

TODAY

The Parish Magazine for the Exe Valley Mission Community

November / December 2026 **Price £1.00**

Things for the journey

If I had to write a list of the things I dislike, packing to go away would be one of them! It probably wouldn't be the first thing on my list, because, my dislike is often masked by a combination of practiced procrastination and by denial as I anticipate the delight of being somewhere different, and ignore what I need to do to get there! But then comes the awful moment when I must actually get on, make some decisions and put something – ANYTHING! –in a case!

Well of course that's the first decision. Which case? What case? Has the case that I thought I had, which has been lent out to various family members, been returned? Does it still have a complete set of wheels? No, it does not! Does it matter? Yes, apparently, it does! Three wheels on my wagon, and my case is definitely not rolling along, and those Cherokees are gaining ground!

Never mind, I have cases to spare. But the zip doesn't work, I can't remember the code, the handle comes out, but doesn't go in, this case is too small, this case is too heavy…All these things and I haven't packed one item to take with me!

And now, of course, I don't just have to take clothes, but I have copious medical supplies which I must take, as well as the pile of 'just in case' things, which I hope I don't need – but I might! I feel the cold. I feel the heat. I might get wet.

I have just come back from a few days in Mallorca.



My companion persuaded me that I only needed to take two outfits, and that we could share a suitcase! It was painful. On the first day I fancied tomato ketchup with my egg. I pressed the pump. Ketchup squirted everywhere. I looked like a cast member of Sweeney Todd. A lunch time chocolate ice cream trickled its gloopy way down my front! More sponging.

Early evening we went for a preprandial snifter. My companion successfully knocked his large glass of red wine all over me! More soaking and sponging (as well as forgiveness!) required. However, the truth is, I survived travelling lighter, with considerably fewer things. A lesson learnt, maybe?

As I write this, I am aware that we are journeying from Harvest and Creationtide, through Remembrance, and towards Christmas. Lying on my sun lounger, I was wondering what Mary and Joseph took with them on their journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem? We assume they had a donkey, but of course the Bible doesn't say that they had. Maybe they had to carry everything, or maybe because they had relatives in Bethlehem, they thought they might be able to borrow some things for while they were there. Or maybe they were used to having less. Or maybe they weren't that bothered. Or maybe Joseph brought some carpentry tools with him 'just in case'

These festivals are important, and we need to mark them and reimagine them. We need to prepare for them, rather like putting the right things in a suitcase, ready for the journey.

Less is probably more – spending time saying thank you for the lives of people who have enriched ours; preparing to celebrate Christmas by keeping a Holy or special Advent; focussing on Joseph, Mary and welcoming Jesus into our lives this Christmas.

There are plenty of ways that we can do all of these things, across our Mission Community.
Thank you for sharing the journey with me.

With my love to you and those you love,
Steph

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THE EXE VALLEY MISSION COMMUNITY

Calverleigh, Cruwys Morchard, Loxbeare, Oakford, Rackenford, Stoodleigh, Templeton, Washfield and Withleigh

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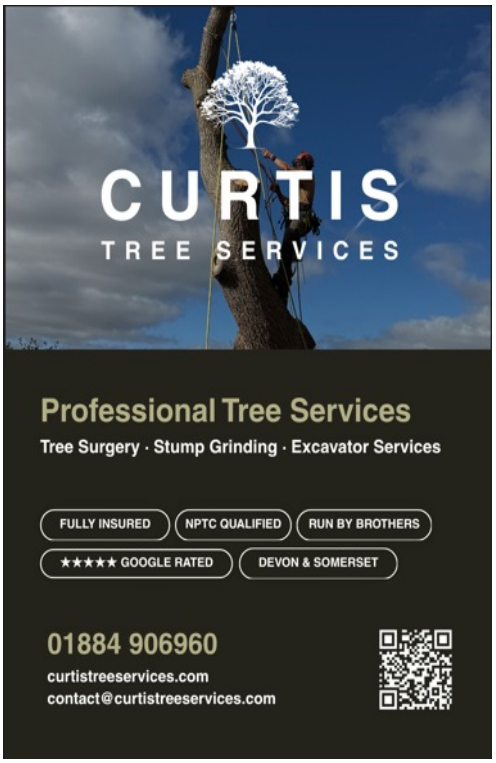
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WHAT'S ON ....

NATURE NOTES

CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE

Redwings on the wing

Throughout Autumn something special is happening in our night skies. Huge numbers of redwing are migrating from Northern European forests, which empty of most bird species before winter strikes. Coming from Scandinavia and Russia they migrate into the UK, Ireland and western France. Bird books describe the redwing call as *seeih* and once you have learned it, you may hear a redwing call overhead every few minutes, wherever you are in the UK, as they pass over in a wave of birds. There are a few pairs (about 80) of redwing breeding in Scotland but really, they are a winter visitor to our shores.

Redwings are a small thrush, of similar size to our song thrush but with darker brown plumage and the characteristic flash of colour from the red feathers on their under-wings as they fly. Look out for them feeding in the churchyard, you may be seeing birds fuelling up on migration or winter visitors who will stay for a few months. Redwings feed on berries, fallen fruit and will find soil invertebrates in short grass, pulling up worms or digging out leather jackets. They can be seen in flocks, with other thrushes such as fieldfare, mistle thrush and song thrush, feasting on yew berries and making a real mess! Winter thrushes descending on churchyard yews is one of the sights that chart the changing seasons.

You can help redwing and other thrushes by providing berry bearing shrubs and trees and thinking of your hedges as larders for weary travellers. Leave hedges untrimmed until February or early March so that birds may shelter within them and feed on hedge fruits such as hawthorn berries. Churchyards are usually free of pesticides which allows soil invertebrates to thrive, providing lots of nutritious meals. Yew trees provide both food and shelter and also give us the opportunity to really look at these lovely birds and think about the long journey they have made to reach us.



Redwing with berry in yew tree. Image credit Andrew Fusek Peters

Exe Valley Lunches

12.30pm - 2.30pm
Thursday November 12th - Oakford Village Hall
Thursday December 10th Christmas Lunch at Withleigh Village Hall

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

Climate Change and Creation

On Saturday 14th November at Oakford village Hall, there is an opportunity to see the National Emergency Briefing Film on the threats posed by climate change. The film lasts 55 mins, and is curated by Chris Packham.
The film will be followed by a discussion chaired by Revd David Ursell, former Rural Chaplain for the Diocese of Exeter and will concentrate on the implications for food and farming. It will finish at 4.00pm. Tea/coffee biscuits available.

You need to book a ticket. This is free and you get it at this link:

https://buytickets.at/exevalleymissioncommunity/2450768

Unite Carers

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

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

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

Unite Carers in mid-Devon - Supporting unpaid carers and former carers across mid-Devon since 2003. We are a charitable company, limited by guarantee. Charity number: 1099188



Tilly who won the new 'Myrtle's Merit' for most points gained at the Calverleigh Produce Show. Well done Tilly!



Washfield Social Club skittles winners 2026. Thank you to the Hartnoll Hotel for sponsoring this event and for donating vouchers for the prizes.



The new Harvest family at Calverleigh!





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.







Vadstena Kloisterkryka or
Vadstena Abbey Church
Sweden

Light a candle!

Bo Setterlind

Let not the darkness prevent you from seeking the light!
And when you have found it, let others see it, try it, convince themselves.
If you want the light to live, kindle in others the same desire.
Light the flame of courage
in the darkness of fear.
Light the flame of justice
in the darkness of corruption.
Light the flame of faith
in the darkness of denial.
Light the flame of hope
in the darkness of despair.
Light the flame of love
in the darkness of death

Light the flame!



ADVENT 2026

Zoom Compline with Revd Steph Gordon-Jeffs at 6.00pm

On Wednesday 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd December

Please use the link for Sunday Morning Praise or contact the church office.

'Walking with Angels'

Advent Reflection at The Rectory with Revd Steph Gordon-Jeffs at 10.30am



On Friday 4th, 11th and 23rd December





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PARISH ROUND-UP

CALVERLEIGH

The long days of summer are giving way to misty mornings, earlier sunsets and some much-needed rain showers as we move forwards through Autumn with all it's beautiful colours in our gardens and hedgerows, onto Winter with all the celebrations that this wonderful time of year provides.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Calverleigh Produce Show on Saturday 29 August. To those who entered classes, made donations of money, produce, draw prizes or refreshments, or helped to set up or clear away, it was a real team effort and along with the fun and friendly competition a total of £423.75 was raised towards Church funds.

Many congratulations to all the winners, but especially to 8 year old Tilly who beat 48 other competitors to win the most points overall. She was also awarded the new 'Myrtle's Merit' Award for the most points in the Children's section. Well Done Tilly!

It was lovely to welcome friends from around the valley for the Group Holy Communion service on 13 September which was led by Rev'd Steph. Music was led by David on the guitar and he was accompanied by Levon with his lovely harmonica playing. Thank you all for a lovely service after which tea and coffee was served.

Harvest weekend took place on 19/20 September. Saturday saw the bring and share harvest supper in the village hall with fellowship and hymns. Jackie welcomed everyone and led us into prayer and singing before supper.

A good, fun evening was had by all who attended and an informative talk was given by guest speaker Richard who volunteers with CHAT. He gave an outline of all the services provided by them and not just the foodbank. They also offer financial and housing advice. Richard, who was there with his wife Sarah, was thanked for his interesting talk.

Aubrey once again provided the entertainment in the form of a couple of quizzes, one of which had us being tested on our knowledge (or lack of it) of prices across different supermarkets on a number of shopping basket items. Who knew that there could be such a difference in cost between like for like items? Thank you, Aubrey and all who helped in anyway setting up, packing away, providing flower table decorations and of course the wonderful variety of food on offer for our supper.

The following day our Family Harvest Thanksgiving was led by Julie and Nik. The church was looking beautiful with floral displays and aromas of fruit and vegetables filled the air. The subject of the service was 'The Selfish Fool' who thought only of himself. Nik gave a mini talk about a pepper which could be eaten by one person but if the seeds are dried, shared and then planted many people can benefit from its produce. The children helped to distribute those seeds to everyone to take home and, hopefully, grow next year.

During the service everyone in church was thanked for all they do throughout the year for the church, each other and their neighbours. Our farming community was thanked for looking after the land and providing for the needs of the people. After the service we moved over to the village hall for refreshments and some all-age games. It was lovely to see our youngest members taking part and competing in games with our older members, with many smiles and much laughter along the way. Picnics were eaten and a couple more games played before departing for home. Thank you, Nik and Dave for organising the games. Our thanks also go to all who decorated the church, provided produce and donated items for CHAT. Thank you also to the Burton family for the well-fed bread mice on the harvest loaf. I think that they may have gained access to the selfish man's grain store.

The fresh produce from harvest was delivered to The Salvation Army the following day who distribute it to those in need and a good number of items went to CHAT later that week. Both organisations gave their thanks for our generosity.

Congratulations to Margaret who celebrated a significant birthday in September, 90 years young. Our love and best wishes go to you and to anyone else who has been celebrating any kind of family celebration recently.

A Songs of Praise service was held on 4 October and was led by Aubrey. A variety of hymns both old and more modern were chosen along with a hymn new to most of us and a couple of poems. A reflective hymn 'Faithful One' by Brian Deorksen was played as a time of quiet. Thank you to all who made a hymn choice and to Dave and Tash for the poems and Jackie for the reading.

If you have succumbed to the horrible lurgy that is doing the rounds at the moment, we hope that you will soon recover and be feeling much better. We also wish you well if you are receiving treatment or awaiting test results at the moment.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have been bereaved recently or longer ago and pray that you find some comfort in knowing that others care.

Forthcoming Events

The Big Picture: Now that all pieces of the Big Picture have been returned and are being assembled, the grand reveal will take place in Calverleigh church on Saturday 14 November from 10am - 12 noon. It will also be on display the following week at the Autumn Fayre. Thank you to all who have taken part with

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PARISH ROUND-UP

their artistic talents. The £540 raised has gone towards the 'Restore the Floor' fund.

On 8 November we will be holding a Remembrance Sunday service starting at 10.50am.

This year's Autumn Fayre is on Saturday 21 November from 10.30am - 2pm with the usual stalls, competitions, refreshments, children's craft table, cake stall, produce, draws and more.

Small tabletop Christmas Trees will be on sale at the Autumn Fayre, the idea being to decorate as you wish, include battery operated lights and bring to Church to be displayed for the Christingle Service (Sun 6 Dec), you will hopefully be happy to leave in place for the Carol Service (Sun 20 Dec) after which they can be taken home and enjoyed. All proceeds will go towards Restoring the Floor, but will also illuminate the Church for the festive services. If you cannot make the Autumn Fayre please call Paul or Mo on 07967 989 724 who will be happy to get one to you.

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

Loxbeare and Calverleigh carol singing: We will be following last year's successful and very enjoyable format and meet at Loxbeare Church carpark on Monday 21 Dec at 6.30pm, singing for an hour followed by light refreshment and Wednesday 23 Dec meeting at Calverleigh village hall car park, again at 6.30pm, singing for an hour and followed by refreshment. Please join us on either or both evenings. There will be a collection for a local charity as usual, which is yet to be decided. The more the merrier!

If you are unable to join us but would like us to come to your home and sing as normal then please contact either Aubrey on 01884 255248, Jackie on 07980 253073 or Sue on 01884 259496 so that we can arrange a time on either of those dates. There will be a collection for a local charity as usual, which is yet to be decided.

Mowing: Thanks to everyone who helps to keep the church grounds looking so beautiful throughout the year - especially one warden in particular.

Church cleaning rota:

26 Oct - 7 Nov:	Miss J Herniman
9 Nov - 21 Nov:	Mrs M Furneaux
23 Nov - 5 Dec:	Mrs A Webber
7 Dec - 19 Dec:	Miss S Goldsworthy
21 Dec - 9 Jan 2027:	Mrs J Goldsworthy

Flower Rota:

18 Oct - 25 Oct:	Mrs T Pugsley
1 Nov - 8 Nov:	Mrs R Tapp
15 Nov - 22 Nov:	Mrs L Carrey
29 Nov - 6 Dec:	Mrs S Greenslade
13 Dec - 20 Dec:	Mrs M Furnaux

If you'd like your special birthday, anniversary or a special event here? Pictures are also welcome – though, do ask permission of anyone pictured before sending them in. You can contact Dave by emailing: calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org or call 01884 561499. Please make sure that everything is sent in before the next deadline (deadlines can be found on the front page of the magazine!)



CRUWYS MORCHARD

Please accept my apologies for the draft report, sent in error for the last edition.

Autumn is upon us, the trees are changing colour, the air is crisp and the morning mists make the countryside mystical.

Church of the Holy Cross.

We give our thanks to all who keep the grounds of the church tidy. We are always in need of more help, so, if you are able to volunteer to do some mowing, please contact Diana Vincent on 07801 937401

We were so lucky to have fine weather for our Harvest Festival once again. Our thanks go to those who helped during the service and to Jeff for organising the sports. Also, thanks to those that helped Jeff. Great fun was had by all in the different races. This was followed by tea in the hall where a wonderful buffet was laid out with delicious homemade cakes, sandwiches and other fare. It is so good for the community to enjoy time together. CHAT was delighted with the generous donations from one and all. Many thanks to all involved.

We were pleased to welcome April and Freya Hill, Milly Campbell and Dorothy Davison into our church when they were baptised. Our thoughts and prayers are with anyone who is unwell,

in hospital, awaiting treatment, recovering from surgery or having a tough time at present. We wish you well.

We remember anyone who has lost a loved one. We send our deepest sympathy to Viv as she mourns the loss of Terry and Sonia as she and the family mourn the loss of Roland. Sonia would like to thank the Mission community for the flowers - they brought her great

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PARISH ROUND-UP

comfort. She still enjoys getting the TODAY magazine.
The Black Dog Boogie evening was enjoyed by all and raised £555.50 towards church funds.

Our Christmas Fayre is on Saturday 14 November starting at 10.30 to 13.30. Come and join us and get some goodies for Christmas. There will be various craft stalls, Christmas Hamper raffle, cake stall and delicious refreshments. Donations for cakes would be much appreciated. Please contact Val on 07891 029850.

On Sunday 20 December we will be holding our usual Carol and Christingle service. It begins at 10.45 am and will be followed by refreshments. Cindy and Diana would like to hear from anyone who would like to help with the service. During the service we shall be collecting non-perishable goods for CHAT to distribute locally to those in need. We will be making Christingles on Saturday 19 at Cindy's house from 2.00 pm.

Cruwys Social Evening
The social evenings will be on 11 and 25 November and 9 December at the Parish Hall from 6.30 - 9.30. Come and join neighbours for a chat and a drink and perhaps take part in the quiz that starts at 7.30. All welcome. For more information contact Diana on 07801 937401.

Flower & cleaning rota
2nd November - Denyse Standen & Jo Hilton
9th & 16th November - Sue and Pauline Guscott
23rd & 30th November Claire Miller
7th December Lorna Warren
Decorators for Christmas week beginning 14th December
December 21st & 28th Diana Vincent & Val Randerson
January 4th & 11th Cindy Trick
Thank you for your help. Any problems please contact Cindy

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

Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall
Dates for your diaries:
Saturday 21st November 19:15 – evening of wine, cheese and live musical performances in aid of Force cancer charity. Tickets £15. Please contact Jacqui on 07800957950 to book.
Dave & Di's Christmas Quiz - Saturday 5th December. £8 per person to include a light supper. To reserve a table, please contact Diana Vincent 07801 937401
Christmas Bingo - Saturday 19th December
For enquiries regarding hall hire, please contact Diana Vincent, 07801 937401.

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

Congregational churches
Please join us for: tea & cake at Nomansland Chapel 3-4pm every Friday
Usual Sunday services are:
2.30pm Nomansland Chapel*
4pm Pennymoor Chapel*
*except 3rd Sunday of the month, when we all join Way Village Chapel 3pm.
Dates for your diaries:
Friday 2 November 16:30 Pennymoor Chapel Christmas wreath making
Friday 4 December 12:30 Pennymoor Chapel Christmas lunch
Please check Facebook or notice board for advertising or call Ruth on 01363 530013.

Gardening club
This has been a challenging summer for all gardeners and although we have now had some rain it has not been enough to penetrate the ground very far. Worms are still coiled into knots to conserve moisture and buried deep, making themselves inaccessible to birds like robins and blackbirds. We were all reminded to provide water for wildlife, not forgetting insects who need it in shallow dishes. Most garden birds have finished their moult and are beginning to show themselves again, those of us participating in a bit of citizen science by completing the monthly bird survey are able to put a few more 'ticks' on our forms.
Members had plenty to display at the Flower Show despite the difficult season and were also able to contribute an impressive amount to the plant stall at Cruwys Morchard Fete where Claire and Allan Miller did a great job.
At our last meeting we discussed which plants had come through the summer unharmed and those that had suffered and concluded that it was better to wait to see if they produced new growth before giving up on them.
We were disappointed to have to cancel a visit to Stephen Powell's wildflower meadow at the end of May because of the extreme heat. We are looking forward to our next meeting on the 7th Oct. where Sonia Mistely is talking to us about Mosses and Lichens.
If you would like to join our small but very active garden group, you would be very welcome. Just contact Claire Miller on 01884 861278 or turn up to one of our meetings in Puddington Village Hall on the 1st Wednesday of the month.

Clare Penney
Cruwys Morchard YFC
A big thank you to those that joined and supported the tractor run in July. With this and other fundraising, the club has raised over £3000 this year for Macmillan.
The club performed well at the recent Mid Devon show, with lots of members taking part. The YFC tent came third across the show in the features tent category. Harry got first for tame lamb and Elodie third, Ed was second junior boy and Harry first for overall points. The club won percentage cup for most points divided by the number of members.
Erin represented Devon County at Nationals in September, in the floral art category.
Several members enjoyed a residential adventure trip to Shropshire, with 170 other club members from the South West Area. Oscar raised funds to join the junior travel scholarship to Slovinia in August.
The club enjoyed a new members evening at the Cadeleigh Arms and a presentation evening at the village hall. Thank you to all those that provided food, served and came along and enjoyed the evening. Exe Valley won the pillar decorating at Exeter Cathedral for the harvest service.
The club will holding a bingo on Saturday 14 November at the Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall. Doors open at 7pm, eyes down at 7.30. Usual great prizes. Hope to see you there.
The Christmas tractor run will be on Sunday 6th December. Look out for posters nearer the time.
The young farmers will be doing a Christmas tree collection in the New Year. Contact Helen for more information.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

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

If you are aged between 10-28 years and would like to see what else we get up to, monthly meetings are held at the Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall on the first Tuesday of every month at 7pm. Club email: cmyfc.devon@gmail.com We will be holding a new members evening in September. Please look out for posters on socials and come along to find out more. Everybody welcome.

Flower Show

This was held on 8th August with 250 entries. Thank you to everyone who entered and helped make this show a continued success.

Open Garden – a massive thank you to everyone who helped and attended my Grandmother's Open Garden to help me raise money for my volunteering trip to Zanzibar next July. We raised an incredible £600.

Apple Pressing Day was held on 10 October to raise money for CHAT. The total raised was £231.75 to support the work of CHAT, helping those in need across our communities.

Magazine contact

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

LOXBEARE

We wish Trevor and Carol every happiness in their new home in Tiverton and welcome Will and Jodie to Loxbeare. We look forward to getting to know you and hope you will enjoy living in the community in Loxbeare.

The Harvest service, followed by refreshments, was enjoyed by all, when Archdeacon Andrew Beane led the service. £100 from the collection has been sent to TEAR Fund.

On the following Tuesday evening a delicious supper was enjoyed, followed by the auction of produce, which raised £315 and has been given to CHAT.

Everyone is welcome to come and help pack the shoe boxes with items purchased from the proceeds of the coffee morning held in October, meeting at 2.15 p.m. in the village hall on 2nd November. The filled boxes are subsequently distributed to men, women and children around the world who have very little and are so appreciated by the recipients.

Remembrance Service on 8th November begins at 10.50am and the collection taken at that service will be given to Royal British Legion. Please see centre pages for details of other services.

Loxbeare & Calverleigh Carol Singing

We will be following last year's successful and very enjoyable format, meeting at Loxbeare church carpark on Monday 21st December at 6.30p.m. singing for an hour followed by light refreshments, and Calverleigh village hall carpark on Wednesday 23rd December, again at 6.30 p.m. and singing for an hour and followed by refreshments. There will be a collection for a local charity as usual, which is yet to be decided. Please join us on either or both evenings. The more the merrier!

If you are unable to join us but would like us to come to your home and sing as normal, then please contact either Aubrey on 01884 255248, Jackie on 07980 253073 or Sue on 01884 255946 so that we can arrange a time on either of those dates.

On 21st December, there will be a combined Carol and Christingle service. We look forward to celebrating the gift of our saviour together, as we sing well-loved carols and hear the readings of good news for all.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are suffering in any way: farmers suffering emotionally and financially from the devastating effects of the drought, bluetongue and bovine TB, Arthur and anyone awaiting or recovering from operations, those who live with debilitating conditions and all who care for them, all who feel lonely and anyone who struggles with the long dark nights and cold, wet weather. We remember too, those who have lost loved ones.

Please let us know if you would like prayer or any practical help. If you would like prayer for a specific need and would prefer to remain anonymous, please feel free to place a note in the prayer request on the table just inside the church.

Thanks to all who have helped in any way during the year: taking part in services, prayer ministry, showing care and kindness to people in the community, maintaining the building and the churchyard, giving financially, administration and many other things – all very much appreciated.

Community Events

The proceeds of £360, raised at the ploughman's lunch in September, has been sent to Exeter Leukaemia Fund.

Donations totalling £110 given at the cream tea in October, have been sent to Children's Hospice South West.

On 14th November there will be a Soup Lunch from 12.30 – 2.00pm in aid of Bowel Cancer.

On 7th December there will be a Christmas bingo in the village hall. Doors open at 7.00pm, eyes down at 7.30pm.



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1 NOVEMBER

All Saints Day
(White)

Whole life worth-ship

Revelation 7: 9-17
Matthew 5: 1-12

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH
10.45am Holy Communion
Tim Gorringe
4.00pm Taize Tim Gorringe

CRUWYS MORCHARD
10.45am Morning Praise

LOXBEARE
10.45am Morning Praise

OAKFORD
10.45am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD
10.45am Family Service

STOODLEIGH
10.45am Morning Praise

TEMPLETON
No Service

WASHFIELD
10.45am Family Service

WITHLEIGH
10.45am Family Service

8 NOVEMBER

The 3rd Sunday before Advent
(Red or Green)

Remembrance Sunday

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH
10.50am Remembrance Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD
10.50am Remembrance Service

LOXBEARE
10.50am Remembrance Service

OAKFORD
10.50am Remembrance Service
at the War Memorial
followed by lunch and a film in
the village Hall.

RACKENFORD
10.50am Remembrance Service
at the War Memorial

STOODLEIGH
10.50am Remembrance Service

TEMPLETON
10.50am Remembrance Service

WASHFIELD
10.50am Remembrance Service
Holy Communion
Tim Gorringe

WITHLEIGH
10.50am Remembrance Service

15 NOVEMBER

The 2nd Sunday before Advent
(Red or Green)

Ready to receive

Judges 4: 1-7
Matthew 25: 14 - 30

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH
9.15am Explore
Nik and Tash

CRUWYS MORCHARD
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
10.45am Family Service

WASHFIELD
3.00pm Evening Prayer

WITHLEIGH
10.45am Morning Praise

22 NOVEMBER

16th Sunday after Trinity
(Red or White)

Christ the King

9.30am Zoom Service

OUR MISSION COMMUNITY HOLY COMMUNION GROUP SERVICE

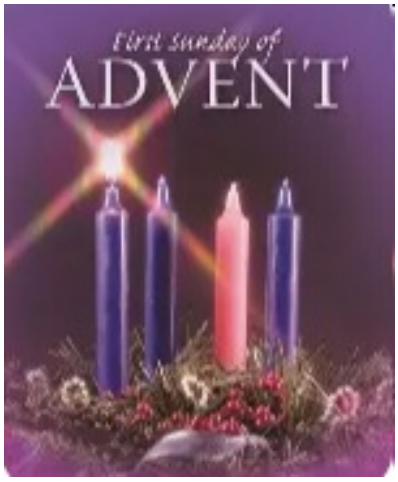
is at
10.45am in

TEMPLETON

Tim Gorringe

Everyone welcome

29 NOVEMBER
WITHLEIGH
9.30am Poems, Prayer and Praise



29 NOVEMBER

The 1st Sunday of Advent
(Purple)

9.30am Zoom Service

OUR MISSION COMMUNITY HOLY COMMUNION GROUP SERVICE FOR ADVENT SUNDAY
is at
10.45am in

RACKENFORD

Steph Gordon-Jeffs and David Edwards

Everyone is welcome

6 DECEMBER

The 2nd Sunday of Advent
(Purple)

Recognising prophetic

Mark 1: 1-8
2 Peter 3: 8-15a

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH
3.00pm Christingle

CRUWYS MORCHARD
10.45am Morning Praise

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

OAKFORD
10.45am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD
10.45am Morning Praise

STOODLEIGH
10.45am Morning Praise

TEMPLETON
10.45am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD
10.45am Morning Praise

WITHLEIGH
10.45am Family Service

13 DECEMBER

The 3rd Sunday of Advent
(Purple)

Choosing to rejoice

Luke 1: 46b-55
John 1: 6-8,19-28

9.30am Zoom Service

OUR MISSION COMMUNITY GROUP HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

is at
10.45am
in
WASHFIELD
with
Tim Gorringe

EVERYONE IS WELCOME



20 DECEMBER

The 4 Sunday of Advent
(Purple)

Wondering love

Luke 1: 26-38
Romans 16: 25-27

9.30am Zoom Service

CALVERLEIGH
3.00pm Carol Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD
10.45am Carol Service
and Christingle

LOXBEARE
10.45am Carol Service
and Christingle

OAKFORD
10.45am Carol Service
with Holy Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and David Edwards

RACKENFORD
10.45am Morning Praise

STOODLEIGH
6.00pm Carol Service

TEMPLETON
10.45am Family Service

WASHFIELD
3.00pm Evening Prayer

WITHLEIGH
3.00pm Carol Service
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

24 DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS EVE

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

TEMPLETON
6.00pm Carol Service

WASHFIELD
6.00pm Carol Service

RACKENFORD
6.30pm Carol Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD
9.00pm Christmas Praise

WITHLEIGH
11.15pm Holy Communion
Tim Gorringe

25 DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS DAY
(White)

9.30am Zoom Service
with Holy Communion

OUR MISSION COMMUNITY GROUP HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE
is at
10.30am
in
CALVERLEIGH

with
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

27 DECEMBER

The 1st Sunday of Christmas
(White)

9.30am Zoom Service

OUR MISSION COMMUNITY GROUP HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

is at
10.45am
in
CRUWYS MORCHARD
with
Tim Gorringe

PARISH ROUND-UP

OAKFORD

Whilst typing this report for the final edition of Today Magazine in 2026 we are still enjoying stunning weather, a perfect Indian summer.
However the weather men predict that a familiar winter chill will soon start to settle over Oakford.
This edition looks back at some autumn events and looks forward to the joys of the festive season ahead.
Winter in numbers - you may be interested to know!!

9 The fastest speed in miles per hour that a snowflake can fall
5:1 The ratio of snow to water that scientists have calculated is ideal for building a snowman
1,000 The number of ladybirds that typically gather in a 'huddle', the form of hibernation insects use



A 'huddle' in St Peter's!

-27.2 deg, C the coldest temperature recorded in the UK – in 1895 then in 1982 and again in 1995.
421 The number of words Scots have for snow – including sneesl,skelf and snaw-pouther

St Peter's Church.
The Harvest Festival service at St Peter's with the Rev'd Steph and Dave was followed by a lovely lunch in the village hall and enjoyed by villagers. Thank you to all who helped prepare the meal and washed up afterwards! The ladies who usually fill the church windows and church with harvest produce and flowers for Harvest Festival on this occasion filled the area with supplies for CHAT to help those in the community who are struggling to manage. All the tinned and dried produce was delivered to CHAT along with a donation of £150 from the collection and ticket sales.

St Peter's Remembrance Service will take place at The War Memorial in the village at 10.50am. The service will be followed by a hot lunch in the village hall with a film showing of 'Operation Mincemeat' starring Colin Firth. Everyone is welcome.

Our Carol Service will be on December 20 at 10.45am with Rev. Steph and David Edwards followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Christmas Carols around the Village Tree with roast potatoes, sausage rolls, mulled wine and mince pies will be on Christmas Eve at 6.00pm.

St Peter's Bells
The newly refurbished and tuned bells have attracted several visiting ringing teams wanting to ring our great bells, full peals, ¼peals or just an hour or so of ringing together, filling the village with wonderful sound.

Books, coffee and chat meetings, held in the community area of the church, resumed in September after a short break. The next meetings are on Wednesday 4 November and Wednesday 2 December.
We have plenty of new books and all are welcome to come along.

With the re-opening of The Red Lion its good to have the 3 Village Hubs – the church, the pub and the village hall all up and running.

The Red Lion Pub Quiz.
November 15 and December 20.
Please come along and support the chosen charities 7.30pm for 8.00pm start.

The Moorland Club.
On 12 September the Moorland Club hosted another very popular Big Breakfast. Members did a brilliant job cooking a delicious breakfast for 84 people in the village hall.
A great event much enjoyed by all who attended raising £906.14 for the Devon Air Ambulance. Well done ladies and thank you all for your hard work.
The October Moorland meeting will have already taken place before the magazine arrives on your doorstep and was 'An Evening with Andrew Hughes' photography, nature and the story behind the image.

Oakford Village Hall
The Village Hall committee will be holding a Halloween Party in the Village Hall on Saturday 31 October from 7.00pm. Entry Free. Prizes for the best costume. Music, dancing, games, spooky food and cocktails.

The annual Rotary Club inter pub quiz was held on 8 October with quizzers in the Red Lion ready to do battle with 4 other local pubs. The winner was the Stoodleigh Inn by 1 point!! All donations were for CHAT.

Oakford Parish Council.
Community Area Improvements.
Oakford Parish Council is continuing to look at ways of improving the Community Area and making it an enjoyable and useful space for people of all ages.
As part of this we are currently progressing plans for a small selection of outdoor fitness equipment. The pieces being considered currently include a Skier, Chin-up station, Air Walker and a children's Rider, giving a mixture of cardiovascular, strength and mobility based exercise. We are in the process of obtaining quotations which include the equipment, suitable grass safety matting, delivery and installation.
We are also looking to provide additional picnic benches, helping to create more places to sit, meet and enjoy the area.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

In addition Cllr Vaughan Stevens is sourcing a new cover for the petanque pitch, which we hope will help suppress weed growth and make the area easier to maintain when the pitch is not in use.
These additions are intended to compliment the existing Community Area and make it a more welcoming versatile space for residents and visitors alike.
We will keep everyone updated as plans progress
This all sounds exciting, hope we can all support the council and use this lovely area.

Dates for your diaries.
The Oakford Players production 'he Hound of the Baskervilles' had to be postponed and will now be in April 2027.

Sat 27 February 7.30 –11.00pm
Oakford Village Hall. A return visit of the Bierkeller Boys and a Bavarian Night.

As always our thoughts and prayers go to all who are ill at home or in hospital. Also greetings to everyone celebrating birthdays and anniversaries.

Wishing everyone in the parish of Oakford a very Merry Christmas.

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

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

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

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

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

RACKENFORD

After going to print with the last issue we heard sad news from in and around the village of families losing loved ones.

William James Moore (known to many as Russell throughout his school days and during his life) died suddenly on August 22 while spending a short time in hospital after becoming poorly at home. We send you all our deepest sympathy. Russell lived and farmed all his life at Lower Bullworthy with his parents. He married Joy and had twin sons Mark and John who also worked at home alongside their father. Joy, Mark and John continue to farm at Lower Bullworthy. His service and interment was held at All Saints on Friday September 18 at 10:30 and was taken by Christopher Rowley. Many attended to pay their respects. Donations were given to Rackenford Churchyard Fund, for which we are most grateful. Many thanks.

We are also thinking of Philippa and Jim Fraser - Jim who recently lost his mother and Philippa whose dear sister Caroline died on August 31. A very sad time for them all and their families. Caroline's service was held on Friday September 18 at Puddington and was taken by Rev Antonia Tregenza. Donations in her memory were given to FORCE. Our love and prayers are with you all.

Others in our community we need to remember in prayer are Derek and Jean, both struggling with health issues, and Ruth and Graham as Ruth's brother struggles with health issues since having major surgery. Also Jacques and Mary so well known to many of us, and also remembering the carers that support Mary.

Once again we feel very blessed to have benefited from the kindness of the Rackenford and All England Tennis Club with a donation of £700, with the same amount given to another charity. We are so grateful for your ongoing support - thank you very much indeed.

Debbie from Rackenford Club organised a charity Tractor Run which took place on August 23. A grand total of 49 tractors travelled the roads from Rackenford Club and an amazing £900 was raised, £700 going to OPA Cancer Charity and £200 to FORCE Exeter. A lot of support from Rackenford Club and well wishers. A very enjoyable day for all.

How helpful to see some graves have been levelled off now - many thanks to all who have helped us in this way. It's the way forward when graves need to be cut - so much easier and tidier. Thank you to those thoughtful souls. Thank you also to our new volunteers who are trying to give time to help in the churchyard when they can. It doesn't go unnoticed and it's jolly hard work. We still welcome some young support to help us along please. We are still planning for the whole of the churchyard to be cut. If it hasn't been when you receive this issue, it soon will be. Time, volunteers and good weather need to be available on the day and that's not always easy. If you want to come along with wheelbarrow, brush and elbow grease please get in touch - thank you. Just a reminder to remove glass and china containers and artificial flowers for safety's

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and what we do.

PARISH ROUND-UP

sake for the volunteers and equipment being used - lawn mowers / strimmers. Thank you kindly. We have put notices in place.

It's a delight to have a new notice board in place. Many thanks to the skilful hands of Stuart Warne and his kindness in coming to our aid and giving us the opportunity to advertise our services and coming events. It looks brilliant Stuart, thank you very much.

A warm welcome to Stephen, Yvette and family who have moved into Meadow View. We hope you will enjoy being part of Rackenford village and join in our events. We look forward to meeting you, if we haven't already. Of course this means we have said goodbye to Ben, Maddie, Finley and Flora. Wishing you every happiness in your new home.

On September 24, the church was the venue to welcome the South West Ambulance Service for CPR and defibrillator hands on training. A most enlightening and interesting hour with such vital information to enable us to maybe be ready to help someone should it be needed (our defibrillator has been needed in the past). Our defibrillator is situated outside the shop. You cannot miss the large blue box. Have a look next time you pass so you're aware of it's presence. Thanks to those who attended.

Well done to Liz and Tim again for organising this years Church Sponsored Walk which took place on Saturday September 12. The walk was a circular one around the village of Stoodleigh for approximately 5.5 miles and raised approximately £750. We hope you enjoyed the beautiful surroundings, views and lovely woodland. Hopefully your legs and backs didn't suffer and poor old feet of course. Thank you to all how walked and all the generous sponsors. We couldn't achieved this without you.

Our church hedge is looking so neat and tidy again after having Fred, Brian and George on the job. So many compliments have been received on what a massive difference it makes and it really does. So thank you all for giving your time. Also to Helen wielding the brush! Every little helps!!

Our Harvest Festival Lay Led Service took place on October 4 at 6:30pm. Prior to this the church was beautifully decorated thanks to Joy, Hilda, Debbie, Margaret, Marilyn and also Amelia who did a beautiful display of fruit and veg near the pulpit window. It all looked so bright and beautiful with the sun pouring through. The latter was on behalf of the Gardening Club. Many thanks for all the donations. Flowers and foliage were given to the church and we appreciate all your generosity. Our service was taken by Mary, our Churchwarden, and Liz with others contributing with prayers and readings. It was good to see you all and thanks to you for taking part. Our collection was given to CHAT.

Even though farmers and people in general have struggled with the intense heat and no rain, we are still blessed and thankful for all we have around us to enjoy - the countryside and what it provides. It was good to have what we could refer to as a 'summer' but many struggled through it, especially some with health issues. We complain when it's too hot, too cold, too wet, too windy, so let's see what Autumn brings us - and Winter of course. Unknown to us all as yet, but time will tell.

Our Harvest Supper took place at Rackenford Club on October 7. We were very pleased to welcome those who attended and hope you enjoyed the evening. Sadly we can only cater for about 40 but those who did come enjoyed a delightful feast of meats, quiche, pizzas, salads, bread rolls and so many delicious desserts all made and given - really spoilt for choice. We had a lovely variety of prizes given in the draw and a huge box of fruit, veg etc from the Gardening Club from a lucky ticket number when you booked. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard during the day and late into the evening, to all who provided, served and tried to make it a good evening for everyone. Thank you Debbie for letting us take over everything. We are very thankful to you and Rackenford Club for letting us provide for our Harvest friends and raise funds with a good profit of £384.33.

We are planning a Christmas Coffee Morning on November 28. Please look out for the poster and we look forward to seeing you for tea, cake and a few stalls to browse. Bring your families and friends and let us make you a cuppa.

We are also looking forward to seeing you all at our Christmas Eve Lay Led Service at 6:30pm with your families gathering to spend Christmas and celebrate this special time with you - singing carols to welcome Christmas Day once again at our church.

Our prayers continue for PEACE.

STOODLEIGH

If you were asked to imagine an 'English Country Scene' what would you think of? Some cows grazing in a field? A Thatched Cottage? A cream tea picnic? Well, The Stoodleigh Inn' cricket match (when cricket is not real cricket) could not be beaten for a more English country scene. On a beautiful sunny afternoon in September, sat at Stoodleigh's cricket pitch which overlooks the most stunning views of our Exe Valley, friends watched



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PARISH ROUND-UP

2 teams battle out a very friendly match with just a small amount of heckling, to raise money in support of Stoodleigh Cricket Club. The Inn team got to lift the trophy, and £534 was raised. Well done to all who supported this event, it was a wonderful afternoon, and thank you for all the refreshments –both during the afternoon and later into the evening!

The Stoodleigh Inn also took part in the Rotary Club's 'Pub Quiz' night on October 8th. Four Devon Pubs in the area took part in a series of questions, with the whole pub being one team, and guess what folks…Stoodleigh won! Yay! This evening raised £100 for the Rotary Club who were collecting for the charity CHAT, based in Tiverton.

St Margaret's Church

Talking of sunny afternoons, back in August St Margaret's held the wedding of Daniel Cotterill and Charlotte Symns. A vintage car brought Charlotte to church where the families had filled the pews on this happy occasion. Charlotte's grandparents were married in St Margaret's many years before and her mother's family lived in the cottages near the church. So it seemed fitting that Charlotte and Daniel carried on a family tradition. We wish them much happiness in their years ahead together.

More recently during September we held our Harvest Festival service in church and the Harvest Supper and Skittles evening in our Parish hall. Thank you to those who came and supported both of these events, it was good to see you. The skittles was excellent fun, lots of friendly rivalry between teams, thankfully no overarm throwing, with the final nail biting 'killer' match being won by Julian Mansfield. The supper was plentiful and very tasty. We had an excess of puddings but thankfully 3 teenage boys dropped into the hall (to see what all the noise was) and they managed to hoover up what was left, whilst also learning how not to play skittles! Lovely to meet you lads, hope you'll come again next year.

St Margaret's dates for November and December:

Remembrance Service held in our church on Sunday November 8th. Please come for 10.50am so that we are assembled for the 2 minute silence of Remembrance at 11am. All are welcome and there will be refreshments after the service.

Our Fun Christmas Bingo will be at the Stoodleigh Inn on Thursday 12th November. Come for 6.30pm so that eyes are down for 7pm. This is a fundraising evening for St Margaret's church, so come and support us if you can.

Christmas Coffee Morning in St Margaret's church is Saturday 12th December. More details to follow on the Community Email.

Christmas Carol Service in St Margaret's church is Sunday December 20th at 6pm.

Flower Rota for November is Phyllis and Angie – Poppies for Remembrance

December – everyone to do their Christmas flowers before Dec 12th please.

Sadly, we have had two funerals during September and October in our church. Both were held for residents of Stoodleigh who truly loved living in our village and surrounding area. And both will be greatly missed by many.

Jennifer Fraser

Jennifer's funeral was held on 14th September. Jennifer and her husband Ian lived in Stoodleigh from and always remembered by her family and friends.

Richard Banks

The Union Jack was flown at St Margaret's for Richard, whose funeral was held on 5th October. Richard was one of life's true 'gentlemen' and on the occasions when he came to our services he brought a smile, happiness and cheeriness to church with him. In the memorial read out by his brother, Richard, as a young boy was always 'up to something' normally out of the ordinary. His individualism and character led him towards a life-long love of sports cars. In particular the Alfa Romeo sports car and after buying his first Alfa in 1978 he carried out restoration work and became a leading supplier of Alfa Romeo cars and parts world-wide. He started his own company Alfaholics in 1999 which his sons took on and still run as a successful business today. Richard and his wife Mary, lived in Oakford for many years before moving to Herefordshire to be near family. However missing the Devon countryside and life away from the Exe Valley they decided to relocate back and found their 'dream home' on the outskirts of Stoodleigh. They have spent many happy years together here amongst friends in the village, and Mary would like to thank all her neighbours and those who have sent letters, cards, flowers and given support to her at this very sad time.

Stoodleigh Parish Hall

Saturday Coffee Mornings at the Hall

We love to see you all who pop in for coffee, a slice of cake and a catch up with others in the community on first Saturdays of the month. The Hall is open between 10.30am and 12noon - next Coffee Morning is on 7 November. No coffee on 5 December as we'll all be preparing for the Christmas Tree Lighting event. First 2027 Coffee Morning will be 2 January.

Stoodleigh Winter Fair: Saturday 14 November - 10.30am until 1.30pm

The Hall will be welcoming stallholders offering goods from local craftspeople, residents and groups. If you would like to have a stall for your items or promote your local business, please contact us as soon as possible - speak to members of the Hall Committee or ring Geraldine on 07734 451741 for information. This event will give our visitors a great opportunity for some local Christmas shopping. The Kitchen Cafe team will be serving refreshments throughout the Fair so please come and visit. Full information on the parish website at https://www.middevonparish.co.uk/stood

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PARISH ROUND-UP

leigh/parish-hall/hall-events-and-fundraising/

Parish Hall Annual General Meeting: Tuesday 24 November - 7.30pm at the Parish Hall

Come and join us for the AGM - all Stoodleigh residents are invited to the meeting. Community support for the Parish Hall and the Committee's efforts has been great this year and much appreciated - thank you! Please come along to hear how the Hall has fared over the last 12 months. The AGM is a wonderful opportunity to look back at what we've achieved together over the past year, review our annual accounts, and share our plans for the future. New ideas and volunteers are always welcome so come along and let us know your views.

Stoodleigh Christmas Tree Lighting Event: Saturday 5 December. More information nearer the time - pop the date in your diary now!

Stoodleigh 100 Club

Recent Winners:

September - Trevor Cope, Roger Hill and Andrew Radford

October - David Webber, Sean Manuel and Mandy Widdowson

Profits are split between St Margaret's Church and Stoodleigh Parish Hall. For more info, contact Geraldine on 07734 451741.

Garden Club

Stoodleigh Annual Show in August proved to be a great success, raising over £300. A big 'thank you' to all those who helped ensure the day went smoothly, to those who entered the classes giving us such a wonderful display and to those who came along to enjoy the afternoon and purchase refreshments and items on the stalls.

In September thirteen members of the Garden Club paid a visit to Cove Nursery for a talk by Paul Fonnereau introducing us to 'Colourful and perfumed plants and shrubs for a perennial border, with butterflies in mind '. It was most interesting and enjoyed by all.

October will have seen a visit from the wildlife and photography enthusiast, Stephen Powles, for a talk on 'Hornets – Gentle Giants' Open to all – free of charge, as a thank you for all the support we receive from the community.

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 12th November at 2pm, at the Parish Hall. Anyone with an interest in Gardens, nature or rural crafts, is most welcome to attend. The meeting is a good chance to get to know people with a like interest, and will include refreshments and plenty of conversation.

The Garden Club will be holding a plant stall at the Stoodleigh Autumn Market on 14th November, which takes us into the Christmas season of parties and carols.

TEMPLETON

November and December mark a special time in the countryside. As the last of the autumn work is completed and the farming year turns towards winter, there is an opportunity to take stock of the year that has passed. The hedgerows are bare, the days are shorter, and frost and mist often greet us in the mornings. This year has been a challenging one for many in our rural community. Farmers have contended with difficult weather, rising costs and uncertain markets, yet their resilience and determination remain an inspiration to us all. As the old saying goes, "The good Lord made the weather and farmers provide the commentary!" Modern tractors contain more computing power than the Apollo missions. Many farmers would still happily swap some of that technology for an accurate weather forecast.

These months also remind us of the strength of our community, as neighbours help neighbours, volunteers give so generously of their time, and people come together to support parish and village events. From Remembrance Sunday, through Advent and on to Christmas, we give thanks for the friendships, generosity and sense of belonging that make Templeton such a special place. Whether through a kind word, a helping hand or support for local events, it is these acts of community spirit that help sustain us throughout the year.

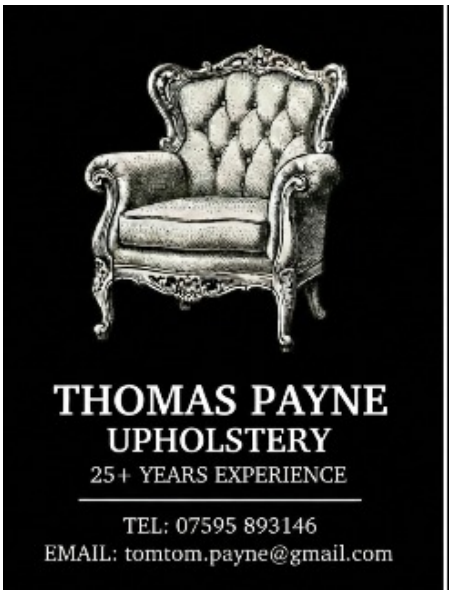
Church and Churchyard

Fundraising to maintain St Margaret's Church and the churchyard has continued over the past year. Gloria's Hundred Club has supported the much-needed work on the walls and windows. The Harvest Supper will have provided funds to continue the upkeep of the church. By the time this magazine goes to print, a group of volunteers will have cut back the yew trees, cleared the paths, removed the brambles, and strimmed the grass in the churchyard. This is, of course, ongoing work so a big thank you to all those who have taken part and supported our beautiful church. A big thank you as well to all those who clean the church every week and provide the flowers. We are so grateful to you all.

Past Events

On Saturday 8th August, Templeton held its annual Summer Fete. This is always such a fun day with a variety of entertaining games, Steve cut the hay, and Bruce mowed the grass before the big day to create a perfect pitch and putt course for him and William to run. Everyone enjoyed delicious cream teas, hot dogs, lots of games, bric-a-brac, clothes, produce and book sales … and so much more! Thank you all for taking part and making it such a successful day. A grand total of £1,261 was raised, which will help support much-needed village funds.

On Saturday 14th August, there was a Car Boot Sale at Templeton Village Hall.



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PARISH ROUND-UP

Thank you so much, Alex, Katie and Scott for all the hard work you put into making Saturday's Car Boot Sale such a lovely community event. And thanks for the delicious cakes donated. Despite the bad weather there was a great turnout and the rain held off for most of the time! £127.50 was raised for village funds.

There was a wonderful spread of hot and cold scrumptious food at the Harvest Supper on 3rd October at Templeton Village Hall. Many thanks to all those who came and supported the evening, to those who contributed the delicious food, and thank you Mark for running the bar. The display of Templeton Art Group's paintings really shows such amazing talent within the village – more of their artwork will be on display on November 20th and 21st. Well done Alicia for winning the raffle hamper! The evening was thoroughly enjoyable and raised a total of £740 - much-needed funding towards the upkeep of St Margaret's Church, Templeton.

Templeton's Harvest Festival Service took place at St Margaret's Church on Sunday 4th October. The church was filled with beautiful flower arrangements and generous food donations. All the donations of fresh, canned or packaged produce were taken to the charity CHAT (Churches Housing Action Team) in Tiverton, for which they were extremely grateful. Thank you everyone for your generosity.

Future Church Services

The centre pages in this magazine cover the many services that will be held over the next two months across the nine parishes in the Exe Valley. Many of the Templeton Church services will be lay-led, but group services are usually led by different clergy in the nine parishes in the Exe Valley Mission Community. We are indebted to Marjorie Smith for her invaluable support in playing the organ for our services. Dec 24th Christmas Eve Carol Service at 6pm.

Future Templeton events

Friday, 23rd October: Halloween Family Party from 7pm to 11pm at Templeton Village Hall. This event may have happened by the time the magazine reaches you. Alex and Scott have, for a second year, kindly invited all adults and children in Templeton to come and celebrate Halloween at Templeton Village Hall from 7pm. Everyone is welcome! This will be a hauntingly great evening with spooky costumes, eerie games and lots of fun – so do come along!

Saturday 31st October: Firework and Bonfire Night from 6.30pm at Templeton Village Hall. By the time this issue reaches you, Templeton's Bonfire Night will be almost upon us! The firework display is always spectacular and great fun will be had by all. The bar will be open from 6.30pm, and the bonfire will be lit at about 7.30pm with fireworks to follow. Hot dogs and hot drinks will be on sale. Entry is £6 for adults and £3 for children aged 5 to 15 (tickets on the gate – cash only). Please no sparklers or personal fireworks!!

Sunday 8th November: Remembrance Sunday Service at 10.50am at St Margaret's Church, Templeton, honouring the efforts, achievements and sacrifices made in past wars. Alfie has agreed to play The Last Post and The Reveille again for us this year. It was so moving to hear him play last year.

Saturday 14th November: Murder Mystery – Sherlock Holmes at The Manor House Templeton Village Hall!! At 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Lord Moorbourne has been murdered. Can you figure it out or will you be the murderer?

The setting: 1899, in Dartmoor, Devon, England at Moorbourne Manor.

Where: The Manor House Templeton Village Hall

PLEASE come in costume! There are limited numbers so please let Alicia and Julie W know before Sunday 1st November (aliciatout11@gmail.com) that you'd like to come, so that you can start looking for your costume!

Friday 20th November and Saturday 21st November: Wine and Cheese evening and Art Sale and Exhibition on the Friday evening of 20th November at Templeton Village Hall from 7pm to 9.30pm (£7.50 advance tickets - £10.00 on the night – for wine and cheese, to meet the artists, and the first opportunity to purchase) and the Art Sale will continue all day on Saturday 21st November from 1pm to 5pm, with refreshments available to enjoy and cakes to purchase. This will be a wonderful display and sale of paintings, drawings, cards, pottery, and other gifts by Templeton's talented Art Group and also by local artists, and ceramic artists. Lots of ideas for Christmas!

Just to say, there won't be a Christmas Dinner in December this year, as was mentioned in the last issue of the Today Magazine. However, Sue and Shaun have kindly agreed to cook their delicious Sunday Roast Dinner in the new year – date to be confirmed - at Templeton Village Hall.

Sunday 13th December at 3pm, Christmas Children's Party at Templeton Village Hall! - with a visit by the big man in the red suit! This is a wonderful, free annual family event organised by Tony Loosemore, with a disco, party food and fun. If your children would like to join the party please let Tony know beforehand so that he can cater for enough food for everyone (07510128683). You will need to bring a wrapped and named gift for each child for Father Christmas to distribute.

Saturdays 5th December, 12th December, and 19th December: Annual Christmas Bar Games (table tennis, pool, darts, and skittles) will be held at Templeton Village Hall. Do come and take part in this fun event – and there's still plenty of time to practice on club nights or other nights in the week!

Make use of Templeton Village Hall. With the nights closing in fast, perhaps you and your family and friends would like to use the village hall for a game of table tennis, skittles, darts or pool on other days in the week apart from club nights – maybe to get into form for the Christmas Bar games?

Just phone 01884 860655 or email templetonvh@gmail.com to make sure there is not already a booking on the date you'd like, and someone can open up the hall for you.

Regular groups in Templeton:

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Award Winning Wines.
Tours and tastings start Spring 2026.
Contact Tim: 07983 974957
Email: quoitatcrossvineyard @gmail.com
Website:



PARISH ROUND-UP

Art Group – every other Tuesday 10am-12 midday Templeton Village Hall. No charge. Just come along. Coffee and cake provided.
Book Group - Templeton Village Hall. Second Wednesday of every month at 3pm. Please contact Julie 01884 233507 if you'd like to join the group.
Gardening Club – Held at different people's homes, this is a great opportunity to talk gardening and gardens –
the group will start again in the spring and meet regularly from early spring until the autumn. If you'd like to know more, do get in touch with Ginah (ginahpalmer@gmail.com).

Our thoughts, prayers and best wishes are with all those who are unwell, awaiting treatment, in hospital, or recovering from surgery. Our thoughts are also with their families who will be supporting them. We do hope that you will soon be feeling better.

Flower and Cleaning Rota:

1 to 8 Nov:	Bindy Linden
15 to 22 Nov:	Laurel O'Brien
29 Nov to 6 Dec:	Gloria Woollacott
(advent – no flowers)	
13 Dec to 20 Dec:	Ginah Palmer
(advent – no flowers 1st week)	
27 Dec to 3 Jan '27:	Julie Dent

WASHFIELD

November comes to remind us that we often have so much to be grateful for
You are never too old to play in the leaves!

Many thanks for the team effort who put on the Harvest Service this year, for the beautiful decorations and for the music and to Camilla for leading the service.

We look forward to seeing as many as possible for our Remembrance Service on Nov 2026, to be taken by Tim Gorringe.

We are also looking forward to the lead up to Christmas! We will be having a village clear up on 28 November – in time for our traditional Christingle Service, on 6 December. Jeanne Jones will be hosting her annual coffee morning on 28 November at 11am to raise funds for the church. Caroline Nicolson has already had many offers for her Church Christmas Cards – do contact her to reserve some. If you'd like to read a lesson at the annual Carol Service on 24 December at 6.30pm please contact Annabel directly – the Church has been very well supported at these events in the past.
Other future dates include a coffee morning and the Santa Fun Run on 19 December at starting at 11am on the village green – we look forward to seeing records broken and Elves out in force.

Winter, a lingering season, is a time to gather golden moments, embark upon a sentimental journey and enjoy every idle hour.

The Social club, ever productive, would like to thank all who have supported events throughout this year. We are lucky to have so many social club members who support and come to events. Looking forward to the events (already being planned) for 2027!
Upcoming Events
Saturday 24 October – Pumpkin judging evening. Bring your monster (or maybe not so big) pumpkin along to be weighed/judged. Its not just the weight as there is a 'prettiest' section too. Also, money is raised during this fun evening for charity so do come along (pumpkin grower or not)
Friday 6 November – First Friday Supper evening TBC
Saturday 21 November – Film night
Friday 4 December – First Friday Supper evening TBC
Saturday 5 December – Film night (possibly a children's film)
Draw Night – Tuesday 22 December TBC

Please keep taking part in these lovely events to support YOUR village. Everything is advertised on posters, Friends of Washfield Social Club WhatsApp page and Humans of Washfield and Lower Washfield FB page.
Don't forget our time-honoured teatime@thehall is still as popular as ever. Held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month between 2.30-4pm All ages are welcome to these friendly, chatty afternoons (bring some food to share, sweet or savoury) Come along, you'll be most welcome.

We were sad to see Stuart, Carly, Harrison and Ruby leave School House in September after many years as they embraced all the village had to offer. They have only de-camped to Tiverton so not too far away to visit the Social Club again.
We welcome, in their place, Daniel, Hannah and their children. We hope you are settling in and will be very happy living in the village.
We also welcome Darren (although he's a Washfield boy…born and bred) to The Larches. We hope you enjoy your new home.

We're so glad Stephanie Cotterill (nee Symns) and her husband Daniel enjoyed their August wedding in Stoodleigh with proud parents Tracey and Paul and grandparents Peter and Joyce in attendance.

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

Apologies to Abby, we know you are married to Daniel and not Chris! Congratulations on the safe arrival of Albie.

Flower Rota

Nov 1/8	Liz Arnold
Nov 15/22	Margaret May
Nov 29/Dec 6	Alison Frankpitt
Dec 13/20	Mrs Ellis
Dec 27/Jan 3	Jean French

WITHLEIGH

As the leaves start to change to beautiful colours and we hear the tractor ploughing fields for next year's crops we realise we are now entering winter, time to reflect on a wonderful summer and look forward to winter with all its wonders. The

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PARISH ROUND UP

smell of smoke from bonfires, laughter and fun, the magic of fireworks with family and friends. Then the expectation of Christmas the time for presents, food, family get togethers, parties, holidays Church and all sorts of other good things. That's because Christmas is a time of celebration, it's the birthday of Jesus.

The Garden and Produce show was held on Saturday 15th August. Entries were down a little, but the showing talents of our village didn't disappoint. Our gardeners had battled through the dry summer to show us just what you can grow in our lovely countryside. To add to that the preserves, cakes, handicrafts and children's classes were all of a high standard. The trophy winners were; Veggies - Jean, Flowers - Shirley, Handicraft & Cookery - Sara, Children - Annabel, Best in Show - Jean. Special awards were also awarded to; Laura, Gill, Heather, Jean, Sara and Oliver.

Saturday 22nd we held our Cream Tea in aid of our Churchyard Funds. Several people remarked on how lovely the hall looked with the pretty tablecloths, china and flowers on the tables. Thank you to everyone who provided lovely china and those who gave the Victoria Sponges and Scones, it's so lovely to have everything home-made. Thanks also to those who set up the hall, served tea and especially to the washer up'ers, it was a bit of a task getting all of the china back into their sets! We raised £351 towards the upkeep of the churchyard.

Poems, Prayer and Praise in the village hall on 30th August was led, as usual, by Susie, who provided us with another thought-provoking service, this time on the subject of "worry". There were fifteen of us present, including Mark, who, having seen the service advertised on the church noticeboard while visiting St Catherine's, came out from Tiverton to sample and enjoy the service.

Our Harvest Festival service was well attended, and our thanks to Steph for taking the service. A big thank you also to Rosemary and Wendy, and all who were responsible for the display of produce and the flowers in church. The service was followed by tea in the village hall, and our thanks again to all who provided the 'eats'.

Harvest continued the following evening with our Harvest Supper. This is always a great get together, and this year did not disappoint. With the Drew family providing the supper we were all able to sit down and enjoy the evening. The supper was followed by the auction of produce from the church, with a few more donations added on the evening. Thanks to our auctioneer Henry who battled through the tremendous number of items to sell. This year's proceeds went to the local MS Society in Exeter. We sent them total of £380, for which they were very grateful.

We have a Community Lunch on Tuesday 3rd November, in the Village Hall 12.30pm for 1pm. Tickets are £10 each for a Hot Main Meal followed by a wide choice of Desserts. If you would like to come, please book your ticket with Christine 01884 257571 or message us on the Village WhatsApp group. There will be a draw, all of funds raised will be given to a local charity.

The Christmas Craft Fayre is on Saturday 5th December 10.30am to 2.30pm. Free admission. We have our normal Christmas crafts on sale along with cakes and refreshments. If you would like any information, please do call Sara 01884 252949.

The day after the Craft Fayre, on Sunday 6th December we have our Christingle in church at 4pm. This is always a lovely service when we all (not just the children) go home with our Orange with it's Candle on the top, Red band around it's middle and four cocktail sticks full of sweets. These are to remind us of the world, the light that Jesus shines on us, the blood that Jesus shed for us and the Four Seasons full of fruit for us to enjoy.

Tuesday 8th December we are having our Community Christmas Lunch, 12.30pm for 1pm. Please call Christine for your tickets 01884 257571.

The Children's Christmas Party will be on Saturday 12th December, in the Village Hall. Please look out for details on the Village WhatsApp or call Amy 07568 925771.

Our Christmas services begin with our Carol service on Sunday 20th December, at 3pm. Steph will be taking the service. Following the service there will be Mulled Wine, Mince Pies and Shortbread served in church.

The Carol service will be followed by a Holy Communion service on Thursday 24th December at 11.15pm. This will see us into Christmas Day, when we all get the chance to wish each other Happy Christmas on the day itself!

There will be no Bingo in January, but it will be resuming as normal on the first Thursday in February.

WOW

September was the launch of our Cookbook. In order to publicise the book, we held a Coffee and Cake Morning in the Village Hall where cakes made from recipes in the book were for sale. The morning raised £280.00 which will be divided between 'Unite Carers' and 'Bounce' charities. In October we had a 'poppy' evening to plan how to display our knitted poppies for Remembrance Sunday and to encourage us to keep knitting! Of course, there was coffee and chatter. Anyone interested in joining WOW ring Susie on 258492.

Flower Rota

1,8,15 November Rosie Edmonston-Low
22,29 November, 6 December Jan Batstone


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