



# TODAY

The Parish Magazine  
for the  
Exe Valley  
Mission  
Community

**JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2024**

**Price £1.00**

## A BLESSED YEAR AHEAD

To be honest I have been putting off writing this letter because I don't really know what to say.

Although that's not true – I have plenty to say – but I don't know where to begin. And I'm afraid that once I begin, I won't know when to stop.

If only I had written this a couple of months ago – then I would have been upbeat and jovial and hearty - full of the joys of knowing that spring is just around the corner. But I didn't – and so I'm afraid I am feeling rather bedraggled as I tread the well-worn path of bereavement and grief upon which all of us must tread, at some point in our lives.

I have been so overwhelmed by the hundreds and hundreds of cards and letters that I have received, many of them beginning the same way as I have begun my letter to you. 'I really don't know what to say...'

And I suppose that's the point. The one certainty in life is death, although most of us don't like to talk about it. Given it is part of life it's a bit odd that we don't really know what to say. Or if we do try and say stuff we resort to euphemisms and cliches.

But I do know what I want to say. I know and believe that death is not what God originally intended. God is a God of love and life. He wants to give us life, life in all its fullness now, and in the future. That is the hope that God gave to the world. That is what Christmas is all about. It's the new life Jesus brings.

We see it all around us. We are surrounded by the cycle of creation: new life, growth, abundance, aging, death and wonderful new life. We are enveloped by it. We are part of it. We see beauty in it.



So as the old year comes to an end, with all its joys and sadnesses, we can welcome in the new, with all its longed for hopes and dreams, opportunities and blessings.

May God who is your maker and keeper bless you today.

May Jesus who understands tears and laughter bless you today.

May the Holy Spirit who sometimes shouts and sometimes whispers bless you today.

May the angels who are full of power and glory bless you today.

May the little ones who pull at your heart and your coat sleeves bless you today.

May the saints who are more like you than you can ever imagine bless you today.

Today  
tomorrow  
all your nights  
all your days

may you know God's blessing.  
May you know you are deeply loved.

(Ruth Burgess Moments of our nights and days)

*With my love and prayers  
for a blessed year ahead.*

*Steph*

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[www.exevalleychurches.org](http://www.exevalleychurches.org)

**RECTOR**

**Rev'd Stephanie Gordon-Jeffs**  
The Rectory, Witleigh,  
Tiverton, EX16 8JQ  
Tel: 01884 250417  
Email : Steph@  
[exevalleymissioncommunity.org](http://exevalleymissioncommunity.org)  
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**PERSONAL ASSISTANT**

Stephen Hirst  
C/O The Rectory  
Tel: 01884 250417  
Email: office@  
[exevalleymissioncommunity.org](http://exevalleymissioncommunity.org)

**CURATE**

**Rev'd Claire Curtis**  
**07873 575276**  
Email: Claire@  
[exevalleymissioncommunity.org](http://exevalleymissioncommunity.org)

**MAGAZINE EDITOR**

**Dawn Williams**  
Post Farm  
Dulverton  
TA22 9RU  
**01398 324035**  
[today@exevalleychurches.org](mailto:today@exevalleychurches.org)

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CONTACT DETAILS**

**CALVERLEIGH**  
Aubrey Goldsworthy 01884 255248  
[thegoldsworthys@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thegoldsworthys@yahoo.co.uk)  
Jackie Herniman 01884 255814  
[jmherniman@gmail.com](mailto:jmherniman@gmail.com)

**CRUWYS MORCHARD**  
Diana Vincent 01363 860227  
[vindr@hotmai.com](mailto:vindr@hotmai.com)  
Sarah Cruwys 01884 860287  
[wagscruwys@live.com](mailto:wagscruwys@live.com)

**LOXBEARE**  
Jean Heard 01884 881400  
[jeanm.heard@googlemail.com](mailto:jeanm.heard@googlemail.com)

**OAKFORD**  
Wendy Boynton 01398 351383  
[mboynton@btinternet.com](mailto:mboynton@btinternet.com)  
Dawn Williams 01398 324035  
[dawnannwilliams1@gmail.com](mailto:dawnannwilliams1@gmail.com)

**RACKENFORD**  
Mary Cann 01884 881696  
[mary\\_cann@outlook.com](mailto:mary_cann@outlook.com)

**STOODLEIGH**  
Penny Norman 01398 351602  
[p.norman58@outlook.com](mailto:p.norman58@outlook.com)

**TEMPLETON**  
William Withers 01884 253030  
[william@williamwithers.co.uk](mailto:william@williamwithers.co.uk)  
Reg Coffin 01884 860246  
[sueandreg.coffin@fhsinternet.com](mailto:sueandreg.coffin@fhsinternet.com)

**WASHFIELD**  
Richard Scholes 01398 351528  
[mail@richardscholes.com](mailto:mail@richardscholes.com)  
Malcolm Dudley-Williams 07860 203564  
[malcolm@dudley-williams.com](mailto:malcolm@dudley-williams.com)

**WITLEIGH**  
Brenda Tucker 01884 252431  
[tucks@btconnect.com](mailto:tucks@btconnect.com)  
Stephen Roche 07811 139031  
[stephen\\_roche187@hotmail.com](mailto:stephen_roche187@hotmail.com)



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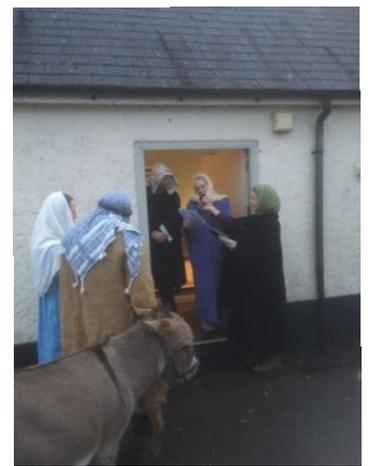
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## WHAT'S ON... ..



Exe Valley Mission Community invited everyone to 'Explore Christmas outdoors'. For real. With donkeys at the ready and immersive story telling we made our way with Mary and Joseph through the busy streets of Bethlehem till they at last found a barn.

The rest of us went out to the hills where the shepherds were penning up their sheep for the night,. They were surprised and surrounded by angels, who sang and told them the great news!

Led by the star we caught up with the wise men and their camels, (well alpacas with knitted humps by parishioner Doris!).

At last together we found the barn and the new (well nearly) born baby and worshipped him alongside actual cows, sheep, donkeys and alpacas and we gazed in wonder and shared in the joy of God's love and His gift of His Son the baby Jesus.

'O come let us adore him'. And we did, For Real!

## WHAT'S ON ....

### NATURE NOTES

**L**isten out! At dusk on a still and quiet January or February evening, grab a flask, wrap up warm and try stepping out into the garden for twenty minutes.

There is every chance that you will hear the night air reverberate to the eerie "too-whit-too-woo" of our most common owl, the tawny owl. The classic "too-whit-too-woo" is in fact made up of the "too-whit" of the female and "two-woo" of the male. In reality, "ke-wick" and "who who-who-who-who" are nearer the mark.

"Tawnies" are early nesters making this the perfect time of year to eavesdrop on them as they reaffirm their pair bonds prior to breeding. From as early as mid-February, the female will lay a clutch of two to four white eggs in a hollow tree, old crow's nest or specially designed nest box, if on offer.

Whilst most bird eggs are well camouflaged, it is the thought that by producing pale-coloured eggs, nocturnal birds find it easier to see and avoid damaging them as they drop into the dark confines of the nest site.

Another "early bird" is the grey heron. Like the "tawnies", they will often be sat on eggs by late February or early March. However, unlike a tawny owl's nest, those of the heron are large and rather dishevelled structures often built in the very tops of some of our tallest trees. Here, they (and their occupants) must be able to withstand the very worst of the winter gales. As a rule, multiple nests are found in the same tree or group of trees in what is termed a "heronry".

In the breeding season, any heron flying over or fishing locally, will probably be travelling back and forth to our local heronry on the lower reaches of the Dart Valley, not far from Bickleigh. If you are lucky, you may catch sight of a commuting heron with its unmistakable large silhouette, tucked in head and lumbering flight, or be notified of its presence by a loud, piercing squawk as it flies over.

On Valentine's Day, the cacophony of croaking emanating from a local pond announces that it's not only Homo sapiens that might be feeling a little

amorous. Toads are unlikely to breed until March but their smaller, smooth-skinned cousins, given warm and damp conditions, will often start spawning in early February. With milder winters, it is now commonplace to see frogspawn in mid, or even early, January. Sadly, many frogs will fail to breed as the local otters, herons and tawny owls help themselves to the bountiful supply of food on offer.

With so many ponds having disappeared from the wider countryside, we can all do our bit to help our amphibians by installing a pond. The bigger the better. However, even a washing up bowl sized mini pond sunk into a sunny and wild corner of the garden has every chance of attracting newts and a spawning frog or two.

Whilst it's no match for a dawn chorus, even in January and February some of our wildlife is stirring and beginning to advertise its presence. How about taking a listen?

Stephen Powles

### Bible Study Group

Looking at the Letter to the Hebrews

The next meeting will be held at The Cottage, Washfield

Tuesday January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2.00pm

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

Many thanks.

Tim Gorringe

t.j.gorringe@exeter.ac.uk

### Exe Valley Lunches

No lunch in January but we look forward to seeing you all in February.

Thurs 8th February - Calverleigh Court

12.30pm - 2.30pm

Contact the church office to book

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### NEW YEAR'S EVE



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**FROM AROUND THE PARISHES**



**Exe Valley Mission Community Choir**

As well as joining the worship at our November group service at Templeton village hall, our choir, by invitation of Bishop Jackie, joined the Diocese Day of Prayer at the Cathedral on the 2nd of December. We sang the 'Canticle of the Turning'. The organisers of the day were so pleased to tell us how hearers were visibly moved to tears at the beautiful sound!! Towards the end of the day we burst out of the Cathedral's west gates into the market singing 'O come all Ye Faithful' amongst happy shoppers who were watching and also joining in.

If you want to try choir please give me (Claire) a call on 07873575276. It is always a joyful time and we are so grateful to Sarah (choir master) and Tim (pianist) for helping us create such a fab sound.



The Exe Valley Christmas Lunch at Calverleigh Village Hall where a hearty lunch was enjoyed by all with wonderful entertainment provided by local talent.



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## PARISH ROUND-UP

### CALVERLEIGH

At the time of writing we are heading very quickly towards Christmas with hopefully time to reflect on the 'reason for the season' - the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, born into a lowly family in a stable.

Reports from our Christmas activities will be in the next magazine but until then we wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous 2024!

On October 16 the funeral of Reg Holley was held at Calverleigh. Reg had lived in Calverleigh since the 1970s and was a member of 'The Party Six', a group of six friends who raised a great deal of money for charity locally over many years holding various events. When he was able, Reg would visit the graveyard daily to visit the grave of his late wife, where he was laid to rest, and would spend a period of time in the church as well. Whenever people were working in or around the church there would always be a good conversation before Reg made his way home. In latter times he was accompanied by family members until he was unable to do so anymore. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time.

The family bingo arranged by Maureen and Paul on November 11 was well supported with a good mixture of young and young at heart people enjoying a fun evening. There were lovely prizes to win throughout the evening and light refreshments were served. Our thanks go to everyone who supported by attending or donating draw prizes and of course to Maureen and Paul for organising this fundraising event which raised over £400 for church funds.

Thank you to all those that supported the Family Bingo on Saturday 11 November, either by attending, giving donations, draw prizes, or helping on the day. Of course, we also need to thank Maureen and Paul for organising this fundraising event which raise a grand total of £430 for the Church.

On the following day the Remembrance Sunday service was led by Julie with Dave Edwards providing the music. A reflective time of music to remember those who gave their lives for our freedoms was included, along with the traditional time of remembrance and thought-provoking talk.

Saturday 18 November was our annual Autumn Fayre in the village hall. This really is a good time of fellowship with many friends from neighbouring parishes joining us to see what is on offer from the stallholders, along with the opportunity to enjoy a light lunch and have a good natter. Our thanks go to all the stallholders, those donating, attending and spending and to all who were kept busy in the kitchen with serving delicious homemade soup, hot dogs or bacon baps and drinks. The grand total of just over £1000 was made for church funds. Thank you everyone. Your support is very much appreciated.

The Baptism of Wilbur took place on Sunday 19 during the family service, with Rev'd Claire Curtis officiating. Many family and friends were there to support Wilbur and his parents as he begins his faith journey. Music during the service was provided by Sam on the organ and also Dave playing his guitar. It is always good to hear the organ being played as this is not a regular occurrence these days. During

Rev'd Claire's talk the congregation were handed sycamore seeds to take home and plant.

It was with great shock and sadness that we learnt of Rev'd Robert Gordon's sudden illness and equally sudden passing. Whenever you saw Robert he always had a friendly smile, a twinkle in his eyes and you always felt that he was pleased to see you. Robert's funeral was held in St. Peter's, Tiverton on November 30th where he was the Rector for a number of years. Our love and prayers are with our Rector Steph and family at this difficult time for them all.

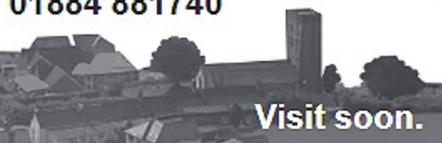
On December 6 a Service of Thanksgiving was held for Linda Pryce at Calverleigh church. Linda lived in Calverleigh for many years, raising her family, before moving a little further up the road to Templeton. Her family spoke of the lovely lady that she was known to be, by many people. The service was relayed to the village hall as well because of the number of people that wanted to pay their last respects. Our thoughts and prayers are with Linda's family at this sad and difficult time.

On Saturday 2 December the Exe Valley Community Choir sang at the Cathedral as part of the Come and Pray day, closing service. They sounded amazing inside the building and also outside when they sang carols to the Christmas market shoppers afterwards. A few parishioners from Calverleigh were there to support them. The choir members have practised hard to get to this point and we are sure that they were proud to be singing in such magnificent surroundings. Well done to you all.

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# PARISH ROUND-UP

Our Christingle service took place on Sunday 3 December and the subject was 'being prepared'. Are we ever at this time of year? An interesting talk was given by Nikki, once she had 'found' her bag. Our thanks go to Doreen who provided the Christingles and to Aubrey who made them up along with those who supplied cake etc for after the service. A donation from the collection will go The Children's Society for their work with vulnerable children, teenagers and young adults.

We also send our condolences to anyone else that is grieving the loss of a loved one, either now or longer ago. It's been such a sad couple of months all around the Exe Valley. Remember, the church is open most days during daylight hours for prayer. There is also a prayer box in the church if you wish for us to pray for you.

Our thanks go to everyone on the cleaning, flower or churchyard mowing rota's for keeping our church, inside and out, looking at its best all year round for all parishioners and visitors alike. Your time and hard work is really appreciated by many.

**Cleaning Rota**  
 11 Dec - 6 Jan: Mrs J Goldsworthy  
 8 Jan - 20 Jan: Mrs S Greenslade  
 22 Jan - 3 Feb: Mrs M Furneaux  
 5 Feb - 17 Feb: Miss S Goldsworthy  
 19 Feb - 2 Mar: Mrs A Balsdon  
 4 Mar - 16 Mar: Mrs N Burton

**Flower Rota**  
 7 Jan - 14 Jan: Mrs N Burton  
 21 Jan - 28 Jan: Mrs A Webber  
 4 Feb - 11 Feb: Mrs L Thomas

Do you have anything to share in the magazine or website? Please send

your family notices, news, birthdays, anniversaries, photos, funny stories, observations or anything else to Dave Burton by calling 01884 561499 or by email:

[calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org](mailto:calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org). We also have a Facebook page, so please like and follow us: [www.facebook.com/calverleighchurch](http://www.facebook.com/calverleighchurch). Please see the centre pages of the magazine or the website ([www.exevalleychurches.org/calverleigh](http://www.exevalleychurches.org/calverleigh)) for any update information on services or activities.

email: [calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org](mailto:calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org). We also have a Facebook page, so please like and follow us: [www.facebook.com/calverleighchurch](http://www.facebook.com/calverleighchurch). Please see the centre pages of the magazine or the website [www.exevalleychurches.org/calverleigh](http://www.exevalleychurches.org/calverleigh) for any update information on services or activities.

It was lovely to get together during our various Christmas services and we would like to thank one and all for reading, leading, helping, attending and generously providing donations for CHAT. Our donations are always gratefully received.

In November we hosted the Exe Valley Mission community lunch. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Our Christmas Craft Fayre held in November was a great success with a good variety of stalls, Christmas Hamper raffle and of course the homemade soup lunch. Many thanks to all who contributed and supported us on the day, we raised over £1000.00.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are unwell at this time and with everyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one. We send our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Marjorie Westcott.

Congratulations to Francis and Grant on the arrival of Jake, a little brother for Toby.

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

**Flower and Cleaning Rota**  
 Jan 1 & 8 Cindy Trick  
 Jan 15 & 22 Denyse Standen and Jo Hilton  
 Jan 29 & Feb 5 Sue and Pauline Guscott  
 Feb 12 & 19 Anne Gillbard  
 Feb 26 & Mar 4 Lorna Warren

**Christmas Tree Festival**  
 Thank you to everyone who helped and supported this event. It was wonderful

## CRUWYS MORCHARD

Happy New Year to one and all!

**H**oping that you have had a great Christmas and are looking forward to the year ahead.

**Church of the Holy Cross**  
 Our Service of Remembrance was held on Sunday 12 November where we remembered the fallen of our parish and all those affected by war. Many thanks to Guy who gave a most moving talk about Midshipman Robert Abercrombie Noel-Hill, commemorated in our church, who gave his life for his country on January 17 1942, aged 18 years old.

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# PARISH ROUND-UP

to see our church lit so beautifully and the vast array of creativity on display throughout the church. Thanks also to our Young Farmers club for providing refreshments and hearty bowls of soup.

### Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall

Dave & Di's Christmas Quiz held on Saturday 3 December was well attended and raised over £600.00 for parish hall funds. Thank you to everyone involved in the event and to all who attended. Congratulations to Mixed 'Erbs who have retained the trophy for another year.

### Date for your diary.

Saturday 23 March 2024, Easter Bingo at the Parish Hall for the Parish Hall funds. Doors open at 7pm, eyes down at 7.30pm. All welcome.

### Cruwys Morchard YFC

Thank you to everyone who supported us at our Christmas Bingo and Tractor Run. We have recently enjoyed a night out for our Christmas meal at the Red Deer in Crediton.

At the recent Devon YFC AGM our club was awarded the Skills for Life trophy for our achievements and dedication to learning new skills, this is the second year running that we have won this award. Congratulations to Jess Kingdon who was awarded the Veronica Ley award for the best under 21 Devon Young Farmer. Well done one and all.

We are currently busy practising for the County Disco Dancing competition, to be held on January 6 at Queen Elizabeth School in Crediton, and for the Drama competition that will be held shortly after.

If any of this sounds tempting, please come along, and join us. We hold our

monthly meetings at Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm. Club email, [cruwysm.yfc@gmail.com](mailto:cruwysm.yfc@gmail.com)

### Cruwys Morchard and Puddington Gardeners

We met at The Cruwys Arms on Wednesday 1 November when the topic for the evening was 'house plants'. It soon became clear that everyone's growing conditions varied even more than in our outdoor gardens. Window space, aspect and temperature differed according to our varied dwellings along with personal preferences. Lots of helpful information was exchanged in the usual friendly and good-natured way.

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to gathering for our annual Christmas season meal at Calverleigh on Wednesday 13 December.

Meanwhile, in the winter gardens flowers have given way to the birds as the main attraction, at least in my patch. All so neatly dressed from the demur buff tones of the female chaffinch to the warm orange waistcoat of the robin and the spectacular red and black costume of the bull finch. The doves in soft grey in contrast with the jet-black blue-eyed jackdaws. They are so much easier to see now much of the leaves have gone, revealing the sturdy outline of trees against a jigsaw puzzle sky. I know the frogs, toads and newts will have found a damp and secret space to pass the winter and the threatened insects will be tucked under fallen leaves and decaying timber. I won't be disturbing them; I would be about as welcome as the strident alarm call stirring me out from under my duvet.

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4.30pm Pennymoor chapel \*  
\* Except for 3rd Sunday of the month, all join Way Village chapel 3pm.

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

### Magazine Contact

If you would like something included in the Cruwys Morchard parish round-up, please contact Ali Vincent on 07801 480806 or [alisonpvincent@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alisonpvincent@hotmail.co.uk)

# LOXBEARE

It was with shock and much sadness to learn of Rev Robert Gordon's sudden death. Our love, sympathy and prayers are with Steph and family at this time and in the coming days, so that they may feel and know God's comfort and strength. It is a great testament to Rob at the number of people who attended the funeral service at St Peter's Church to pay their respects to a man dedicated to serving His Lord for many many years. He was very well thought of and respected, who preached the truth of God's word and encouraged us in our Christian life.

We also send our thoughts and sympathy to others in our Exe Valley Community who have lost loved ones recently.



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# PARISH ROUND-UP

By the time we receive our magazine we will have celebrated the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ and enjoyed times of sharing together. We now wish everyone a Happy and Peaceful New Year. With much continuing uncertainty and suffering in our world may we remember those who have so little having lost so much.

It was good to meet together at the Advent Group service at Templeton Village Hall on 26 November. Many attended with extra chairs brought in to accommodate everyone! It was a lovely meaningful service and we thank Claire, Tim, the choir who sang so well and all who took part in any way. Thank you too for Templeton's hospitality and for the lovely cups of tea/coffee after.

Thank you to Claire who led our Remembrance Service and all who took part as we remembered the bravery and sacrifices, some with their lives, of all in our forces past and present. A sum of over £200 was given to the Royal British Legion from Loxbeare Community.

At our first Advent service on 1 December, we held our Christingle service. It was good to have some children with us. Thank you to those who led, took part and made the Christingles etc. The offering of £110 was given to The Children's Society.

Please see middle pages for dates, times and places for our services in January/February. There will be a PCC meeting at Jean's on 23 January at 7.30.

Thank you to all who gave and donated towards Blythwood Shoebox appeal. A total of twenty-seven shoeboxes were

given to those who have little or no presents this Christmas.

Again thank you to all who took time out of their day for our monthly prayer days held on the first weekend of each month. January 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> and February 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>. Anyone wanting prayer please contact Jean on 01884 881400 or Carol 01884 881480.

Many thanks and much appreciation to those who have kept the Churchyard so neat and tidy during the year and for any general maintenance of the Church etc inside and out! Also thank you to all who have supported and contributed in any way to the manning of the Church. For time and commitment given by those who have taken and helped in various ways in the Church services. Thank you to all who have given financially over the past year. If anyone would like to support the Church with regular donations or a one-off gift. Please contact Carol on 01884 881480.

Our soup lunch with pudding will be on 27 January 12.30-2.30 and 10 February will be cream tea. The Christmas/New Year's party 13 January is to be confirmed.

So as we go through the winter months of January/February we trust the weather will not be too disruptive & cold! May we not forget those who are on their own during the long dark nights, feeling lonely and able to get out as much.

# OAKFORD

**W**ishing everyone a Happy New Year.

12th November, Remembrance Sunday was marked in the village with a service at the War Memorial and then in the church and was led by the Rev'd Tim Gorringe. Thank you to Sean, who read the names of the fallen, Paul for the music and Geoffrey for laying the wreath on behalf of us all.

26th November, Oakford parishioners joined with members of neighbouring parishes at a group service held in Templeton Village Hall. The Exe Valley Community Choir sang two songs during the service and afterwards tea/coffee and biscuits were enjoyed by all.

2nd December, The choir were excited to have been invited to sing at Exeter Cathedral during a 'Come and Pray Day'. Following the service the choir processed from the Cathedral leading the congregation and members of the public singing Carols in the Christmas Market. Thanks to Sarah our choir mistress, Tim on his keyboard and Claire for organising everything.

7th December, The village looked wonderful with all the Christmas lights on Rookery Hill. A huge thank you to David and Vaughan for all their hard work putting up the lights. Also well done to the folk who decorated the fronts their houses and gardens where possible.

8th December, Santa and his assistant Elf visited the Artisan Fayre held in the Village Hall. Lots of stalls laden with

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## 7 JANUARY

First Sunday of Epiphany  
Acts 19: 1-7  
Mark 1: 4-11

### 9.30am Zoom Service

#### CALVERLEIGH

10.45am Morning Worship  
Tim Gorringe

#### CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Prayer

#### LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise

#### OAKFORD

See Stoodleigh

#### RACKENFORD

See Stoodleigh

#### STOODLEIGH

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

#### TEMPLETON

10.45am Family Service

#### WASHFIELD

3.00pm Evening Prayer

#### WITHLEIGH

10.45am Family Service

## 14 JANUARY

Second Sunday of Epiphany  
Revelation 5: 1-10  
Mark 2: 18-22

### 9.30am Zoom Service

#### CALVERLEIGH

See Washfield

#### CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.45am Morning Praise  
Tim Gorringe

#### LOXBEARE

See Washfield

#### OAKFORD

10.50am Morning Praise

#### RACKENFORD

9.30am Explore  
Steph Gordon-Jeffs  
and David Edwards

#### STOODLEIGH

9.30am Reflective Service  
with breakfast

#### TEMPLETON

10.45am Morning Praise

#### WASHFIELD

10.50am Holy Communion  
*Claire Curtis  
and David Edwards*

#### WITHLEIGH

10.45am Plough Sunday

## 21 JANUARY

Third Sunday of Epiphany  
Revelation 19: 6-10  
John 2: 1-11

### 9.30am Zoom Service

#### CALVERLEIGH

9.30am Family Service

#### CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Withleigh

#### LOXBEARE

10.45am Morning Praise  
Claire Curtis  
and David Edwards

#### OAKFORD

10.45am Morning Praise  
Tim Gorringe

#### RACKENFORD

10.45am Morning Praise

#### STOODLEIGH

10.45am Morning Praise

#### TEMPLETON

See Withleigh

#### WASHFIELD

10.45am Family Service

#### WITHLEIGH

10.45am Holy Communion  
*Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

## 28 JANUARY 'CANDLEMAS'

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

Revelation 12: 1-5a  
Mark 1: 21-28

### 9.30am Zoom Service

**OUR MISSION  
COMMUNITY  
HOLY COMMUNION  
GROUP SERVICE**

is at

**10.45am in  
WITHLEIGH**

**Steph Gordon-Jeffs**

**Everyone welcome**

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

### Baptism and Confirmation

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

Do please get in touch, if you or your child, would like to be baptised. Maybe you have been baptised but never confirmed. If you are interested in being confirmed and would like to find out more, do please contact the church office and speak to Steph.



## 4 FEBRUARY

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent  
Colossians 1: 15-20  
John 1: 1-14

**9.30am Zoom Service**

### **CALVERLEIGH**

4.00pm Taize Service  
Tim Gorringe

### **CRUWYS MORCHARD**

10.45am Morning Prayer

### **LOXBARE**

10.45am Morning Praise

### **OAKFORD**

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

### **RACKENFORD**

See Oakford

### **STOODLEIGH**

See Oakford

### **TEMPLETON**

10.45am Family Service

### **WASHFIELD**

10.45am Morning Prayer  
Tim Gorringe

### **WITHLEIGH**

10.45am Family Service

## 11 FEBRUARY

Sunday next before Lent  
2 Corinthians 4: 3-6  
Mark 9: 2-9

**9.30am Zoom Service**

### **CALVERLEIGH**

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

### **CRUWYS MORCHARD**

10.45am Morning Praise  
Tim Gorringe

### **LOXBARE**

See Calverleigh

### **OAKFORD**

10.45am Morning Praise

### **RACKENFORD**

9.30am Explore  
Claire Curtis

### **STOODLEIGH**

12 noon Hotpot Service

### **TEMPLETON**

10.45am Morning Praise

### **WASHFIELD**

See Calverleigh

### **WITHLEIGH**

10.45am Service of the Word

## 18 FEBRUARY

First Sunday of Lent  
1 Peter 3: 18 to end  
Mark 9: 9-15

**9.30am Zoom Service**

### **CALVERLEIGH**

9.30am Family Service

### **CRUWYS MORCHARD**

**10.45am Holy Communion**  
*Claire Curtis  
and David Edwards*

### **LOXBARE**

10.45am Morning Praise

### **OAKFORD**

10.45am Morning Praise

### **RACKENFORD**

10.45am Morning Praise  
Tim Gorringe

### **STOODLEIGH**

9.30am Reflective Service  
with breakfast

### **TEMPLETON**

See Cruwys Morchard

### **WASHFIELD**

10.45am Family Service  
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

### **WITHLEIGH**

See Cruwys Morchard

## 25 FEBRUARY

**Second Sunday of Lent**

**9.30am Zoom Service**

**OUR  
MISSION  
COMMUNITY  
HOLY COMMUNION  
SERVICE**

is at  
**10.45am in  
CRUWYS MORCHARD**

**Steph Gordon-Jeffs  
and David Edwards**

**Everyone welcome**

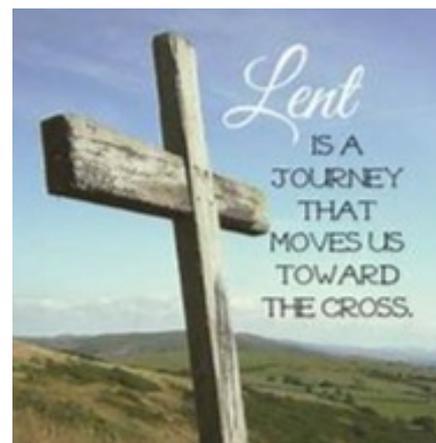
## 14 FEBRUARY



**Service of Ashes  
6.30pm  
at  
Loxbeare**

**Steph Gordon-Jeffs  
and Claire Curtis**

**Everyone Welcome**



# PARISH ROUND-UP

locally made gifts to buy and a BBQ, teas/coffees and mulled wine to enjoy. 9th December, despite the weather many village folk turned out to sing Carols around the village Christmas tree, followed by mulled wine, hot chocolate and hot refreshments.

14th December, The Moorland Club ladies enjoyed their Christmas dinner in the Village Hall. Thanks to Julia and Dawn for the delicious meal and to Sue for organising the entertainment. Meanwhile the deserted husbands met for supper at the Red Lion, so a good time was had by all.

17th December, St Peters Church Carol Service was led Dawn with Tim Hughill on the organ. The church looked wonderful and a service filled with Carols, poems and readings encouraged everyone into the spirit of Christmas. Thank you to all our readers and to the ladies who decorated the church so beautifully. Following the service mulled wine and mince pies were enjoyed by all.

After the service villagers donned their homemade funny Christmas hats and went across to The Red Lion for the Christmas Quiz. As always a brilliant evening. Thanks to Laura and Geoff for organising the Quiz and the draw.

The Oakford Bell Ringers want to say a huge thank you to all who have been giving encouragement and supporting various fund raising events. We are slowly getting there and hope to be able to add to the total funds raised by receiving a sum from the Batsworthy Wind Turbine Trust. THANK YOU.

Watch this space and we will keep you updated

Now to dates for your diary.

New Year's Eve at Oakford Village Hall. 1970's, 80's, 90's Video Disco. Licensed Bar, Bring and Share buffet. - 8pm 'til late. - £10 per ticket. Tickets from Jennie Chappell 01398 351666

The Moorland Club. 11th January 2.30pm at the Village Hall Flexercise. 8th February 6 for 6.30pm at the Village Hall - Fish & Chips & Quiz.

Red Lion Quiz 21st January - 8.00pm 18th February - 8.00pm

NB. Plans are being made for another Soap Box Derby in the summer. So keep your eyes open for info.

We were all shocked and saddened to hear the news of Robert Gordon's passing and also Mary Shere. A very moving service for Robert took place at St Peter's Tiverton and Mary's service was held at St Mary's Uffculme. Both will be missed by so many. Our sincere thoughts and prayers are with Steph and family, Donald and family and Ivy's family.

Kind thoughts go to all who are unwell at home or in hospital.

Best wishes for all who have birthdays and anniversaries.

step father and devoted grandfather. His sudden passing was a massive shock to the Exe Valley and he will be greatly missed.

Our love and deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Linda who died at her home in Templeton after a short illness. Linda was born and grew up in Rackenford with her parents, siblings, grandparents and aunts and uncles. Robert and Linda's cremation services have now taken place.

We remember all who lost loved ones, all be it recently or longer ago. It often seems harder to bear at Christmas when many families get together.

Best wishes to all who are feeling poorly, awaiting treatment, lonely, suffering mental health issues or recovering from surgery. We think of those we know amongst us, Jacques, Joan P, Rob, Joan B and Mary. If you know of anyone who would like to be mentioned please get in touch, sorry if we have missed anyone.

We continue to pray for Peace on Earth, especially thinking of the horrific wars taking place in Ukraine, Israel and Gaza. We read and hear of so much sadness and fear that they all endure.

On a happier and more positive note we thoroughly enjoyed our church sponsored walk on November 30 along part of the canal path at Tiverton. Good company, weather on our side, beautiful scenery and a picnic together was truly lovely. We rewarded ourselves with a nice cuppa etc, cream teas and ice cream in the beautiful setting of the Canal Tea Room.

Many thanks to Liz for organizing this fund raising event for our church, thanks also to Tim, Graham and Roy.

## RACKENFORD

**W**e send our love and deepest sympathy to dear Steph on the death of her treasured husband Robert. Robert was also a loving father, a loved

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

Last but certainly not least we thank you all that generously sponsored us, together we raised a total of £1,680. A fantastic amount of money.

We would also like to congratulate Jen (Ness ) who has completed a 100km trek across the Sahara in aid of Nugent, the charity she works for which helps those escape violence and abuse in Merseyside.

Some appropriately dressed children happily knocked on a few doors, hoping to gather little treats for Halloween. You were all so pleasant and grateful for your treats, we hope you enjoyed them.

Unfortunately due to many continuous days of rain and wind the common was far too wet and boggy to hold our usual bonfire and fireworks display. Such a shame but we cannot book the weather !!!!

Rackenford school had a very successful "Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools (SIAMS) earlier this term. The inspection conclusions were that the school is living up to its foundation as a Church School and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish, based on the school vision of 'Let your light shine'. Congratulations to the children and staff at the school for this fantastic result.

Rackenford Church was the venue for a wonderful choral treat on Saturday 21 October when the Cheltenham Bach Choir visited us and gave a free concert singing anthems and the exquisite Faure Requiem.

For those who enjoy listening to the bells we were lucky to have a visiting team on November 1. Sadly we are

unable to get enough interest to have our own Rackenford Team so look forward to visiting teams who love our bells.

Our Remembrance service was held on November 12 at our War Memorial. Jackie H was very happy to take our service, following in the footsteps of her dad Derek. We are very grateful to Jackie to remind us of loved ones lost in the wars from Rackenford whose names were read to us. We owe OUR lives to those who gave thier's. Thank you so much to Sharon for playing The Last Post on her Cornet and also the National Anthem, it always completes our service. Roy laid our wreath at the War Memorial. The collection of £183.40 was given to Royal British Legion. Thank you to all who attended this very important service and so good to see some children with us.

On Sunday 26 November Our Mission Community Group Service with Exe Valley Community Choir came together at Templeton Village Hall for our 'Christ the King' service with the Rev'd Claire and Rev'd Tim Gorringe. The choir were amazing, such a joy to sit back and listen to, so much rehearsing prior to the service. Thank you all. We received communion later from Claire and Tim. We also had readings and prayers. Thank you to Templeton for hosting and providing refreshments. The Exe Valley Community Choir sang at Exeter Cathedral the following week.

Our church was the venue for The Rackenford Rascals Concert on Saturday 2 December.

Many older tunes were played, with some audience participation, and with a comic touch in the band, it all added to a successful evening. The heating,

warm blankets, mince pies, mulled wine etc, the twinkling of the tree and being together made for a very enjoyable evening. The donations of £180 were shared between Devon Air Ambulance and Rackenford Church at the request of Rackenford Rascals, thank you to all who came and supported them

Thanks to the ladies who helped to decorate the church for Christmas and to all who provided foliage. Thank you to Tim, Liz and James once again for our beautiful tree which you also decorated so beautifully. Mary, thank you for the little tree in the church porch, decorated by Ruth.

Our Little Angels Nursery have also been busy and made us some beautiful decorations which are on display in the church. We hope you have had the opportunity to go and see your lovely designs of angels and other items hanging from the pillars.

I would like to remind the school and anyone using the church path could you please remember to shut the gate as we are noticing an increased amount of dog fouling, not nice for anyone and especially those attending graves and the kind folk who help with grass cutting. It would help so much.

Many thanks to David and Abdullah for the work grass cutting they volunteer to do, we really are so grateful to you.

Also thank you Glen for winding our clock and checking on things in all weathers, it is so much appreciated.

Thank you Graham for all the lovely music you provide us with.



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# PARISH ROUND-UP

Thank you to Mary our church warden, Liz our treasurer and Ruth our secretary to the PCC.

We enjoy all our services and thank all Lay Led volunteers for your planning and prayers and all who attend.

Thank you to all those who help and support our Explore service and to the children who its all about and the help they give.

Thank you to Steph, Claire, Dave and Levon.

We pray we can continue to meet again in the coming year and enjoy worshipping together in our church and throughout the Exe Valley.

## STOODLEIGH

St Margaret's Church

By the time you read this, Christmas will be over and we'll all be looking forward to 2024 and hoping it will bring peace to the troubled parts of the world. But we have to think of the loss of Robert and make sure we support and help Steph as much as we can.

In November, we ran a Fun Bingo at Stoodleigh Inn which was very well attended and everyone seemed to enjoy the evening. Ed was the star of the show, beautifully dressed in his evening suit (there were a few unusual bingo calls!) and he was ably assisted by his 'not so glamorous assistant', Julian. I have to say that Ed gave him that nickname not me!

The beginning of December saw the lighting of the Christmas Tress outside

the village hall, a big thank you to all the elves and fairies who organised the evening.

We have had a few teams of visiting bell ringers in Stoodleigh. It's always amazes me how different the bells sound with different teams. Many thanks Phil for looking after them.

In 2024, we will be running more of our Breakfast Services in Stoodleigh which are quiet, reflective services, but they include coffee and a light breakfast. We will be arranging a Hotpot service in February which will give everyone the chance of a hot meal and some much needed fellowship. This service will run at 12 noon so there will be no need to cook a Sunday lunch.

We always welcome everyone to the church in Stoodleigh and we would love to see some of our young families from the village at our events. We will soon be updating the Church Electoral Roll so if anyone is interested in having their voice heard on church matters, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Flower Rota  
 1st Feb – 17th Feb      Angela Hill  
 18th Feb – 28th March      Lent  
 30th March Easter      Everybody!

Parish Hall  
 Annual General Meeting – November. Members of The Management Committee for 2023/2024 were elected and appreciated the support offered by volunteers in the community. The following roles were filled: chair – Dick Sibley, secretary – Linda Brice, treasurer – Jan Russell. Information about the Parish Hall and upcoming events are available on the Stoodleigh Parish website at <https://www.middevonparish.co.uk/sto>

odleigh/parish-hall/ or contact the secretary via [linda.brice21@yahoo.com](mailto:linda.brice21@yahoo.com) or 07818433046

New Kitchen Complete! Many compliments have been received from our hall users about the new kitchen fitted earlier in 2023. The final installation – the dishwasher – has now made it complete. The Parish Hall is a community building available for your use so if you would like to hold events or parties, find out more from the treasurer, Janet, on [rusianjan@btinternet.com](mailto:rusianjan@btinternet.com)

The Christmas Tree Lighting event outside the Parish Hall on December 2nd was supported by a good crowd. Thanks to John, Steve and Bo for providing and securing the terrific tree in place. Father Christmas, towed by vintage David Browne tractor driver, arrived in a link box all lit up with fairy lights whilst ringing a handbell through the village to call residents to the hall. A super Santa's Grotto and children's activities area plus children's presents were organised by Lou and Eva. Carols were sung accompanied by Claire on the keyboard and glasses of mulled wine, apple juice, hot chocolate and refreshments were enjoyed. Thank you to the organising team of Stoodleigh elves and fairies.

Coming up in 2024:  
 Coffee@the hall Saturdays 6 January, 3 February and 2 March: 10.30a.m. – 12 noon. Come along on the first Saturday of the month.  
 Other dates for events in 2024 will be announced in the New Year and advertised in the usual way via Stoodleigh Community email group via [stoodleighweb@gmail.com](mailto:stoodleighweb@gmail.com), the parish website and the Hall noticeboard.

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

Congratulations to Andy and Emily on the arrival of their son Arlo, a brother for Aurelia.

Welcome to Ruth and Matthew to Furze Cliff and to Brenda, Michael and Ben to Dagenel. We hope you will all enjoy living in Stoodleigh and look forward to seeing you.

### Stoodleigh Garden Club

Since the very successful Stoodleigh Annual Show in August, the Garden Club has continued with its programme of events which included a 'management and pruning of fruit trees' demonstration, a talk by Stephen Powles on Hedgehogs, helping us to care for and protect them, willow weaving classes and a very well supported Macmillan Coffee morning and plant sale.

Most of the events are open to non members and we always welcome anyone who wishes to come along.

The AGM took place in November at which it was noted that it had been a very successful year for the club with many and varied activities and an increase in membership to 37 from Stoodleigh and the surrounding area. We are now busy anticipating the coming year.

## TEMPLETON

Hello and Happy New Year!

January marks a new beginning; an opportunity to look forward; a clean slate to set the mood for the year ahead. You may have set New Year's resolutions, and you may have broken a few already! So why not take the pressure off. Step back from goals and infinite 'to do' lists and do something

you enjoy every day – no matter how small it may seem. It all adds up. Happy New Year everyone from Templeton.

**St Margaret's Church and Churchyard**  
This spring, our church will have some repair work carried out on the interior walls. We are grateful for all your regular donations which will help to achieve this. The extended area and beech hedge which everyone planted now looks established and the wooden bench in a corner of the churchyard is very welcoming for anyone wanting to sit quietly in the churchyard. William and Reg are planning to organise a team of people who would be willing to join up and tidy the churchyard, cutting back shrubs and clearing leaves as was carried out last year. Please watch this space for further details.

### Services

The Sunday services for January and February are published in the centre pages of this magazine. The lay-led Sunday services at St Margaret's Church, Templeton will be on 7 Jan, 14 Jan, 4 Feb, and 11 Feb. These are held at 10.45 am and usually last about 30 to 40 minutes. If there is not a Sunday service at Templeton at a weekend, there should be a group or cluster service at one of the other parishes. If you or your family have any favourite hymns that you'd like to sing at one of the services, just let Reg or William know (contact details on page 2).

### Past Events

**Templeton's Annual Firework and Bonfire Night**

On Saturday 4 November, Templeton's Annual Firework and Bonfire Night took place at Templeton Village Hall. As always, many people worked hard to make this event a great success and it was very well attended by families from

much further afield! Miraculously, the rain held off for the evening and it was a mild night. The bar was open and there were hot dogs, tea and coffee, toffee apples and flapjacks on sale too. We look forward to doing it all again next year.

### Remembrance Day Service

The Remembrance Day Service on Sunday 11 November allowed the congregation to pay their respects to all those who died during conflicts around the world with two minutes' silence. Bindy talked about the soldiers from Templeton who died during the First World War - in particular Reginald Warren who lived at Coombe Mill with his parents, and she focused on the memories and experiences of local people living at Templeton Bridge during the second world war, including Ken Reed, Ted Layton, and Leonard Reed.

Templeton's Got Talent – and we've got videos to prove it!

The much anticipated 'Templeton's Got Talent' Show took place on Friday and Saturday 17 and 18 November. Directed by Sue Coffin, this is a true variety show; a revival of a wonderful Templeton tradition with entertainment from the village, for the village. The performances included live singers; musical talent - guitar, ukulele, flute, trumpet; comedy stories and sketches; and a poem about Templeton. Two compares kept order, the bar was open and ice cream and popcorn were available at the interval. A huge thank you everyone who took part and to all those who came to support the show. As it was such a success, it is more than likely that we could put on another talent show next year, so why not start thinking about a song you might like to sing, or a comedy sketch idea.

### The Bowen Technique

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

**Group Exe Valley Service with Holy Communion**

On Sunday 24 November a Group Exe Valley Service with Holy Communion was held at Templeton Village Hall with the Exe Valley Community Choir, led by the Revds. Claire Curtis and Tim Gorringe. The Choir had rehearsed for the service on the Thursday before. The service was very well attended with over 100 people, the choir sang beautifully, and people stayed for tea and coffee afterwards which was a lovely way to end the event.

This is such a busy time of year and there are several events, at the time of writing, that will have happened by the time the magazine is circulated to the parishes:

**Templeton Annual Christmas Children's Party**

The Christmas Children's Party will have been held on Sunday 10 December at Templeton Village Hall, with a special visit by 'you know who'. Organised by Tony Loosemore, this is a wonderful annual event for local families, with a disco, party food and fun and plenty of parking for reindeer.

**Bar Games at Templeton Village Hall**

The Annual Christmas Bar Games (table tennis, pool, darts, and skittles) will have been held at Templeton Village Hall every Saturday evening in December from Saturday 2 December until the grand finals on Saturday 16 December. Everyone is encouraged to test their skills at these games and offered plenty of time to practice on club nights or other nights in the week.

**Candlelit Christmas Carol Service, Sunday 24 December**

On Christmas Eve, Sunday 24 December, there will have been a candlelit Christmas Carol Service with Claire at 6pm. The church is usually packed full of villagers who love to sing their favourite carols with people of all ages reading the readings. The village hall is usually open after the service for the presentation of the Christmas bar games shields to the winners.

**Future Events**

**Karaoke and Music Night**

On Sunday 31 December (New Year's Eve) from 8pm at Templeton Village Hall there will be a Karaoke and Music Night. Sue Coffin's talented brother Bob and family, who entertained us all so well at the Templeton's Got Talent Show, are keen to set up the karaoke for the evening and provide the music. The bar will be open and snacks and nibbles will be at the tables.

**Templeton Run**

On Sunday 24 March 2024, the Exe Valley Rotary Club are organising their annual Charity Templeton Run. This event started ten years ago as a 5km fun-run for people of all ages, with the Village Hall providing refreshments for the runners and marshals. However, last year the Rotary Club decided to expand the run to a wider group of runners as a 10km and 5km run. The course will follow a route starting at Templeton Village Hall and going through beautiful countryside into the Cruwys Woods, which Guy Cruwys has kindly opened for the occasion. More information to follow.

**Templeton Tractor Run**

Over the past two years Roland and Reg have arranged a Tractor Run at Templeton Village Hall. Hopefully this tradition will continue this year and will

be carried out some time over the next few months. This fund-raising event involves inviting classic and vintage tractors to take part, and the owners drive their tractors along a planned local route, often with lunch and refreshments served after the tractor run. As soon as a date has been finalised, we will give more details, and the time and the route.

**Regular Gatherings**

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

**Yoga:** Sessions every Thursday, 3.30pm to 5pm at Templeton Village Hall. Pat, an experienced yoga instructor, can accommodate all abilities. £9.00 per session. Just come along any week.

**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 01884 233507 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 and biscuits and a chat!

**Garden Club:** We are taking a break from December but Gardening Club will start again in the Spring. If you would like to join us then please email Ginah Palmer at [ginahpalmer@gmail.com](mailto:ginahpalmer@gmail.com) or phone her on 01884253552.

**Templeton Village Hall and Social Club:** By the time you read this, the names of the winners of the Templeton Village Hall Christmas Competitions will be engraved on the Silver Shields. Come up on a club night for a drink and a chat ... or maybe you would like to have a



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## PARISH ROUND-UP

game of darts, pool, table tennis or skittles - to get into practice for next December's competitions?! Club nights are held on Monday and Saturday evenings from 8.00pm to 11pm. Club membership is £2 and the drinks are very reasonably priced. If you would like to book the village hall for a birthday party, meeting, or any other event, contact Bindy 01884 860655.

### Thoughts, Prayers and Best Wishes

Our thoughts and prayers are with our vicar, Steph, whose husband, Robert died on Monday 6 November after a severe stroke. Robert Gordon's Funeral was held on Thursday 30 November at St Peter's Church, Tiverton, where he had been a vicar for several years. The church was full, and the service was taken by Bishop Jackie. The music and hymns were beautifully played, and the eulogies from Bishop Jackie, Steph, and both Robert's and Steph's families were very moving and heartfelt.

We were also saddened to hear of the passing of Alan Bristow. Alan grew up in Templeton and lived at Church View. He still has many friends in the village who remember him fondly. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sheila Bristow and her family.

Our prayers and best wishes go to all those who are unwell, who have been in hospital, awaiting or recovering from surgery, or who are having a tough time.

Hello and Welcome to Templeton. A very warm welcome to Terri, Lee and family who moved into Dartford in the summer. We hope you will be very happy in Templeton.

Church Flowers and Cleaning Rota  
January to March 2024

Teresa Pancherz

Flowers and Cleaning Jan 14 / Jan 21  
Gloria Woollacott

Flowers and Cleaning Jan 28 / Feb 4  
Bindy Linden

Flowers and Cleaning Feb 11 / Feb 18  
Sue Coffin

Lent begins No flowers -Feb 25 / Mar 3

ashes were interred in St. Mary's churchyard in November.

We pray for all those recovering from illness and accidents and wish them a speedy recovery and all the care they need.

We hope that we will all have had a cheering Christmas, despite the weather and world news. Christmas brings us renewed hope and a chance to celebrate in the traditional way the true meaning of the coming of a very special baby. The Explore Nativity at Bradleigh House was a wonderful way to bring the holy story to life.

We would like to thank all those who contributed in any way to the Church Coffee morning on Dec. 2nd. A happy time was had by all, and the church was £320 better off! This is a staggering amount for a small event and your generosity is greatly appreciated.

The Social Club had a lovely evening at the end of October when the pumpkins that had been growing were weighed. The England rugby game was shown too. The results of the weigh in were:

1st - Kipper

2nd - Paul Crease

3rd - Eric

Prettiest - Peter Spruell

A total of £86 was raised on the evening for the Devon Air Ambulance. Well done all.

Then, on the next two consecutive Saturdays, there were social club events.

On 4 November a film night showing 'The unlikely pilgrimage of Harold Fry' and on 11 November, a superb wine tasting highlighting the choice and

## WASHFIELD

Happy New Year to you all

*Decide today who you will become, what you will give and how you will live in this new year. The world is your oyster.*

Since we last wrote we have all been shocked and deeply saddened by the death of Robert Gordon. Our heartfelt sympathy and our love go to Steph, and to Robert's children and stepchildren. Their loss is incalculable and very hard to bear. It was a great privilege to be at the wonderful Memorial Service and Funeral Service for Robert at St. Peter's Church, Tiverton, which was full of memories of his life, his favourite music and many heartfelt tributes. We were so grateful in the Exe Valley, that Robert and Steph, for their various parishes, led the Sunday "Zoom" Service together all through 'lockdown' and we got to know Robert better.

He will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him; his quiet wisdom, his sense of humour and his shining faith are an inspiration.

Our thoughts and sympathy go, too, to the family of Mr. Mike Rowe whose

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

## WITHLEIGH

quality of supermarket wines for Christmas. Thanks to Chas and Peter and the committee for organising these events. We have also enjoyed another, Christmas themed, film night showing 'The Nightmare before Christmas.' This evening (plus the popcorn, hot chocolate and beverages from the bar) was enjoyed by children and adults alike. In the interval decorations were placed on the newly erected and beautifully lit Christmas tree and we all went home happy.

These are just some of the amazing events put on by the Social Club for your entertainment and to bring the community together. Now, more than ever, its so important that we come forward and join the social club and support these events.

At the Social Club AGM in November the attendees were advised that the committee was so sparse that, looking into the future (unless things change) it could threaten the future of the club. It was decided to set up a 'Friends of Washfield Social Club WhatsApp group' so that those who join it can offer help on an ad hoc basis as needed (without going on the committee).

This group has already proved popular and plans for future events has already started: the first being A Burns Night on Saturday 25 January 2024. There will be a suitably-themed meal plus a dram of whisky for all attending. Tickets are £25 per person and available from the social club and any of its committee. Get yours soon, phone Tony/Anne 07974 097604 and, not only will you have a great night out with friends and other villagers, but you will support the social club and show the committee that it IS needed and wanted.

Don't forget also, teatime@thehall is still as popular as ever. On 2nd

Tuesday of each month between 2.30pm-4pm. All ages welcome to these friendly, inclusive afternoons.

To those who are not enjoying good health at the time of writing, we hope you will soon feel better, we send loving wishes for a speedy recovery.

We send our heartfelt sympathies to the Rowe family as they mourn the death of Mike in November. He was subsequently laid to rest in St Mary's churchyard and his life remembered in the village hall after. We send our thoughts to you all at this sad time.

We bade a sad farewell at the end of October to Jack and Sarah who had lived on the Weeches for several years and we welcome the new occupant to the village and wish you much happiness here.

Villagers were delighted to hear in November that Emma Elston (daughter of David and Marion of Stagsholt) had become a very happy Mrs Blackford on Glen Etive in the highlands of Scotland. Congratulations to Tom and Emma on your marriage and we wish you both much happiness for the future.

It was lovely to see Enid finally come home after her fall, operation and rehabilitation (and in time for Christmas too!). We have missed her presence in the village (particularly at teatime@thehall and Lunch Club). We hope to see you out and about soon, Enid. Sending love as you recover at home.

Church Flower Rota

Jan 7/14

Jan 21/28

Feb 4/11

Feb 18/Mar 24

Mrs Jones

Mrs Tobey

Mrs Pannifer

LENT

Unfortunately we have no news for Withleigh this time.



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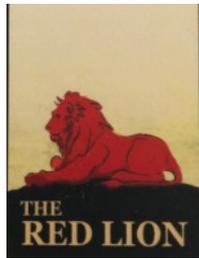
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