiphany
(White)

Revealing the hidden

Isaiah 49: 1-7
John 1: 29-41

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

9.15am 'Explore' Family Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Holy Communion

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

10.45am Morning Praise
with **clergy** and David Edwards

STOODLEIGH

10.00am Reflective service
with breakfast

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

10.45am Family Service

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

25 JANUARY

THE CONVERSION OF PAUL

The 3rd Sunday of Epiphany
(White)

9.30am Zoom Service

**OUR MISSION
COMMUNITY
HOLY COMMUNION
GROUP SERVICE**

is at
10.45am in

LOXBEARE

**Paul Kingdom 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.



1 FEBRUARY

The 4th Sunday of Epiphany
Candlemas
(White)

What does God require?

Micah 6: 1-8
Matthew 5:1-12

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise
4.00pm Taize Prayer with
Tim Gorringe

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Praise

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise

OAKFORD

10.45am Holy Communion

RACKENFORD

10.45am Family Service

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

10.45am Morning Praise
with **clergy** and David Edwards
3.00pm Evening Prayer

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Morning 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

8 FEBRUARY

The 2nd Sunday before Lent
(Green)

Standing up for justice

Isaiah 58: 1-9a
Matthew 5: 13-20

9.30am Zoom Service

OUR MISSION COMMUNITY GROUP HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

is at
RACKENFORD

at
10.45am

with
**Christopher Rowley
and David Edwards**



**Service of Ashes
18 February
6.00pm
Cruwys Morchard
Steph Gordon-Jeffs &
Tim Gorringe**

15 FEBRUARY

The Sunday next before Lent
(Green)

I was there

2 Peter 1: 16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH

9.15am Explore Service
Tash, Julie & David Edwards

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Praise

LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise

OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

STOODLEIGH

10.45am Holy Communion

TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

10.45am Family Service

WITHLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise
with **clergy** and David Edwards

22 FEBRUARY

The 1st Sunday of Lent
(Purple)

9.30am Zoom Service

OUR MISSION COMMUNITY GROUP HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

is at
TEMPLETON

at
10.45am

with
**Christopher Rowley
and David Edwards**

PARISH ROUND-UP

made from in and around our village who never returned home and those who did return to loved ones. Reflections are very emotional but we will remember them. Jim Fraser laid our wreath this year. Many thanks to Sharon who played The Last Post and provided assistance for our appropriate hymns and the National Anthem. This year we were delighted to have Elliott with us to read a prayer during the service. Elliott is just 13 years old and we were blessed to have him take part at this very important service. So thank you Jackie, Sharon and Elliott and to all who joined us in prayer to remember. The collection of £144 went to the Royal British Legion.

A thank you gift has been given to David for all his work cutting paths etc at various areas throughout the churchyard when it's possible to do so. If anyone has any time to spare when the spring arrives to continue David's good work, please get in touch. It would be such a help, thank you.

We continue to remember and pray for all those amongst us who are not well, those who are or have been in hospital. We pray for all those needing loved ones to care and support them at home. Many people are fragile, have mental health problems, are lonely. We also think of all those bereaved. We send our prayers for those we know of - Mike, Jacques and Mary, David C, Herbert, Sharon. So many will be suffering. If you would like to be mentioned please get in touch. We continue to think of Steph and are pleased to hear of her good progress. WE hope you are still feeling 'erumpent' Steph - what a word!

If we have left it too late to wish you all a very Happy Christmas, we hope you have enjoyed your Christmas and will enjoy a very happy and healthy New

Year. Such a special time to enjoy our many services throughout the Exe Valley and our very own Christmas Eve service to worship together.

We never forget all those who do so much for our church during the year. Thank you Glen for taking the time to keep our clock going - not an easy job but very much appreciated. We all benefit from your good work.

On Sunday 30 November we were invited to Rackenford Shop to enjoy mulled wine, mince pies and many other nibbles and see the beautifully decorated shop and many extra gifts to buy for Christmas. Our volunteers are wonderful. What would we do without them and our lovely shop? It's had a lovely makeover and has so much to purchase, a wide variety of goods. We are so lucky. Thank you to all of you.

Last, but certainly not least, we continue to pray for PEACE.

The Parish Hall cabinet opens with no code needed but the Inn cabinet requires a code. The code is C159X and is clearly written on the top of the cabinet. Once opened, grab the red defibrillator case AND the two clear plastic bags which contain useful items to help in an emergency situation, rush it to where it is needed, open it and follow the instructions, which are very clear. The defibrillator once activated, will talk you through the process. Yes, actually talk you through what to do!

The two clear plastic bags contain alcohol wipes to clean the chest skin, razors to shave hair from a chest (do this as calmly as you can if needed), and a towel to dry the skin thoroughly so that the adhesive pads of the defibrillator will stick to flesh. The pads need to stick firmly to the skin in order for the defibrillator to function correctly. Once the pads have been placed on the patient, the machine will assess if a shock is needed and guide the user through the process. Hopefully, whilst a first aider is doing this, more help will be on its way.

When finished with, please replace the defibrillator back into the cabinet and notify one of our Parish Councillors (see the Stoodleigh Website) that it has been used so that everything can be renewed and replaced ready for its next use.

It is indeed a marvellous first aid to have in our village, and it is worth taking a moment in your day to find out which defibrillator is nearest if you needed it, and to familiarise yourself with how to access it. The Parish Council have a weekly rota checking that both defibrillator units are in good order and ready for use. And if you visit the Stoodleigh Village website, there is a section about the defibrillators, with pictures, to familiarize yourself with.

STOODLEIGH

A Reminder - Defibrillators

In an emergency situation where heart problems are suspected the first thing to do is ring 999 for help. We are fortunate to have two defibrillators in Stoodleigh, each located at either end of our village. One is on the left hand side as you enter the Parish Hall stone porch, and the other outside the Stoodleigh Inn on the wall near the entrance. Each red defibrillator case is housed inside a cabinet.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

What3Words is another great tool for giving precise locations to emergency services. The App can be downloaded on a smartphone and it is effectively a map of the world, where every three metre square section is referenced by a unique combination of three words. For instance; tin.miracles.upsetting or overpaid.dabbled.tricks. This means that you can pinpoint an exact location, such as your house, using the designated three words. And here's a great tip... once you have got the What3Words for where you live, you can visit eBay and for a few pounds purchase a fridge magnet personalised with your What3Words. If you don't have a smartphone, What3Words can also be accessed on a web browser. Well worth having these three words written by your landline if you are housebound, or the App which will locate you on your mobile phone.

St Margaret's Church

We hope that Christmas and the New Year passed well for everyone, and we wish you all a healthy and contented 2026.

December was a busy month for many, and St Margaret's PCC would like to thank all who came and supported our Christmas Bingo at the Stoodleigh Inn. It was a fun evening in the warmth of the Inn and we thank Lizzie for her hospitality and putting up with us! The evening raised much needed funds for our church's upkeep. As I write, we are looking forward to our coffee morning and Carol Service and hope to see neighbours and friends over these festivities.

In December we had quite a shuffle round in our Parochial Church Council and when you are a team of 7 and 3

people step up or down it's a big tip in the balance. But we are very happy to welcome Phil Talbot to our meetings as he will now take our minutes, and we thank you Phil for doing this. Phil answered a call out from the Sept/Oct Newsletter that we needed help, and it is with this in mind that we ask if anyone living in Stoodleigh would like to join our PCC please come along. We meet once every 2 months to discuss, and decide, important decisions to do with the maintenance and running of our beautiful historic church and churchyard.

We are fortunate to have these churches throughout our green and pleasant land, but they are mostly 300 years old and more, and the upkeep does not happen by itself. It takes a team of people, who can get on, discuss and work together, to keep an eye on the maintenance, finances and fundraising. As with the Parish Council and the Parish Hall, our time and resources are given voluntarily, but this is what village community is built upon. So if you think you would like to be part of a group of people we can either call on when needed, or would like to be part of our decision making PCC please let us know. We would very much appreciate some extra help – and we are a friendly bunch!

At our last meeting our Lay Service Leader, Sarah Stansfield, stepped down so that she can spend more time with her elderly parents. And that is what life is all about, looking after each other. So Sarah, we will miss you, but we Thank you for your gentle teachings in our services and particularly the Reflective breakfast services which

have been fun and a pleasure to attend. We wish you and your family well.

And our dear Phyllis Hill, who has run the flower rota organizing our flower arrangers for a few years now has stepped down from this and also from being Sidesman, which assists Penny, our Church Warden in her role.

Phyllis has a special birthday coming up in January, and now that she will be 21 (again!) it is time for her to spread her wings elsewhere. We thank you Phyllis for all that you do, and you do a lot, and we are pleased that you will still be a core part of our PCC and St Margarets. We also wish you a very Happy Birthday, and hope that all your party celebrations will be loud, jolly and plenty of them!

Flower Rota for Jan & Feb – Phyllis Hill and Mandy Widdowson

Christopher Whitehead

Many residents may remember Chris as 'the man on the bike in his socks and sandals'. He moved into 'Little Daymer' Stoodleigh, with his wife Diane in 2010. After a while he joined in many groups within the village, as well as being an active supporter of St Margarets Church, becoming a Church Warden and sometimes taking services.

A scientist originally, Chris was also interested in history and along with Malcolm Jones they set up the Stoodleigh History group which managed to source from Taunton & Exeter Records Office much of Stoodleigh's history – even though much of it was in Latin. Chris took on the arduous task of translating and recording many of Stoodleigh's Church records which are now housed in the 'Parish Chest'.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

When Diane passed away, because Chris didn't drive, he took to his bike and could frequently be seen cycling into Tiverton to help in Charity Shops and doing his shopping. More recently Chris had decided to move into Exeter and not long after he became poorly with a long term illness. He passed away on October 13th 2025.

Chris was a generous man, both with his time and financially, and before moving into Exeter in 2023 he quietly got on with doing a great deal for our village. One of his donations was a substantial amount of money to re-build the wall between the children's playground and the churchyard. Without his donation the wall would not be standing as it is today. The Parish Council are to place a plaque on the wall in his memory, with our heartfelt thanks for all that he did.

Stoodleigh Garden Club

Writing this, we are all busy with our preparations for Christmas. When you are reading this, we will have decorated the Parish Hall, had the Garden Club Christmas party and enjoyed a wreath making session in Tiverton. With the festivities behind us, we look forward to another year of garden visits, events and activities. We shall be setting our programme in January and this will be published on the Garden Club page of the Stoodleigh website. Anyone is welcome to join us; we have members from many of the villages around and we look forward to meeting you.

Stoodleigh 100 Club Winners: November

Graham Radford, Janet Russell, Sue Fowler and Steven Radford

The December Draw will have extra Christmas prizes! Results next time.

Stoodleigh Parish Hall

The Winter Fair was brilliant and the hall was vibrant with the wonderful stallholders, pottery, handmade walking sticks, art and Christmas decorations, useful items made of wood, kitchenware, local honey, books, cakes and many more. There was plenty to choose from to complete that Christmas present list.

The village hall team of ladies in the kitchen served delicious cakes and hot jacket potatoes with various fillings accompanied by tea, coffee or hot chocolate. Many thanks to everyone who helped and visited to make this event a success and raised £594 for hall funds. By the time you read this, Father Christmas will have visited the children of Stoodleigh with the help of a trusty driver on a bright red tractor. We hope everyone got into the festive spirit with the lighting of our magic tree. The Stoodleigh elves served mulled wine, mulled apple juice and hot chocolate with refreshments. A huge thank you for everyone who made this possible.

Dates for next year:

Monthly coffee mornings

3rd January, 7 February and 7 March at the hall 10.30am to 12. Everyone welcome.

The village hall committee thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you in 2026.

If you would like something mentioned in the Stoodleigh round-up please contact Mandy on mandy@exevalleyeggs.co.uk

TEMPLETON

Alrite me 'andsomes? Wasson? Devon is a wonderful county with its own culture, dialect and traditions so let's celebrate how lucky we are to live here. At the time of writing this, Christmas is yet to come and New Year is coming (relatively) dreckly. By the time we go to print, Christmas will be backalong; a memory of sprouts, tatters, a gurt lush thick gobbler and the King's Speech. Doesn't time pass quickly. So if you are planning to gurt noodle or opting for a quiet evening, we wish you all a very happy and peaceful new year from Templeton. And cream first ...proper job!

St Margaret's Church and churchyard
Maintenance continues on the church. Upcoming jobs include roof repairs, repairs to the crenulations and wood treatment. Hopefully, there will be funds to continue the work on repainting the walls and exposing the stonework around the windows. Thank you, Peter for maintaining the churchyard so well. A spring clean of the churchyard is planned for February or March to keep on top of the brambles and nettles.

The Sunday services for January and February are published in the centre pages of this magazine. The lay-led January Sunday services at St Margaret's Church, Templeton will be on 4 Jan and 18 Jan and usually last about 30 to 40 minutes. If there is not a Sunday service at Templeton at a weekend, there is likely to be a group service at one of the other nine parishes.



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PARISH ROUND-UP

Past Events

Halloween Party

A big thank you to Alex and Scott, for organising this party and inviting everyone in Templeton to come and celebrate Halloween at Templeton Village Hall. This was a hauntingly great evening with incredible decorations, lots of spooky costumes, eerie games and family fun!

Firework and Bonfire night

On Saturday 1 November, the rain stopped, the skies cleared for the evening and the firework display and bonfire night were as spectacular as always. The delicious Hot Dogs and hot drinks were a great hit and the bar was open. Thanks to everyone who came out to support Templeton and to the amazing team who set up and lit the fireworks, brought wood for and built the bonfire, provided food and drinks, worked tirelessly in the kitchen and the bar, manned the gate and car park and who gave their time to set up this popular event. It really does take a village and we are very grateful.

The Remembrance Day Service

This service, on Sunday 9 November was a time for the congregation to pay their respects to all servicemen who have died during conflicts around the world with two minutes' silence. This year was particularly special as we had the privilege of listening to Alfie play the very moving Last Post and Reveille on his trumpet so beautifully.

Sunday Roast on Remembrance Sunday.

A big thanks to Sue and Shaun who organised, cooked and served a delicious Sunday Roast Beef dinner on November 9th at Templeton Village Hall. The puddings were excellent too.

Thanks to Don for running the bar, and to everyone who gave their time and effort to help with this event. The opportunity to come together to enjoying a meal as a community is very special.

Pottery Christmas decoration making

On 19 November at Templeton Village Hall, Matthew arranged for Tom Payne, a local potter, to demonstrate and help us make our own pottery Christmas decorations. He has now taken them away to dry and fire them for us. A big thank you to Matthew and Tom. It was a lovely event which we hope to repeat.

Templeton Art Group Art Exhibition and Sale

This event was held on 22 November at Templeton Village Hall. The display looked amazing with all the Templeton Art Group work on show. The selection of paintings, cards, pottery and drawings were of a very high standard. Don't miss the next exhibition and sale of Templeton Art Group work later in the year.

Music Evening

By the time this magazine comes out, the Christmas-themed Music Evening on 5 December at Templeton Village Hall will have happened! This was an opportunity to begin the Christmas festivities with everyone coming together to watch, take part in and enjoy the music and singing at this community event. Thank you, Sue, for all the organising and encouragement and thanks to all the performers who took part!

Christmas Children's Party with YKH

This very popular annual event will have been held on Sunday 14 December at Templeton Village Hall with a special

visit by 'the man in the red suit'! This is wonderful annual family event is organised by Tony Loosemore, with a disco, party food and lots of fun. Each family brings a wrapped and named gift for their child which Father Christmas then distributes.

Christmas Competitions

The Annual Christmas Competitions (table tennis, pool, darts, and skittles) will have been held at Templeton Village Hall every Saturday evening in December - 6 December, 13 December and 20 December. This is an opportunity for everyone to have a go at these games, as well as for those who play regularly to enjoy the competition. There is plenty of time to practice on club nights or other nights in the week. The names of the winners will be engraved on the Silver Shields displayed in the bar.

Carol Service

On Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24 December, there will have been a candlelit Christmas Carol Service at 6pm followed by wine and mince pies. The church is always packed as everyone loves to sing their favourite carols and listen to the readings. The village hall is open after the service.

Future events.

New Year's Eve Party. On New Year's Eve at Templeton Village Hall from 8pm, Bob and Sonia are hosting a New Year's Eve party with Karaoke and Disco. The bar will be open, with snacks and light refreshments to enjoy. Come and join in with the singing, dancing, drinking, eating, and celebrating the New Year at this popular community event.


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PARISH ROUND-UP

Templeton Run

On Sunday 29 March 2026, the South West Road Runners and Exe Valley Rotary Club are once again organising their successful annual Charity Templeton Run with Templeton Village Hall providing refreshments for the runners and marshals. This run has expanded to a wide group of enthusiastic runners as a 10km and 5km run. The course follows a route starting at Templeton Village Hall and going through beautiful countryside into Cruwys Woods, which Guy Cruwys has kindly opened for the occasion. If you would like to know more, then please visit the South West Road Runners Website or book in at https://www.sientries.co.uk/event.php?elid=Y&event_id=16335

Dates for your diary

Quiz Night! Saturday 31 January at Templeton Village Hall at 7pm for 7.30pm start. Come and join the fun at a great quiz night which will be organised by Lynda's daughter and son-in-law, Sam and Justin. £7 entry - including supper. Must be teams of six! The prize for winning team is six bottles of wine, and the prize for the losing team is six cans of baked beans! For more information phone 01884 860655

Coming soon – another Bingo Night to raise funds for a defibrillator in the village! More information to follow.

Regular gatherings

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

Book Group: Templeton Village Hall. Second Wednesday of every month at 3pm. Although the group is at full capacity at the moment, please contact Julie at julie.dent@yahoo.co.uk if you

would like to be contacted when there's a vacancy.

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

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

Templeton Village Hall and Social Club Club nights are held on Monday and Saturday evenings from 8.00pm to 11pm. Why not come up on a club night for a drink and a chat. Or perhaps you would like a game of darts, pool, table tennis or skittles. Annual club membership is only £2 and the drinks are very reasonably priced. If you would like to book the village hall for a birthday party, meeting, or a game of table tennis with friends, please contact Bindy on 01884 860655. This a community space for our community to use.

Thoughts, prayers and best wishes

Our thoughts are with all those who are unwell, who have been in hospital, who are awaiting or recovering from surgery, or who are having a tough time at the moment. We hope that you will soon be feeling better.

Church Flowers and Cleaning Rota for January to March 2026

Julie Dent	28th Dec - 4th Jan
Teresa Panchez	11th - 19th Jan
Phillida Strong	25th Jan - 1st Feb
Laurel O'Brien	8th Feb - 15th Feb
Val Hopley	22nd Feb - 1st March
Gloria Woollacott	8th - 15th March

WASHFIELD

The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written, February is the border between winter and spring. Spring stands at the gate with her finger on the latch.

We enjoyed a moving service of Remembrance in November, with a very poignant talk from Toby Gray, former Commanding Officer of the Coldstream Guards and Battlegroup Commander in Afghanistan. I doubt anyone there will forget hearing the talk, remembering in particular Sgt John Amer who was killed in action, LCpl Ben Hilton who lost both legs, and CSgt Paul Baines MC, decorated for action later in the tour. Paul is now a plumber in Torbay! As ever hearing Maurice Balment reading the list of the fallen of Washfield was a reminder of Washfield youth – we will remember them.



Photo : Jim Taylor-Ross MBE, Colonel Toby Gray, Maurice Balment, Brian Hayes, Annabel Taylor-Ross

We look forward to a peaceful and hopefully prosperous 2026!

The Social Club committee will, as always, start the New Year planning events for the coming 12 months to

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PARISH ROUND-UP

bring our community together and entertained. Keep an eye out for details of these and please keep taking part in these lovely events to support YOUR village

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 our time-honoured teatime@thehall is still as popular as ever. Held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month between 2.30-4.00pm All ages are welcome to these friendly, chatty afternoons. Come along, you'd be most welcome.

To those who are not enjoying good health at the time of writing, and those who are currently spending time in hospital we hope you will soon be home, we send loving wishes for a speedy recovery if you are convalescing.

We've had the funerals of two, long-standing villagers recently, with burials in the churchyard and get-togethers afterwards in the hall.

The first was Betty Steed who died in October aged 94. Betty and her late husband, Michael moved into Pylemoor in December 1982 and quickly got involved with village life through the Church mainly, but also in the W.I. Betty was a very keen flower arranger and did flowers in Washfield and Stoodleigh for many years as well as joining in the planning of fetes.

She was a good neighbour and made a number of good friends in the villages, and supporting various groups with

Michael. Betty helped with Holidays at Home and used to run and sing in various choirs too. She was also a member of both Washfield and Stoodleigh PCCs at different times. They moved into Tiverton in 2002.

Our thoughts are with her family, Bridget, Laurence and their children.

Sadly, Arthur Henson of Courtenay Farm passed away on 5th November (aged 79) after a short illness. He had lived in Washfield since he was 16 years old (when his parents purchased the farm) Unfortunately, after just 7 years his father, Maurice, passed away and Arthur (aged just 23) continued to run the farm with his mum, Brenda.

Brenda died suddenly in 1985, leaving Arthur to run the farm alone. He farmed it with great pride, purchasing the best stock and managing the fields, keeping them weed free.

Arthur had farmed all his life and knew of nothing else. He never wanted to retire as farming was his passion Even when ill health became challenging it never stopped him from seeing his stock and keeping the farm going. He was buried on 4 December at St Mary the Virgin Church, Washfield.

Our thoughts go to Priscilla, Gavin and Zoe at this sad time.

Flower Rota

December 28/Jan 4

January 11/18

Jan 25/Feb 1

February 8/15

Mrs Jones

Sarah Tobey

Jessica Lampard

Linda Carey



WITHLEIGH

As a New Year begins and the winter progresses, we look forward to Spring and the first flowers that begin to peep through the cold soil, one of which is the Snowdrop, brought to us originally by the Romans. It means a new beginning, rebirth and hope, triumph over challenges which I'm sure we will all have, but although it looks fragile and delicate it is a tough little flower and survives. So hopefully we will be to get through all the challenges thrown at us in this New Year, just like a little Snowdrop.

Brief mention was hurriedly made in the last issue of the passing of Harry Hann. His funeral took place at St Catherine's on 14 November, followed by interment in the churchyard. Our sincere condolences go to Sylvia, Cathy, Rob, Liz and the rest of the family at this difficult time. Harry was a regular church goer and was usually in charge of the hymn number board at the front of the church.

Our Remembrance Sunday service, taken by Paul and Elizabeth, followed what has become our normal pattern. As we focussed on the war memorial, following the laying of the wreath a candle was lit to commemorate those names that appear on the memorial, as their names were read out, along with their regiment, date of death and age, as far as we have been able to find out. This led up to the two minutes silence at 11am. As was mentioned in the previous magazine, people in the village had been busy knitting or crocheting poppies, and Margaret and friends had made a display of them in church and on the church gate.

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PARISH ROUND-UP



January, but we will resume again on the first Thursday in February which is the 5 February, eyes down @ 7.30pm.

On Saturday 17 January we are holding a Curry Evening, in the Village Hall, @ 7.30pm. It would be helpful if you would let us know if you are intending to come, to help gauge the amount of Curry we need to make. Or if you would like more information. Please call Sara 252949 or Brenda 252431.

A Full English Breakfast will be available in the Village Hall on Saturday 31 January, from 9.30am to 11am. Proceeds will go to the church. Please call Sara or Brenda if you have a large party wishing to come. But please do drop in for Breakfast and a chat.

Tuesday 10 February is our next Community Lunch, in the Village Hall, 12.30pm for 1pm. Booking is essential, please call Christine 257571.

WOW

Hopefully you were able to see the Remembrance Day altar cloth and Witleigh church gate which were beautifully decorated with poppies. The knitted poppies were diligently created by the WOW ladies over the previous months.

During our November meeting we were shown how to create both a Christmas tree and a hedgehog by cleverly folding pages of an unwanted paperback book by one of our members.

December sees us gathering in a member's house for a Christmas celebration over lunch.

If you would like to join us, please contact Susie on 258492

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Eric Bolton. We send our sympathy and love to Shirley and Ken, Maureen and Robert and their families.

We send our congratulations and love to Fred and Lucy on the birth of their son, Thomas Lawrence Charles.

The Flower Rota for January/February is:
4 Jan – 18th Margaret
25 Jan – 8 Feb Brenda
Lent, please remove flowers

We will be starting our Taize Prayer Services again on February 1st at Calverleigh at 4.00pm

Taizé Prayers

Taizé is an ecumenical community in France which has been a focus for young people for about 70 years. The core of what they do is meditative prayer, based around simple chants, very easy to harmonise to.

Brother Roger, the founder of the community, wrote: 'Nothing is more conducive to a communion with the living God than a meditative common prayer with, as its high point, singing that never ends and that continues in the silence of one's heart when one is alone again. When the mystery of God becomes tangible through the simple beauty of symbols, when it is not smothered by too many words, then a common prayer, far from exuding monotony and boredom, awakens us to heaven's joy on earth'

Our Worship Team met on 18 November to plan our services, into next year. The sound system was also discussed as this was causing problems. Brenda, Margaret and Paul have since met with Alive Church System Ltd who reset our system and have since provided us with three possible upgrade options. These have yet to be considered by the PCC, early in the new year. It is likely that if an upgrade was agreed, a fund will be set up to help cover the cost.

Susie led our fifth Sunday service in the village hall, Poems, Prayer and Praise, at the end of November, her theme this time being *Carpe Diem*, seize the day. Our November Community lunch raised £127 which was donated to Farm Crisis Network.

Christmas Fayre on Saturday 6 December in the Village Hall raised in excess of £1500, thanks go to everyone involved in this, proceeds to St Catherine's Church.

Our Christingle Service took place on Sunday 7 December at 4 pm and was led by Laura and son Freddie. Thanks go to Janet and Christine for making the Christingles. Our collection from this is going to the Children's Society.

Our Christmas Bingo which was held on the 4 December raised £232 for the Village Hall. There will be no Bingo in

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9.30	Black Cat	13.10	£7.50	£5.00
9.38	Stoodleigh Quoit at Cross	13.02	£6.50	£4.00
9.40	Stoodleigh Hill Crest	12.58	£6.50	£4.00
9.42	Stoodleigh Parish Hall	12.56	£6.50	£4.00
9.46	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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