

# CLYST VALLEY NEWS

## DECEMBER 2020



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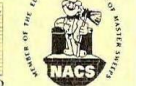
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## THE VICAR WRITES...

### First Take the Beam Out of My Own Eye...



I have just written a contentious sermon about God's judgment...don't worry, it's not a standard 19<sup>th</sup> century one with fire and brimstone, nor one that tries to frighten the listener into coming into God's kingdom. But I do suggest that God might be angry; but, with what? I don't answer this question; it is answered in the book of Zephaniah, my text - I choose not to elaborate. If God is angry, then

it is with what we call a 'righteous' anger – perhaps justified in this world.

I was angry a few days ago – but was it righteous? I was angry about how I *felt* fellow clergy *might* have interpreted the Bible. I was on a course, where we heard about various people's relationships and saw some moving video clips ('Living in Love and Faith', see the C of E website [www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith/about-living-love-and-faith](http://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith/about-living-love-and-faith)).

What got to me was a video of a same sex couple and one of a couple where one party was transgendered, who hadn't been supported by their local church – indeed in one case, asked to leave it. Who dares think that they have a right to judge another? In case you think I am 'holier than thou', Daff and I in our past as youth workers made a terrible exclusive judgment; which we've always regretted. I hope and pray it didn't cause lasting damage.

I judge that the USA might well be a better place to live with a new President; my remark is hardly contentious. But it's possible that a Biden administration could be even worse - I'm judging again.

God judges nations, I believe, but I'm not so convinced about individuals, certainly not in the 'conventional' way Bible interpreters have assumed. We all have a chance.

That is what Christmas is really all about: a vulnerable helpless child being born for us so that we don't need to be judged – or to judge others. So, forgive me, Donald Trump – I don't need to judge you – though history might.

Let me first take the beam out of my own eye...

Bill and Daff Lemmey, Woodbury Vicarage

[revbillwhitecross@gmail.com](mailto:revbillwhitecross@gmail.com)

### WHITE CROSS MISSION COMMUNITY

The churches in the White Cross Community are open weekly for private prayer: *Mondays, Woodbury Salterton, 3 - 6 pm; Tuesdays, all closed; Wednesdays, Woodbury, 10 - 1 pm; Thursdays, Farrington, 2 - 5 pm; Fridays, Clyst St George, 4 - 7 pm; Saturdays, Clyst St Mary, 10 - 1 pm; Sundays, Exton, 2 - 5 pm.* Churches are open at these times for private prayer only.

Please also see the schedule of WCMC Christmas and other church services for December (subject to Government guidance) towards the end of the magazine, including one ZOOM service for those who prefer not to travel to church or feel more comfortable at home at the moment or would just like to join us. I will send you a link for

this service (and advice if anyone needs it on how to access ZOOM) - just email me as I need your email address for the link. Jill Dupain (church admin officer) at [dupain@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dupain@hotmail.co.uk).



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## APOLOGY

It has been brought to my attention that one of the jokes in the *Lockdown Laughs* section of the November issue of the CVN may have offended some readers. If so, it was completely unintentional and I wholeheartedly apologise for any offense caused. Peter Skelton, Editor

**Contributions, photos and letters to the editor for the January 2021 issue of the Cyst Valley News should be sent, preferably by email, to the editor, Peter Skelton, at [clystvalleynews@gmail.com](mailto:clystvalleynews@gmail.com) or to 3 Brockwells Court, Frog Lane, Cyst St Mary, EX5 1BX by the earlier date of Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at the latest, please. Please note that contributions may be edited.**

## EDITOR'S NOTE



*Hello and welcome to this festive December edition of the Cyst Valley News. I'm afraid last month's printed version was rather short-lived so this month we're back to being online only but I promise we'll get back to dropping on to your doormats as soon as we safely can.*

*As you can see, it's another bumper issue this month so a big thank you to everyone who contributed. Christmas is going to be a bit different from normal for most of us this year (especially as it's just been announced that*

*Devon will be in Tier 2 from early December) but I'm sure we'll all make the best of it and still manage to have fun. I've been very impressed to read about the heart-warming initiatives being taken in our villages to create a bit of a festive atmosphere in these tricky times. Well done all!*

*Because of the pandemic, there may well be a few more villagers than usual left on their own this Christmas. That's never a nice thing but this year it's going to be doubly painful. So let's be good neighbours and not forget them at this time of 'good will to all'.*

*Finally, I'm very pleased to welcome aboard our new sponsor, Burlington Estates. My thanks for your generous support that will keep this little magazine moving forward in 2021.*

*A very Happy Christmas to all our readers! See you next year! Best wishes. Peter Skelton*

## YOUR PHOTOS NEEDED FOR THE COVER OF THE CVN!



There must be a lot of photographers out there snapping away around our villages. After all, our neck of the woods is rather photogenic. Why not share your results with our readers? Most months we aim to put one nice pic on the magazine cover and we need yours! So please do send in your efforts to the editor, Peter Skelton, who will choose one each month. Try to use relatively high definition settings but that's not a must. Just email them across to [clystvalleynews@gmail.com](mailto:clystvalleynews@gmail.com) and we'll do the rest. Simples!

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**not pass on my email address to any third party without my further written permission.'** Please do sign up! You can cancel at any time. Thank you.

## CLYST ST MARY



### Cyst St Mary Church

There is quite a lot going on within the Mission churches and we are always planning in the hope that we can actually go through the doors of our churches and have a service again. The church is arranged so that social distancing meets requirements and sanitisers, etc are all there for you to use. Always ask the questions about things that might concern you before you come.

We are now so pleased to be able to welcome you along and below you will see what we have planned and we do hope that you will join us in the Advent services. These are not going to be long drawn out services because they are for all ages but hopefully interactive enough to keep everyone involved!

*Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December* will be a variation on a Christingle service and there will be music which will help the morning along. Linda and Pat, the Churchwardens, will be taking the service. *Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December* at 9.30 am will be our Crib Service where we share the wonder of the Nativity story. This service will be led by Rev'd Bill Lemmey.

Sadly, at both services we are not able to sing carols but we will have carol music which I know we all love to hear. The Collection at both services will go to The Children's Society who do sterling work helping children in all parts of their lives as they grow up. We decided to have two services because of the numbers that may well want to attend and we, of course, have to manage the space in church.

We would like you to email [pat@cusa.org.uk](mailto:pat@cusa.org.uk) to book your seat or family pew in the church. Please give us your numbers of adults and children attending and your contact details. This will also help us with our Track and Trace requirements too. I realise these days there are a lot of things we all have to do but we hope you will think it worth it when you come along. Many thanks and God Bless.



## Church Coffee Mornings



These have been suspended until further notice.

## Cyst St Mary Festive Fun: 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> December



*Christmas in Cyst St Mary.* Our hope is that we can spread some festive fun around the village this Christmas. Hopefully you will all have received your flyers through the door and seen some posters so fingers crossed! We are delighted with the response for the Living Advent and we now have to let you know where to look for the houses that have chosen to be part of the calendar! We have also had positive noises from you about decorating your garden/house for all to see whilst they

are walking around Cyst St Mary to have a look. Lights, candles, decorations, messages -



anything you fancy. Simple or elaborate, it is up to you. Thank you very much because this is the first time we have tried this and we are so pleased how positively it has been received.

I would like to remind you of the situation regarding COVID-19. We ask you all to respect others around you and remember how very important **social distancing** is to keep everyone safe as you go around admiring people's hard work on our behalf. Thank you in advance for doing this for all your fellow residents.

As this goes to press we have not had the latest missive from the Prime Minister and therefore presume that all will be well for our festive December. Many thanks to everyone from our little team of organisers.

Pat Cusa 01392 877907; [pat@cusa.org.uk](mailto:pat@cusa.org.uk). [See also the posters below.]

### Clyst St Mary Primary School



Dark evenings have arrived and the year (quite some year!) is drawing to a close but with this comes the joy of Christmas both in school and at home and we hope that

we will all be able to be with loved ones over the festive period.

Remembrance Day saw the whole school gathered, remotely, for an assembly to commemorate those who have given their lives in conflicts over the years. A visit from a soldier brought this to life for the children and we have found ways to use songs to commemorate this important event too.

November has also seen visits from two theatre groups. Firstly, a stranded astronaut turned up in school, courtesy of *Theatre Alibi* and talked with each class about life in space; both the emotional and physical differences from life on earth. We are hoping Janet has found her spaceship again! This was followed by a visit from *Boo to a Goose Theatre* who presented their show *Space Cats to Key Stage 1*.

Rehearsals for *Wriggly Nativity* and *Hey Ewe*, our two nativity plays, are gearing up and the keen singers amongst Key Stage 2 are starting to practise Christmas songs in the playground so we are hoping the weather will stay dry, at least for a patch of each day!

Plans for decorating the front playground as part of the Advent walk around Clyst St Mary are underway and we would be grateful for any donations of the following items: big plastic baubles, battery powered, outdoor Christmas lights, solar powered lights, large bows made of waterproof material, unwanted red gloves or mittens (odd or even!) and red plastic material.

Sadly, we have had to postpone our visits for parents of next September's Reception children, due to lockdown, and hope to be able to put in some new ones once lockdown has ended. In the meantime prospective parents are invited to look at the virtual tour on our website <https://www.clyststmary.devon.sch.uk/class-r/> and can arrange an appointment for a 'phone call with our Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher to ask any questions they may have.

We are hoping there is someone in our community that would like to fill the role of caretaker at our lovely school. Since Mr Youlden's retirement there is a vacancy for someone with an hour and a half to spare each day, either before or after school. If you are interested and would like some more information please contact us on 01392 874583 or by email to [admin@csmmps.org.uk](mailto:admin@csmmps.org.uk). Most importantly of all we wish you all a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas, shared with loved ones.



### Bishops Clyst Parish Council



*Cybercrime Awareness Training.* To help us protect ourselves from cyber-criminals, the Parish Council has arranged an Introductory Cybercrime Awareness session with

the Devon and Cornwall Police Cyber Protect Unit. The session will take place via *ZOOM* on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 10 am**. If you would like to join this free session please contact the Clerk for the *ZOOM* link: [bishopsclyst@gmail.com](mailto:bishopsclyst@gmail.com).

*Dog Bin.* The Parish Council has received a few requests for an additional dog bin in Clyst St Mary and our Clerk has met with a representative of Street Scene, East Devon District Council, to discuss various options. A couple of suggested areas were deemed unsuitable: a) close to the Winslade Park Avenue footpath on the A3052, as the collection vehicle would be unable to stop on the main road; b) Greenspire, as placing dog bins on housing estates is avoided due to the unpleasantness for residents living nearby; and dog owners have the option of using their own bins. It was suggested that the patch of grass opposite Rydon Garage would be suitable. This was discussed and agreed at the Parish Council meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and we hope to have this in place very soon.

Karan Bennett, PC Clerk, working from the PC office in Clyst St Mary Village Hall on Monday to Wednesday, 9 am to 1 pm. Call 01392 874405 or email [bishopsclyst@gmail.com](mailto:bishopsclyst@gmail.com).

### CSM Flood Defence Improvements – Reducing Risk of Flooding of 50 Properties



*Progress Update from the Environment Agency*

A major element of the construction works is now complete, involving the installation of sheet piling and tying into the Clyst St Mary bridge at the southern/downstream end. This has both increased the defence level and improved the previous seepage issues. Our focus is now on withdrawing activity from the floodplain in this area as we enter the wetter part of the year. The embankment will be reinstated and capping to the piles completed. There have been some delays to the works due to issues on site but over the next few months, our efforts will concentrate on raising the defences at the northern/upstream end of the scheme and providing the demountable stop log structure on the historic bridge. Considering seasonal constraints, completion of these elements and final reinstatement/landscaping is currently programmed for early spring 2021, as ground and weather conditions permit.

We will be working with our contractor Kier to ensure that defence levels are maintained over the winter months to the pre-works standard. The installation of the sheet piles to the rear of the properties along Frog Lane has overcome the previous issue of water seeping through the grassed embankment during times of flooding. So despite further works being required to complete the upgrade, the works to date already provide added benefits in protecting the village from flooding from the River Clyst floodplain.

Enquiries about the project should be directed to Jayne Johnson, Kier's Public Liaison Officer, on 07716 223056 or at [Exmouth.PLO@kier.co.uk](mailto:Exmouth.PLO@kier.co.uk).

### Village Hall



Obviously this has been a difficult year for everyone - no less for the Village Hall and all those who use it! During the first lockdown the committee took advantage of the situation and arranged the complete redecoration of the interior and the fitting of new and much improved lighting in the main hall. Various other work both inside and out has been completed so that the Hall is now looking 'as good as new'!

At the same time we recognised that our website, which had not been updated for a lot of years, needed a fresh look. This has been done by Bespoke Web Designs, looks fantastic and will be

launched on 1<sup>st</sup> January. Within the website is a new diary and a booking form (by the hour!) that can be completed and submitted online. Ali West has taken over the responsibility for booking from that date so that everything will be available electronically (preferred) although a new 'Buzz' telephone system will also come on stream meaning that anyone calling the Village Hall booking number will always get a reply - either from Ali or if she's not available, from one of the alternative 'responders' to whom the call will be relayed.

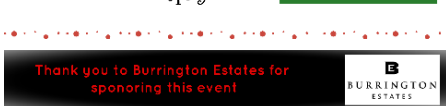
Karin Hurst who has done a great job over recent years, will continue as caretaker and key holder but, from 1<sup>st</sup> January, all enquiries should please be addressed to Ali - preferably by email using the booking form on our website <https://www.clyststmaryvillagehall.co.uk/>, sent to [bookings@clyststmaryvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@clyststmaryvillagehall.co.uk) or by 'phone on 01392 949088.

Thank you. With better news now beginning to filter through, we very much hope that all enjoy a much happier and healthier 2021 so that we can look forward to seeing you at the Hall very soon.

PS Stop Press!! The lock on the hall door has had to be renewed. Would regular users who hold keys please contact Karin Hurst to obtain a replacement.

### Walking Group

Due to present meeting restrictions we are having to put the monthly walks on hold for now until the Government may make changes to the COVID rules.



### From My Front Door: A Walk Celebrating Autumn from Clyde Bish



'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' - and mud! So wrote Keats in his poem *To Autumn*. Well, not the last bit, but he could well have done. So this is a walk for those who just don't like the m-word (or who are quite reasonably concerned about slipping over in it). It doesn't leave a footway for the whole of the route -

but still finds relatively quiet and less explored paths with a lot to see and discover on the way. The walk starts at the lower car park in Clyst St Mary village in Frog Lane.

1. *Opposite the car park and to the right is Clear Water Court. This name echoes the name of our river, Clyst, meaning clear-flowing stream in Saxon. The terrace of houses to the left is Tugela Terrace, named after a battle during the Boer War involving local-boy-made-good Redvers Buller. Frog Lane is quite aptly named, for much of the car park side was open to the mill leat before the pumping station was installed and flood defences constructed in the 1980s which allowed the line of bungalows to be built.*

2. Turn right on leaving the car park and walk up to the corner.

*You are standing by the village inn, the Half Moon. This dates back to at least the 17<sup>th</sup> century and was one of two inns in the village. (Two pubs but no church! Not strictly true.) Across the road are Forge Cottages, built on the site of the village smithy (which later became a car repair workshop as did many smithies). To the right by the side of the inn yard are Glenfield Cottages which housed the village thatchers for 300 years (and was the home of the last blacksmith).*

*Before moving on, look across the road to the left of the parking sign and you will see a black boundary stone and another more obvious stone on the corner by the shop. At the moment you are standing in Sowton parish - Clyst St Mary is the other side of the road. The old shared parish boundary goes up the middle of the main street! When elections to the parish councils were held in the Village Hall you were asked on entry which side of the road you lived so you could be given the correct voting papers! The two parishes joined in 1976 to form Bishops Clyst.*

3. Turn right, walk past Glenfield Cottages and on to the old causeway. Stop at the first bridge which crosses the mill leat.



*The causeway and its bridges are said to be the oldest in Devon, first recorded in a document of 1238 as 'pontem de Clist'. It played a pivotal part in an important historical event, the Prayer Book Rebellion of 1549. I gave details in a previous walk but suffice it to say that the rebels had a barricade with a canon sited where you are standing and were holding back the Royalist army. But there was a ford upstream - probably where you can see the willow trees near the large house (which is built on the foundations of the old mill dating from 1374). The Royalist army crossed at the ford and came up behind the rebels. End of battle!*

4. Continue on to the end of the causeway where a bridge crosses the River Clyst.

*You can only really appreciate the construction of this bridge if you cross the stile on to the levee and look underneath. (Sorry about the mud!) You will notice the far side of the arch is ribbed whereas the near side is smooth. The far side, of volcanic basalt, is the original pre-1238 construction. The more local Heavitree stone, used for the walls and the widening in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, was not quarried until the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century. You will find another boundary marker built into the bridge wall here.*



5. A footway leads up from the causeway to the A3052. Follow it to the pelican lights and cross to the far side of the dual carriageway. Turn right to Sandy Gate.

*At this junction there was a toll house with gates controlling both the Exeter-Sidmouth road and the road to Topsham. Toll houses generally had angled windows facing the road they controlled so the gatekeeper could easily see approaching traffic from either direction (like the one leaving Honiton on the A35) but with three roads to control this one must have been*



more like a conservatory!

6. Turn left and walk along Clyst Lane, crossing over to the far side to face oncoming traffic. Say hello to the donkey as you pass 'Trelawney'! You'll notice on the ground here literally hundreds of acorns. Many more than you might expect from just two trees. This is a Mast year which happens every five years or so. Chris Packham described an acorn as 'a symbol of hope. A natural promise of the future.' Who could argue with him? Soon we reach the Blue Ball, another 17<sup>th</sup> century inn and at the junction, Jubilee Cottages, built at the time of Queen Victoria's Jubilee

7. At this junction with Old Rydon Lane turn right and walk uphill.

At this junction there are two lodges, Rydon Lodge and South Lodge. Presumably these were lodges to Newcourt (or perhaps the hospital at Digby) but why two opposite each other? Soon you will cross the M5 motorway. This reached Exeter in 1977 and roughly follows the route of the A38 - which in turn follows the route of the Roman Fosse Way. Like its Roman equivalent, it is the only prime motorway that doesn't begin in London. Surprisingly there is a song featuring this motorway entitled 'M5#1' in the album 'Middle Class Revolt' by The Fall. 8. Continue past the East Entrance to the rugby stadium to a sign which indicates a path to your right to Sandy Park and Digby and Sowton Station. Follow this path up and around to the right, then to the left by the side of the carpark.

The Chiefs are doing very well at the moment - and long may it last! Exeter Rugby Club was founded in 1871. In 1905, at their original ground in St Thomas, they hosted the first match played by the New Zealand national rugby team in the Northern Hemisphere. It was from that game that New Zealand became known as the All Blacks. If you have never been to a match at Sandy Park, I thoroughly recommend it!

9. Continue along the path, cross the access road to the car-park then turn left. After passing the roundabout the path begins to leave the road and curves to the right.

Just before the bridge you will find a group of pine trees. These are all female trees. (You may find it surprising to learn that plants can be single sex, but it is not that uncommon.) If you look closely you will find four different stages in cone development. At the tip of a stem, is a bud holding the new cone. Just behind the tip, a small rounded one year-old cone. Further down a larger green one, two years-old and then



the more familiar open brown one, perhaps with winged seeds still remaining on the 'shelves'. The fact that you can see the seeds gives the conifers their botanical group, Gymnosperms - Greek for uncovered (or naked) seeds. You'll notice the needle-like leaves are in pairs. The inside faces, where the pores are, can be pressed together by the hinge-like base to reduce water loss.



10. Continue over the bridge.

At the bridge pier there is a memorial plaque to Malcolm David Baker, a former rugby player who was closely involved with the development of the Sandy Park complex. The bridge is named in his honour. The wooded area to the left of the floodlights is what is left of Clyst Heath. There was a skirmish here during the Wars of the Roses and it also featured in the aftermath of the battle at Clyst St Mary. The rebel prisoners had been taken with the Royalist army to Clyst Heath. It was thought, mistakenly as it turned out, that rebel reinforcements were coming, so all the prisoners from Clyst St Mary had their throats cut.

11. After the bridge the path comes to a junction.

This is Apple Lane Path (originally just a footpath alongside a hedge) and is where the rebels who escaped from the battle on the bridge made their last stand. Hooker describes, quite graphically, the final fight: **"They fought most stoutly, nor would give out as long as life and limb lasted; so that none were left alive. Such was the valour of these**

**men, that the Lord Grey declared, that he never, in all the wars that he had been, knew the like."** It was all over for the men of Clyst St Mary.

12. Turn right and walk down the lane but stop at lamp post 12.

Just after the lamp post there is a pine tree. Near the ends of the branches are groups of what look like catkins. This is a male pine tree and these are male cones which, in spring, will release thousands of pollen grains, each with two air bags to help them float in the air to be carried to the new female cones you have already seen. Once there nothing happens for a year. Then the seeds are produced and the cones start to develop - for the next three years. Pine trees don't like to rush things! A little further down the path you



will come to a holly tree with flower buds. Some are beginning to open and if you look carefully at the white flowers you'll see a ring of four stamens - with nothing in the middle! Like the pine this is a male tree so the flowers only have the male parts so won't make berries.

On the bank at the end of the path you will find a plant with small green leaves and cup-like structures. These are liverworts - simple plants allied with mosses, which at the moment are going through an unusual stage in their life-cycle. If you touch your



finger into a small cup it will come out with green 'dust' on it. These are gemmae and are produced by the plant asexually (ie just on its own). They will be splashed out by raindrops to grow into complete new plants.



13. Cross the road to the right, aiming for the cliff face ahead of you.

The rock type is Dawlish sandstone. These red rocks were formed in a hot desert climate, for at this time the tectonic plate carrying the south-west peninsula was much nearer the equator. What you are looking at are fossilised sand dunes! You can see the layers of sand as they were blown up over the dune, and boundaries where the slope of these layers alter - evidence of a change of wind direction around 280 million years ago.

14. Follow the footway to the left around the corner, following the beech hedge to the main road. Turn right and stop after the end of the bus lay-by.

The ground here is covered with fallen leaves but even a quick glance will tell you there is a great variety of trees that have contributed to this carpet. If you stop for a moment and count the different types I think you will be surprised how many. (I won't tell you how many I found - but it was more than ten.) You may be thinking, why the colour? Plants make a range of coloured chemicals, many of which are waste materials. In autumn trees move these coloured waste materials into the leaves, hence the autumn colours of red, yellow and gold. So when the leaves fall the waste materials go with them. The leaves fall off because a layer of cork is formed between the leaf stalk and the stem leaving only the veins holding the leaf until the wind removes it. This layer and the vein marks are what makes the 'horseshoe and nails' scars on the horse chestnut twig. But leaf fall doesn't just get rid of waste. It reduces water loss and it lets the winds blow through branches reducing the likelihood of toppling.

15. Now continue to the pelican crossing where you will cross the road. (If you have to wait for the lights to change look behind you and you will see a much more impressive expanse of the same sandstone you viewed earlier.) When you have crossed the road, turn right and follow the footway to Moor Lane. Be careful crossing this. For some reason it is the only crossing on the motorway junction complex which isn't pedestrian-controlled. Continue over the entrance to the Services and down to the motorway junction.

The carriageways of the motorway ahead of you are at the height of the original land surface. The roundabout, slip roads and access roads were all excavated out below it. In fact the Travel Lodge on the embankment up and behind you used the original A3052 road surface for its front car park until it was resurfaced.

16. Cross under the motorway and follow the A3052 back toward the old causeway. Stop when you again reach the river bridge.

*On our outward journey we concentrated on human history. On our return journey we'll switch to natural history. On the up-river side the River Clyst is now contained in its flood banks but the spread of alluvium and river gravels shown on the geology map shows it once had a much more meandering path. The river starts its 24-mile journey to join the Exe from near the hamlet of Clyst William. This settlement is not named after anyone. The name derives from the Anglo-Saxon word 'aewelm', meaning 'river source'. The river is theoretically tidal to the bridge but there must be some mixing as a shrimp-like crustacean is found here which only lives in brackish water. There is quite a wide variety of fish species in the river including trout – but no salmon, probably because of the barrier formed by the weir at Topsham a lot of the time. Otter sprait (=poo) has been found under the cattle bridge upstream so they must also be around.*



*The pylons occasionally provide Ospreys with resting points during their autumn migration south from the Lake District, but it is probably too late to catch sight of them now until their spring return.*

*As you walk down the causeway you will notice that the vegetation on the right is much rougher and more sedgy than the more meadowy grass on the left. Grazing makes a big difference.*

*Along the walls you will see a great variety of mosses and lichens. The*

*latter are double plants made up of a simple green alga and a thread-like fungus living together for the mutual benefit of each. (This arrangement is actually called mutualism.) This pairing is so important that if the plants are separated each will die! The lichens on the walls form very slow-growing scaly plates whereas those growing on the willow trees near the mill leat are shrubby ones. There is a third type, leafy lichens, but the dual carriageway produces too much air pollution for them to grow here.*



*Mosses belong to the group Bryophytes - Greek for 'leaf-plant' for they are the simplest plants group to have true leaves. They come in a variety of shapes but all lead double lives! (It's really called alternation of generations.) The stalks coming out of the moss with a bump at the end are spore (not seed) cases. The asexual spores they produce are spread by the wind, but they don't grow into moss plants, but into a thread-like mat which produces male and female cells. In the damp conditions the water film allows the male cells to swim. (Yes, some plant male reproductive cells are motile!) Each may join with a female cell, possibly on another mat of threads, to grow into a new moss plant – which goes on to produce its own spore cases.*

*If you look at the rock making up the parapet on the right just after the bollards you will see it contains small angular stones in a sand matrix. This is called breccia and was made during flash floods in ancient rivers. This Heavitree stone is used a lot around Exeter but weathers badly, as you can see! Some capstones have been replaced by blocks of speckled grey granite, showing the constituent three minerals - glassy crystals of quartz, small milky blocks of feldspar and specks of black mica.*

*17. Complete your crossing of the causeway, turn left at the Half Moon and you will be back at the carpark. [Walk compiled and researched by Clyde Bish. Many thanks. Ed]*

*17. Complete your crossing of the causeway, turn left at the Half Moon and you will be back at the carpark. [Walk compiled and researched by Clyde Bish. Many thanks. Ed]*

## Clyst Valley AFC – to Expand!!



With the likelihood of the football pitches at the old Winslade Manor recreation ground coming back into use, Clyst Valley AFC is making plans to take advantage of these exciting opportunities for the benefit of more of the community. Having been restricted to the use of only one football pitch for many years, the proposals by Burrington Estates to create two more adult pitches and two junior pitches in the village means that Clyst Valley can expand the club in order to offer football to more age groups of both sexes. At present we run two adult and one Under 18 team but would like to consider running a third male team, a male veterans' team, ladies' teams and commence a youth section for all age groups of boys and girls. While we recognise that planning permission has still to be granted we would like to hear from anyone that would be interested in playing or in helping with this expansion. Please don't hold back; if you or your children have any interest please let us know as quickly as possible so that we can gauge the interest and start to formulate our plans. Our website is currently being rebuilt so please register your interest by emailing the Club Chairman at [petercain@fh9.co.uk](mailto:petercain@fh9.co.uk).

## Clyst Valley Pre-School

**Clyst Valley Preschool - Clyst St Mary**  
 www.clystvalleypreschool.org - Phone: 01392 876615  
 Email: admin@clystvalleypreschool.org

**Places available for September 2020**

- Ofsted Outstanding
- Purpose built building on site of Clyst St Mary Primary School
- Highly qualified and experienced staff, including 3 Early Years Teachers
- High staff to child ratios
- 30 hours funding accepted
- Sessions available every day from 9:15am - 3:15pm

Easy access to M5, Sowden, Bishops Clyst, Clyst Heath, Henneport, Fishar, Cranbrook and surrounding villages.

**Ofsted Outstanding** 2019/2015

## Table Tennis Club



The Table Tennis Club has suspended all play for the time being but hopes to be back very soon! If anyone is interested in joining the club, please contact Pam Gardner either by telephone (07714 097220) or by email at [pamelamgardner9@gmail.com](mailto:pamelamgardner9@gmail.com).

[For the tennis, short bowls and badminton clubs please look out for notices in subsequent issues of the CVN as to when activities will resume.]

## CLYST ST GEORGE AND EBFORD



### Clyst St George Christmas Services

We are very much dependent on COVID-19 guidelines but we are hoping to hold a service of nine lessons interspersed with seasonal music (no singing, I'm afraid) on 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7 pm and on Christmas Eve at 4 pm, a Christmas Family Service. All are welcome to both services



although there is a restriction on numbers so if you would like to join us please contact Jacquie Manser on 01392 874861 or at [jacquie@jmanser.co.uk](mailto:jacquie@jmanser.co.uk).



## Clyst St George Parish Council Chairman's Notes, December 2020

The Clyst Valley Trail will be on the Council's agenda again for December and the Officer, Simon Bates, who is looking at the various routes, will be with us so you could join us by **ZOOM** for that (Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December). As always, our agenda and minutes are on our website <https://www.clyststgeorge.org.uk/>.

The trees are now all planted but Seawards Park residents have trumped us with many more trees planted. Well done! According to the BBC the area of trees in the UK is only ten per cent, well below the European average; must try harder!

On behalf of the Parish Council have a Happy Christmas and we all hope for a better New Year. Stay safe.

John Manser

[john@jmanser.co.uk](mailto:john@jmanser.co.uk)

01392 874861

## Nature Garden

Clyst St George has a delightful nature garden by the side of the parish church. The aim of the garden is to grow local Devon indigenous plants and trees and to encourage a Devon meadow with local wild flowers. Should you wish to help develop this 'green' facility, you can come along on the first Saturday of every month from 9.30 to 11 am. (PLEASE CHECK IN ADVANCE.)

## Lady Seaward's C of E Primary School



The staff at Lady Seaward's are preparing for Christmas in a different way this year. Sadly, there will be no whole school events and no Christmas and carol services but the children will still be able to enjoy all the Christmas celebrations within their own class bubbles. The PTA have kindly donated resources to make space-saving Christmas trees along with a bauble for each child to decorate.

The Administrator has received a letter from Father Christmas asking her if she could be his special helper this year as he is unable to visit the school in person so we are sure the children will still have an amazing time!

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Clyst Vally News, in particular, Peter, for keeping the paper going during this difficult time; and also I'm sure all the children and staff will join me in wishing all the readers a very Happy Christmas and Happy New Year.

## Greetings Cards



We are always grateful to receive cards (except Christmas ones) for remaking and they can be left in the church which is normally open between 9 am and 5 pm each day. Visitors will also find boxes of made up cards for sale covering birthdays, get well, sympathy, new home, thank you, anniversary, etc as well as cards with no message or cards with no message or wording suitable for any occasion. Do call in and enjoy a few quiet moments browsing and perhaps buy a card. Linda Wilkerson (01392 873699). **SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

## Norman's Weather Report



October continued its stormy beginning with several bouts of heavy rain and wind throughout, producing a total rainfall of 114 mm (4½ inches). This is of course a little more than the last 20-year average of 3.8 inches (96 mm).

Unlike many months, the average for the first decade of 97.5 mm was very similar to that for the second decade of 95.4 mm. By the way, rainfall during

October 2019 was 115 mm!

We shall have to wait and see if lockdown has any effect on November's normally heavy precipitation. Norman Cann

## Clyst St George Parish Hall



Clyst St George Parish Hall is open once more to anyone who wants to hire the Hall. We are not making the Ethel Cann Room available at the moment as it is too small to adhere to the social distancing rules. The Hall has been redecorated and is looking splendid.

There are hand sanitising units at strategic points in the building for the use of the hirers and hirers are asked to be responsible for making sure that they adhere to the government guidelines for holding gatherings in a COVID-safe way. Our cleaner will use PPE when working in the Hall and he has special cleaning fluids to make the area as safe as possible. We are not sure when we will resume the coffee mornings, Big Breakfast or the quiz evenings but we hope it will not be long before these things can resume. Watch this space! Enquiries to Claire Marks at [clyststgeorgeandebfordvhall@outlook.com](mailto:clyststgeorgeandebfordvhall@outlook.com) or 'phone 07834 234546. Pamela Diffey (Chairperson) 01392 877497

## Little Dragons Pre-School

We are pleased with the outcome of our Ofsted inspection in April 2018, where we were judged to be 'good'. We have now re-opened and have been operating at full capacity from September. We are based in Lady Seaward's School and open four days a week, from Monday to Thursday 8.45 am – 3.15 pm during school term times. Do come and visit and meet our highly experienced staff team. For more information please telephone Elly on 07939 995486 (in school hours), email [littledragons@live.com](mailto:littledragons@live.com) or visit our website [www.littledragonsclyststgeorge.com](http://www.littledragonsclyststgeorge.com).

## WOODBURY SALTERTON



## A Celebration of Christmas

It is very difficult to make definite arrangements this far ahead until we see what happens after 2<sup>nd</sup> December. A normal carol service will not be possible with COVID restrictions but we plan a service of

some sort on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December. Look out for posters or notification on the Residents' Facebook page.

*Carol Singing Round the Village.* It is hoped that this can go ahead. Look out for posters.



## Masks

Fiona Vessey has been making and selling masks for church funds, for a suggested donation of £5. When the church is open again, they will be available for purchase at the back of the church.

## Will You Help Our Village Church?



Like many other charities, our village church has had a significant reduction in income as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. However, the expenses have continued to come in and recent surveys of the fabric of the building have uncovered work that needs to be done on the lightning conductors, the roof and crumbling masonry, amongst other things. Despite the building being closed for most of the time, the church community has been there to help the vulnerable and needy in the village. If you would like to support our church and help financially to protect the fabric of

the building for future generations please contact the PCC Treasurer, Nigel Dupain, for details. Single donations or regular giving would be very gratefully received and can be restricted to building repairs if you wish. Completion of a Gift Aid form would mean that we could claim a further 25 per cent of your gift from the government without any cost to you or the church. Bank details: 30-93-14, 02863238. Contact details: Nigel Dupain, Little Cannonwalls, Woodbury Salterton, Exeter, EX5 1PY. Email [dupain@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dupain@hotmail.co.uk) or 'phone 01395 232953.

## Remembrance



Remembrance Sunday saw people assembling in Village Road but observing social distancing. Graham Gerdes conducted the Act of Remembrance and poppy wreaths were laid by Patrick Bricknell on behalf of the Parish Council and by Alan Nixon for the Royal British Legion.



Alan, who has almost reached his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, walked from his home to the church on his walking frame and was especially wreath as he the Military Cross.



assisted to the lych commented that it should lay the and been awarded Usually some people then go into church for a short lay-led service but with the church being closed Debbie Jung led the service outside the lych gate and everybody stayed for this.

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## Monthly Church Coffee Mornings



These have been suspended until further notice.

## Church Quiz

The annual church quiz, entitled *Britain in Bloom* has been selling well - £2 per copy for church funds. Copies can be obtained from Katharine Wheeler. There is a £10 prize and entries do not have to be in until 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021.



## To All Those Residents of The Parish of Woodbury Salterton Who Will Be 70 and Older by Christmas 2020

*The Kerslake Trust.* This Trust was created on the death of Celia Elizabeth Kerslake on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1939. Under the terms of her will some shares were left to the Trustees of Woodbury Salterton Church, with the instruction that the income received from them should be distributed among 'the old people over 70 belonging to the Parish at Christmas time'.

The Trustees are currently reviewing the list of beneficiaries to arrange this year's distribution, and will be pleased to hear from anyone permanently resident in the Parish who has NOT received a payment in previous years and who considers they now qualify for such a payment. Please advise Nigel Dupain, Trustee, on 01395 232953 by **1<sup>st</sup> December 2020**.

## Village Hall Activities

### Woodbury Salterton Village Hall



The Hall is a great asset to the village and is a great space for community and private events. We have a few regular groups open to all: community coffee morning, first Monday of the month, 9 to 11.30 am; Woodbury Salterton parent and toddler group, Monday mornings, 9 to 11 am; Woodbury Salterton WI, second Wednesday of the month, 7.30 pm; whist, third Tuesday of the month, 7.30 pm. *[Please check in advance when these activities will resume.]*

### Festive Windows

**Commencing Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**Please help us to Light Up Woodbury Salterton with Joy and Sparkle this festive period.**

Decorate your window and win £10 cash prize!

Criteria is 'Joy' so a family task perhaps

Well lit Upstairs or Downstairs window – but must face the road,

They should be displayed from 7<sup>th</sup> December until 31<sup>st</sup> December

Judged by PCC – (Church Committee)

Winner announced in Christmas Celebration on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December, Woodbury News and Cyst Valley News.

Debbie Jung (Church Warden) Rosewood, Village Road, Woodbury Salterton

### Registering your window

Like all charities this year Woodbury Salterton Church as suffered great financial loss. We recognise how difficult this year has been so borne from this was the idea to light up Woodbury Salterton with some fun.

In order to win the £10 prize please register with a donation of £3 per household.

All donations that are received will be passed to the treasurer at the end of the registration period which is from now until Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

Registration is simple

Name.....

Address.....

Donation (£3 minimum please) per household.

Please post through the door at Rosewood, Village Road, Woodbury Salterton.

We would like to promote the event through the Woodbury Church / WSRA facebook by photographing the windows if you would prefer us not feature your window – no names will be displayed. Please indicate here

We look Forward to seeing your creations

## Woodbury Salterton C of E Primary School



It has been such a busy month in our school and the staff and children wanted to share a glimpse of their learning with you; here are the highlights.

*Nursery and Class 1.* The Class 1 children have been busy working on an art topic called 'Funny Faces and Fabulous Features', which is all about portraits. They have used mirrors to help them draw self-portraits.



They have used mirrors to help them draw self-portraits, had a go at collage work to create their own compositions and have used the features on the face to create some very funny faces! The children also enjoyed a fantastic dance workshop with Becky Mason, from Dartmoor Schools Sport Partnership. They were able to learn a dance routine and put all the parts of the dance together to perform to each other. Have a look on our latest news page on the website to check out the children's great moves!





In literacy Class 1 have been thinking about the wonderful foods that have been grown during Harvest time following on from reading the story of *The Little Red Hen*. The children sang a Harvest song to thank the farmers and painted some Harvest pictures of the wheat fields and made little harvest mice.

Class 1 have been learning about how Christians welcome babies into the family and the Church. They learnt how names have special meanings and found out what their own names meant and made decorated names using beads, pasta and pom poms. They talked to the grown-ups at home about why they chose their names.

The children in Nursery have been busy and produced some lovely handwriting after listening to the story of Elmer and made colourful Elmer collages. They also listened to the story of Harold the Hedgehog who was worried that he was not like everybody else and talked about how special and unique we all are. They made little hedgehogs from modelling clay which you can see on our website latest news page with photos of our wonderful little learners.

*Class 2.* Learning in Class 2 has had a chilly theme as they have been learning all about Polar regions with activities that included learning all about penguins. They carried out scientific investigations with their very own icebergs, which they had to observe throughout the course of the day. This involved placing the iceberg in a shallow dish of water and measuring the circumference, then writing a hypothesis to explain their predictions of what may happen to the ice. The children carried out a fair test by maintaining a constant temperature, using the same tape measure and the same intervals of time between measurements. The budding scientists noticed not only how the iceberg had melted by 16 cm in size, but also how the crystal formation changed each half hour.



In PHSCE Classes 2 and 3 learned about how to stay safe on Bonfire Night. Lots of important safety rules and tips were discussed and then put together to create informative posters. They talked about ways to enjoy a different sort of Bonfire Night this year. Some of the ideas included having a family party with glow sticks, watching a display on TV and having a *ZOOM* call firework quiz!

As part of our Harvest celebrations, the School Council and Ethos Group organised a very successful fundraising day to raise money for families in poverty in Africa. They raised £40 which will help to build a keyhole garden for an African family to withstand the effects of climate change. The children watched a video about a family and learned how the *Send a Cow* charity helps them with education, seeds and materials to ensure a good harvest. The children did lots of activities and learned some Amharic (Ethiopian language) words for different foods. Class 2 also enjoyed creating superhero masks as part of the *Send a Cow* activities. They created superheroes such as 'sun and rain' so that there was always the most perfect weather for growing food and a 'water' superhero who always made sure that people had clean water to drink no matter where they lived.

As part of the celebration of Harvest the children in Class 2 wrote some inspired poems; here are two to share with you:

*Happy farmers harvest healthy food for everyone  
Apples, juicy and ripe are harvested for you and me  
Rain sent by God helps the soft plants to grow  
Vegetables have started to become leafy greens  
Everyone is hungrily eating apple pie  
Sizzling soup made from vegetables  
Tasty apples from the tree* (By Sydney)

*Happy, helpful farmers gathering the golden swaying corn  
Apples are crunchy, apples are sweet, so sweet to eat that they are a fantastic treat*

*Red, ripe radishes ready to eat, they are very nice and a healthy treat  
Vegetables in a sauce, oh so colourful and bright, so thank you God with all our might*

*Eggs are white and delicious, eggs are good for a feast. I like everyone happily eating, a nice big bit of juicy meat.*

*Sizzling sausages in a pan, slimy salami stacked up high, way up high in the sky  
Tractors helping to harvest golden crops. Thank you, God, for all of us and for all the food.*

(By Tessa)

Lastly Class 2 have been learning about the Stone Age and how to weave using the same methods Stone Age people used thousands of years ago. The children also looked at some Stone Age arrowheads made from flint and learned about how the weapons were used as tools and for hunting animals for food due to their strength and shape.

*Class 3.* Classes 2 and 3 took part in a mental health workshop run by the charity *Heads Up*. The children identified many different emotions and thought carefully about how these can make their body feel. The children then revisited the different things that they can do to keep their minds and body healthy. They had interesting discussions about the difference between mental health and illness. *Heads Up* worker Paula, was so impressed with how knowledgeable the children already were about these issues and of their suggestions for keeping calm and relaxed.

Class 3 also enjoyed taking part in the dance workshop with School Sports coordinator, Becky



Mason, from Dartmoor Schools Sport Partnership and learning about how to travel in different ways and making up their own dance phrases. Their funky moves are captured on our school website latest news page.

Sticking with the curriculum theme of Polar regions Class 3 completed amazing Arctic landscapes by adding Polar animals.

In art they learned more about proportion and composition and where to place the animal by using



larger animals in the foreground and the smaller ones in the background. They evaluated their work and talked about the similarities in style to the artwork of Becky Bettesworth. What stunning landscapes!

Building on the theme of the ice and Polar regions Class 3 have been sailing on the Titanic – before the iceberg arrived! They have been exploring the differences for first- and third-class passengers, and thinking about how different passengers might have felt aboard the luxury ship. They sent telegrams home and were fascinated to hear about long-distance communication pre-Internet!

*Whole School.* A massive well done to all the children that entered the PTFA pumpkin carving competition. We had some fabulous entries and raised £27 from entries and a further £28 so far by the text service. The pumpkins went on display outside of the school gate for the whole village to admire.

We are very lucky to have had a great selection of new books donated to our school library gifted to us by Bridge Books of Exeter who stock a large range of Christian books, resources and



gifts. Our pupils will have much pleasure in reading and admiring the beautifully illustrated books. A very big thank you, Bridge Books!

The whole school enjoyed a fabulous, informative and humorous production by *Theatre Alibi* called 'Down to Earth'. After seeing the performance Class 1 children created some amazing space pictures using chalk on black paper to make pictures of stars, planets, asteroids and the planet Earth! A big thank you to *Theatre Alibi* for yet another fantastic show!

As part of our Harvest celebrations we supported Exmouth Larder – which is a food bank set up to help those in need. A huge thank you to everybody who donated various items of food and provisions. Our thanks also to parents from our PTFA fundraising through *Bags2School* with 140 kg of donations they managed to raise £42! Thank you all for your support!

Lastly, we wanted to say farewell and huge thanks ahead of their retirement to Class 1 teachers Mrs Tweedy and Mrs Corlett. Both have worked at the school for many years and contributed so much to so many children; especially important in their early years getting learning off to a great start. They will be hugely missed by their colleagues and we wish them both well for the future.



~~~~~  
AND FINALLY...

### ATTENTION ALL POULTRY KEEPERS: Avian Influenza (Bird Flu)

*Poultry and Other Captive Birds.* An [Avian Influenza Prevention Zone](#) (AIPZ) has been declared across the whole of England, effective from 5 pm on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020. All poultry keepers in England (whether they have commercial flocks or just a few birds in a backyard flock) are required by law to take a range of biosecurity precautions.



If you keep poultry (including gamebirds or pet birds) or other captive birds, you must act now to reduce the risk of disease in your flock by following the relevant biosecurity measures required within the

AIPZ. Your stock needs to be feed and watered under cover to prevent contamination from wild birds.

Good biosecurity improves the overall health and productivity of your flock by helping keep out poultry diseases such as avian influenza and limiting the spread of disease in an outbreak. All bird gatherings within the AIPZ are prohibited; therefore, the general licence that had permitted bird gatherings has been revoked.

For more guidance please visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>. If you find dead wild waterfowl (swans, geese or ducks) or other dead wild birds, such as gulls or birds of prey, you should report them to the Defra helpline (03459 33 55 77).

Public Health England advises that the risk to the public's health is very low. Food Standards Agency (FSA) has said that on the basis of the current scientific evidence, avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for UK consumers. Avian influenza is unconnected with coronavirus (COVID-19).

*Voluntary Registration.* You can choose to register fewer than 50 birds, or birds you keep as pets. The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) encourages you to register even if you do not have to by law. By registering,

- APHA will be able to contact you if there's a disease outbreak (such as bird flu) in your area;
- you'll help prevent the spread of disease and protect the national poultry flock.

**The FORCE Cancer Charity Support & Information Centre is temporarily closed**

**but we are still here to help**

**Monday-Friday 09:30-16:30**

**For cancer support and information plus advice on claiming benefits**

☎ 01392 406151

✉ [support@forcecancercharity.co.uk](mailto:support@forcecancercharity.co.uk)

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✉ [help@forcecancercharity.co.uk](mailto:help@forcecancercharity.co.uk)

Registered Charity No. 104555

**force**

www.forcecancercharity.co.uk

### Exmouth Mobile Library Timetable 2021

| Day      | Village            | Stop           | Arrive | Depart |
|----------|--------------------|----------------|--------|--------|
| Friday   | Aylesbeare         | Nightjar Inn   | 09.50  | 10.10  |
| Friday   | Clyst St Mary      | Cat and Fiddle | 12.10  | 12.30  |
| Tuesday  | Clyst St Mary      | Winslade Park  | 14.50  | 15.10  |
| Tuesday  | Clyst St George    | School         | 15.20  | 15.40  |
| Monday   | Exton              | Station        | 09.45  | 10.05  |
| Friday   | Woodbury Salterton | Kennels        | 12.50  | 13.10  |
| Woodbury | Woodbury           | White Hart     | 14.00  | 16.00  |

*Disclaimer: Due to operational circumstances, the mobile library may need to be off road and unable to visit on some dates. Details will be publicised closer to the time. These timetables may be subject to change.*



### The Exeter Forum



Meetings of the Forum have been suspended due to the coronavirus outbreak until further notice.



## Poetry Corner

by John Smith (of Clyst St Mary)

### *Trip*

This is the trip of a lifetime  
All is unique on the way  
The rattling wheels on the track of this living  
Unsettling the plans of all of the striving  
For fulfilment that is here already.

There is no such thing as the normal,  
For change is the way of the future,  
To look through a window for direction  
Will only give back a reflection  
Of how the world is right now.



So calmly I'll travel to the solstice,  
Through Christmas and into New Year,  
Reflecting on people who matter to me,  
Make happiness for them priority,  
For this trip will not last forever

©John Smith

## Exmouth and District U3A Monthly Meetings



Meetings have been suspended because of the coronavirus crisis but will resume as soon as it is safe to do so. Look out for our announcement and stay safe.



### Lend your green fingers to a great local cause!

If you would like to share your garden with visitors to raise funds for local people living with terminal illness, please email or call today for a no obligation chat!

CONTACT 01392 688020  
fundraising@hospiscare.co.uk

Because every day matters  
www.hospiscare.co.uk  
Devon charity no. 1010041



## Christmas Carol Quiz!



Test your knowledge of those atmospheric, seasonal, spiritual anthems we all love to sing at Christmastime. Answers after 'Festive Funnies'.

1. In 'A Christmas Carol', what carol is sung outside Scrooge's office?
2. Which Advent carol contains the following line 'O come thy rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny'?
3. The carol 'Joy to the World' is based on which Psalm?
4. Holst wrote a well-known tune to which Christmas carol?
5. Which Christmas carol contains the line 'Brightly shone the moon that night'?
6. 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' was written in which US city?
7. Which Christmas carol contains the line 'E'en so here below, below, Let steeple bells be swungen'?
8. The carol 'Away in a Manger' was written in which country?
9. Which Christmas carol contains the line 'From angels bending near the Earth, to touch their harps of gold'?
10. What is the literal translation of 'In Dulci Jubilo'?
11. In 'The First Noel' to whom did the angel speak?
12. The carol 'In the Bleak Midwinter' is based on a poem by which writer?
13. Which Christmas carol contains the following 'Above thy deep and dreamless sleep'?
14. Father Joseph Mohr wrote the carol 'Silent Night' to be accompanied by which instrument?
15. In the Christmas carol, how many ships came 'sailing in'?
16. Which Christmas carol contains the words 'Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, And Heaven and nature sing'?
17. The carol 'While Shepherds Watched' was written in which century?
18. Which Christmas carol contains the words 'Come and behold him, born the King of angels'?
19. Which Poet Laureate wrote the words to 'While Shepherds Watched'?
20. In a recent poll of the world's leading choirmasters, what was named the best Christmas carol?



## Recycle Devon



aims to go one step further and capture any items that are still in good working order to keep them in circulation for longer.

The participating trial sites are:

- Pinbrook Recycling Centre, Exeter
- Ivybridge Recycling Centre
- Brunel Road Recycling Centre, Newton Abbot
- Knowle Hill Recycling Centre, Exmouth
- Bideford Recycling Centre

Residents arriving at participating recycling centres with flat screen TVs, vacuum cleaners or lighting will now be asked by site staff if the item is still working and in good condition. Items that can be re-used will be PAT- and function-tested by trained site staff and then made available in the site's re-use shop for the public to buy, along with furniture, bric-a-brac and other re-usable household items. Non-working electrical items and any failing the testing procedure will be recycled.

It is estimated that following the testing process, 33 per cent of TVs, 50 per cent of vacuums and 72 per cent of lighting/lamps will be suitable to re-use, meaning an additional 48 tonnes of electrical goods will be re-used per year at participating sites.

Recycling centre resale shops are popular with the public as they offer a range of household items at affordable prices. Public demand for resale shops to include electrical items has grown as budget-savvy shoppers embrace the cost savings of buying re-usable goods, whilst also benefiting the environment.

The grant funding has helped provide workshop and testing facilities as well as staff training to allow re-usable items to be function and safety tested prior to resale. It is anticipated that the scheme will be self-financing going forward which will help keep it going.

## Two Poignant Local Reminiscences of WW2 Marking Remembrance Day Last Month



case of a direct hit on our building. My father had whitewashed the space under the stairs and we slept there most nights. Sometimes Mum would take us up to Cowick Lane and we would

*A trial to boost re-use of electrical items is taking place at five Household Waste Recycling Centres across Devon.*

The project, funded by the electricals industry to encourage the re-use of electrical items, will initially focus on flat screen TVs, vacuum cleaners and lighting.

In 2018/19, over 7,200 tonnes of electrical items were recycled through Devon's recycling centres and the trial

sit in the hedgerow until it was safe to go home. One night we saw a red glare in the sky beyond the Haldon Hills and we knew Plymouth was under attack. If Dad had a little petrol he would take us out towards Tedburn St Mary and leave us by the side of the road and come and fetch us in the morning. On 5<sup>th</sup> May 1942 we got to the top of Dunsford Hill and could see a pall of smoke over the city. My sister, aunt and uncle had sheltered in a cellar and were dug out of the debris. They owned a furniture and hardware store with a workshop at the side; my uncle was an undertaker and made coffins there. Nearly the whole of Paris Street was demolished. My sister had been married in October 1941 and all her wedding gifts were lost - the only thing they found was an ivory-covered prayer book which she carried on her wedding day. I have it now, badly scarred by shrapnel. Eventually the war ended and sisters and brother were reunited. We were a family again. *Dorothy Simmonds, former Clyst St Mary resident*

-/-

I was due to lead the Remembrance Sunday Service last month at Clyst St Mary Church, cancelled due to the pandemic. My theme was to be that it is right that we should remember those who died to protect our freedoms but we should also be looking forward to doing whatever we can to make the world a safer place, where people of all races can live in peace together.

My feelings on this came many years ago when I was only ten. My father was a long-distance lorry driver, a reserved occupation during the war. I often went with him during the school holidays. On occasion, we were carrying pre-cast concrete beams, the side posts of aircraft hangers or barns. They weighed one ton each and were loaded on to the lorry by crane at the factory. On site however, all they had was a 'Sheerlegs' pulley. This was an arrangement of three long poles lashed together at the top, with a pulley fixed to the top. It worked well, but needed three or four men to pull the chain that operated the pulley. It was extremely dangerous and the last thing they needed about was a ten year-old, curious boy. Dad told me I would have to go off with 'Eytie', an Italian prisoner of war who worked on the farm.

Consternation! The radio and newspapers were forever telling us that these people were our enemies and not to be trusted, as they were evil. It's called propaganda, or, as Donald Trump would say, 'Fake news.' My dad was telling me to go with a 'hated' enemy? 'Oh, he's all right, that's OK.'

So off I went. We walked out on to the fields and generally spent a very pleasant couple of hours together, sharing sandwiches which the farmer's wife had made for him. I learnt that he was an ordinary person, just like us, except that he came from a different country. He also told me that Italians did not want to fight. Most of them hated their leader, Mussolini. They had quickly worked out how to surrender safely, but always to British or, as it was then, Empire troops. Captured, they were out of the war, safe, housed, fed and able to work on farms, etc. Not so daft or evil.

A month or so later, the same situation occurred. When we arrived, it was the same, dangerous situation. Dad said, 'You go off with Fritz', a German prisoner of war. This was even worse than going with the Italian. The Germans had a terrible reputation, and my dad was sending me off with one. He also had a homemade catapult, but no one was bothered, so off I went. We got to a field that has been harvested and a rabbit was sitting near the edge minding its own business. Fritz quietly picked up a stone, loaded into his catapult, aimed and fired. One dead rabbit, which he later gave to the farmer. We sat down, shared sandwiches and chatted. Again, like the Italians, he was glad to be out of the fighting. Then came the crunch. He asked me how old I was - ten. 'Same age as one of my boys,' and he pulled out his wallet and showed me a photograph of his two sons. It came as a shock but I





realised that here was an ordinary man, just like my father, with children back home; the difference being, there was no way he could know whether they were alive or dead. I also realised that my father already knew that these 'enemies' were ordinary people, just like him. A profound lesson to learn at the age of ten. *Don Axford, Clyst St Mary*

### Topsham - How Are You Enjoying the Festive Fun?



We're creating a magical festive season in the weeks leading up to 25<sup>th</sup> December.

Christmas is beginning - at last - and Topsham is exactly the place to enjoy it! The joy this year is you can have the best that Topsham's traders offer in so many different ways - by visiting, or checking out your favourite shops online, or by telephone to arrange a collection or, in some cases, book a delivery.

One of the all-too-few upsides of 2020 has been trying different things -

whatever makes us feel comfortable right now - and that goes for shopping too. So our **Shopping More Ways Guide** on [www.lovetopsham.co.uk](http://www.lovetopsham.co.uk) is an invaluable help, listing the different methods of buying from

our shops this festive season. As a special treat, many stores have **hampers** - some ready-to-go or many which can be customised to suit your needs. The Love Topsham website has all the details.

If it's just a feast for the eyes that you crave, a visit to Topsham after dark will be fun for everyone.

Our residents have had a **Best Dressed Home** competition while our streets and open spaces have trees - some big, some small, all sparkly. And there's Topsham's famous **Best Shop Window** contest too.

There's plenty more. For example, on Wednesdays after 3 pm we're encouraging people of all ages (well, children especially) to **Dress Up to Help Out** - and anyone coming into town in Christmas fancy dress gets a special Love Topsham treat. More details on [www.lovetopsham.co.uk](http://www.lovetopsham.co.uk).

If Saturday's the day when you visit, open your ears to our **Winter of Sounds** programme - some of the area's best street musicians playing to make those shopping queues a little more fun.

Meanwhile, courtesy of Topsham Museum, there will be **Gift Wrapping** on Saturdays too - and while you're here, do stroll down our wonderful Strand to see the famous Lockdown Fox display at the Museum itself, and a magical garden across the road.

And finally, a stocking filler that will pay you back for the next 12 months - the Love Topsham Card 2021 guaranteeing you discounts and offers all year long. Visit the Topsham Bookshop or sign up online at [www.lovetopsham.co.uk](http://www.lovetopsham.co.uk).

All of these activities are designed to be COVID-safe and of course abiding by all regulations - for your safety and for everyone you meet. After a year

no one will forget, we've planned a Christmas we'll all love.

Hope to see YOU in Topsham soon. Merry Christmas and Stay Safe, from the Love Topsham team. X



### Estuary League of Friends



**Bradbury Café.** The Bradbury Café in Nancy Potter House is open Monday to Friday 10 am - 2 pm. We have had to make a few changes like restricting overall numbers so that everyone can feel safe. Table service is in place and all of our staff have undertaken extra training in hygiene and infection control. As winter is now here we have started our take away soup. We have a different soup for each day of the week served with a fresh bread roll all for £2.50

**No Christmas Day Lunch This Year.** We are sorry that we are not able to offer our usual Christmas Day Lunch this year. The 103 people who attended last year would not be able to fit in the café area under social distancing guidance; the numbers of volunteers required, transport and operating costs means that we have had to make the really awful decision to not host it this year but we truly hope that you may join us for one of the dates below.

**Christmas Dinner.** From 8<sup>th</sup> until 22<sup>nd</sup> December, every Tuesday and Wednesday, the Bradbury Café will be serving a Christmas dinner from 12 pm onwards. Choose from a choice of festive roast turkey or salmon in Hollandaise sauce followed by Christmas pudding or fruit trifle. For all who wish to attend, bookings and payment of £15 per person must be made in advance. Please call us to book a table. Bookings must be in accordance with social distancing guidelines. We appreciate that Christmas will be different this year but are still trying to bring you some cheer and a chance to have a lunch out in our café.

**Face Coverings. For Sale.** We are still selling fabric facemasks at Nancy Potter House and the charity shops for only £3 each. We have many colours and styles available. We are also selling face shields with glasses for £2.50 each. Why not pop down and have a look at our range?

**Topsham Post Office.** Topsham Post Office opening hours:

Tuesday: 9.15 am - 3.45 pm

Wednesday: 9.15 am - 3.45 pm

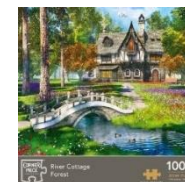
Thursday: 9.15 am - 3.45 pm

Saturday: 9.15 am - 11.45 am

Although we have opened more days, **we are still running by appointment only** and we do understand that this may not suit everyone but unfortunately this is the only way Topsham Post Office will be accessible. If you would like to make an appointment, please give us a call on 01392 879009.

**Doorstep Deliveries.** Do you need help with doorstep deliveries of groceries, prescriptions and other essential supplies as you are self-isolating? We were cooking and delivering fresh, nutritious meals and running a temporary telephone 'keep-in-touch' service for people who feel isolated. These services will be running all winter so please, if you, or someone you know, could benefit from these services, call us today 01392 879009.

**Jigsaw Puzzle Club.** Join the ever-growing jigsaw puzzle club! Choose from a catalogue of 80+ puzzles and book them out for either one, two or three weeks for only 50p! If you would like to have a look at our catalogue, please give us a call or come on down to Nancy Potter House and ring the doorbell.



**Devon Libraries**  
Your local library at your doorstep

If you find it difficult to get to Topsham library, we can help! Our teams of dedicated library staff and volunteers from Estuary League of Friends can choose and deliver books to your home. We can provide a wide variety of books (including large print and audio), free of charge, to people who are unable to access the library whether permanently or temporarily. To register, please contact Topsham Library on  
Tuesday, Thursday  
between 10.00-12.00 noon  
or 2.00-4.00 pm

Contact us:  
01392 874955  
topsham.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk

Devon Libraries is part of Libraries Unlimited. Libraries Unlimited is a registered charity. Every penny raised goes directly towards library services that help make a difference to people's lives and communities. Registered charity number: 1170092

## Festive (and Other) Funnies



Why was the snowman looking through the carrots? He was picking his nose!

A nursery school teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, 'I'm drawing God.' The teacher paused and said, 'But no one knows what God looks like.'

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, 'They will in a minute..' [Thanks to Terry Hart.]

What does the Queen call her Christmas Broadcast? The One Show!

Now here comes my thought on the invasion of the Romans...They must have had, in their armoury, a secret weapon of the time. Namely, horse chestnuts, probably with strings attached...How else could they have conquered so easily?? [Thanks to John Flitney.]



Why is it getting harder to buy Advent calendars? Their days are numbered!

Boy aged 4: 'Dad, I've decided to get married.'

Dad: 'Wonderful. Do you have a girl in mind?'

Boy: 'Yes, Grandma. She says she loves me and I love her as well. She's the best cook and story teller in the whole world!'

Dad: 'That's nice, but we have a small problem there!!'

Boy: 'What problem?'

Dad: 'She happens to be my mother. How can you marry my mother?'

Boy: 'Why not? You married mine!!' [Thanks to Lesley Richardson.]

What is Santa's primary language? North Polish.

French police have had their wish granted after writing to Father Christmas to ask for new police cars. Police in Marignane, near Marseille told Santa 'even your sleigh is faster' after being told there was not enough money in the coffers to replace their ageing cars. The letter, addressed to Father Christmas and written on official police notepaper, read, 'Dear Santa, our cars can't handle the job any more. If you think we are exaggerating, you can try out the cars yourself. Even your sleigh is better than one of them.' Local authorities have now put up the cash to buy new cars for police after seeing the letter published in the 'Christmas Stories' section of a local paper.



What do you call a bunch of chess players bragging about their games in a hotel lobby? Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!

The Santa Claus at the shopping mall was very surprised when a young lady aged about 20 years old walked up and sat on his lap. Now, we all know that Santa doesn't usually take requests from adults, but she smiled very nicely at him and he asked, 'What do you want for Christmas?'

'Something for my mother, please,' replied young lady sweetly.

'Something for your mother? Well, that's very loving and

thoughtful of you,' smiled Santa. 'What do you want me to bring her?'

Without pausing, the lady answered quickly, 'A millionaire son-in-law.'

## Answers to the Christmas Carol Quiz

- |                                  |                            |                              |                            |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen   | 2. O Come O Come Emmanuel  | 3. Psalm 98                  | 4. In the Bleak Midwinter  |
| 5. Good King Wenceslas           | 6. Philadelphia            | 7. Ding Dong Merrily on High | 8. Germany                 |
| 9. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear | 10. In Sweet Rejoicing     | 11. Shepherds                | 12. Christina Rossetti     |
| 13. O Little Town of Bethlehem   | 14. Guitar                 | 15. Three                    | 16. Joy to the World       |
| 17. 17 <sup>th</sup> century     | 18. O Come All Ye Faithful | 19. Nahum Tate               | 20. In the Bleak Midwinter |







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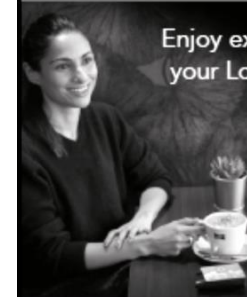
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## WCMC CHURCH SERVICES DECEMBER 2020



### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent Week 1

09:30 WST Holy Communion  
11:15 AYL Morning Worship  
09:30 CSM Holy Communion  
11:15 WBY Holy Communion  
18:30 EXT Evening Worship

Rev'd Bill Lemmey  
Christine Grist  
Rev'd Margaret Scrivener  
Rev'd David Ireson  
Rev'd Bill Lemmey

### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Week 2

09:30 EXT Holy Communion  
09:30 FAR Holy Communion  
09:30 CSG Morning Worship  
09:30 WST Family Service  
09:30 CSM Family Christmas Worship  
11:30 ZOOM Morning Worship

Rev'd Margaret Scrivener  
Rev'd David Ireson  
Rev'd Bill Lemmey  
Lay Led  
Lay Led  
Rev'd Bill Lemmey

### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

19:00 CSG Christmas Service

Lay Led

### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Week 3

09:30 CSM Family Christmas Worship  
09:30 AYL Holy Communion  
18:30 WST Christmas Celebration  
18:30 WBY Festival of Readings and Music for Christmas

Rev'd Bill Lemmey  
Rev'd David Ireson  
Lay Led  
Rev'd Bill Lemmey

### Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December

18:00 FAR ++ Carols (sung by the choir) and Readings

Rev'd Bill Lemmey

### Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Eve

23:30 WST Midnight Mass  
16:00 CSG Family Christmas Eve Service  
18:00 AYL ++ Christmas Christingle

Rev'd Bill Lemmey  
Rev'd Bill Lemmey  
TBA

### Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Day

09:30 EXT Holy Communion  
11:15 WBY Holy Communion  
10:00 FAR ++ Holy Communion  
11:15 AYL ++ Holy Communion  
10:00 CSM Holy Communion

Rev'd Tim Hunt  
Rev'd Bill Lemmey  
Rev'd Peter Nicols-Rawle  
Rev'd David Ireson  
Rev'd Nigel Mason

### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December 27<sup>th</sup> Week 4

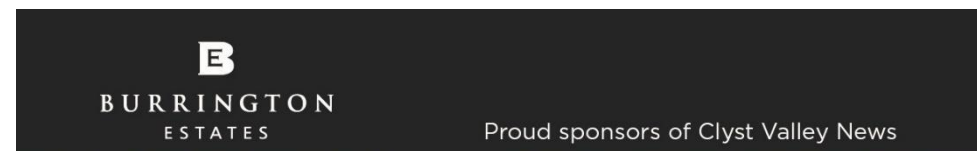
09:30 CSG Mission Community Holy Communion Rev'd Chris Cant

++ These services might have to be changed due to COVID cleaning of the church

AYL Aylesbeare FAR Farringdon EXT Exton WST Woodbury Salterton

WBY Woodbury CSG Clyst St George CSM Clyst St Mary

If you would like a link to the ZOOM service, please email Jill at [dupain@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dupain@hotmail.co.uk)



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