

# CLYST VALLEY NEWS

## MARCH 2021



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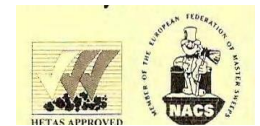
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### THE VICAR WRITES...



#### Lent and Computers for Schools

What on earth is the link between these two?

Another question: What on earth is the church for?

This second question is not original to me; it was written as the subject of a Lent course over 30 years ago. You can find the course handbook online – it includes some questionnaires which have to be

handed in by 1987!

So – are we thirty years too late?

As ever, yes and no. Some of the questions are dated; but it is pertinent to ask what the church is for, in particular in a post-COVID age (we still need to remember that 15 months ago, the world hadn't heard of coronavirus).

Presumably the church should reflect the *love* of Christ, and of Christians, but the key question is *how it does this*.

One way, of course, of being *church* on earth, is to be embedded in our local communities, and to respond to local need. So when a local school asked a trust of which I am chair for some money for home computers, I started thinking about whether we could raise money for *all the schools* in the Mission Community (there are four of them) – and as a result our Church School Computer Fund was formed.

I am really excited that we have so far raised over £2,500 (and have been given a second-hand laptop); of which two schools will be given £1,000 each to go towards four *Chromebooks*. We are assured by the schools that, although it may seem a little late if schools are soon to reopen, they will be useful for homework, etc.

So – here is one example of Christian love turned into usefulness. My grateful thanks to all contributors. (There is still time to give – contact me if you need to and I will point you in the direction of Kath Charles, our treasurer.)

As St Paul said to the church in Corinth: 'God loves a cheerful giver.'

So – may we be blessed for Lent and find out, again, what on earth the church is *really* for. Amen.

Bill and Daff Lemmey, Woodbury Vicarage



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

### WHITE CROSS MISSION COMMUNITY



#### ZOOM Services during Lockdown in the White Cross Mission Community

Morning Prayer, 09.30, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

Compline Service, 19.00, every Sunday

Morning Prayers, 11.30, every Sunday

Children's Service, 09.30, every other Sunday

Please email Jill at [dupain@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dupain@hotmail.co.uk) for the ZOOM address (it is the usual Rev'd Bill ZOOM address for those who have been on ZOOM before).

#### Churches Open for Private Prayer

Aylesbeare: Sundays, 10 am – 12 noon

Clyst St George: Closed due to building work

Clyst St Mary: Sundays, 10 am – 3 pm  
 Exton: Wednesdays, 10 am – 1 pm and Sundays, 2 - 4.30 pm  
 Farringdon: Thursdays, 2 – 5 pm  
 Woodbury: Wednesdays, 10 am – 1 pm  
 Woodbury Salterton: Wednesdays, 3 – 6 pm and Saturdays, 9 am – 12 noon

**White Cross Mission Community of Churches**

**Lent Discussion sessions**



Session 1: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2021. 10.30 – 11.30 via Zoom  
**Why believe in God – and go to church?**  
 Leader- Bill

Session 2: Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2021. 10.30 – 11.30- via Zoom  
**What did Jesus come for?**  
 Leader - Chris

Session 3: Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. 10.30 – 11.30 via Zoom  
**What is church? What is it for?**  
 Leader - Margaret

Session 4: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. 10.30 – 11.30 via Zoom  
**What is happening now?**  
 Leader - Carolyn

Session 5: Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. 10.30 – 11.30 via Zoom  
**What and who on earth will the church be for?**  
 Leader - Bill

All sessions on zoom for a link please email [Dupain@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Dupain@hotmail.co.uk)  
 (it is the usual Bill link )  
 Everyone welcome



**A Journey through Lent**



From 24<sup>th</sup> February till 3<sup>rd</sup> March create a journey in your local churchyard. Place a stone (painted/decorated if you can) on the cairn or on the trail, to remember the journey of Lent.



**Love**



From 3<sup>rd</sup> till 17<sup>th</sup> March create love in your local churchyard. Hang a heart on a tree - to send love to someone or to your local community. Small red crochet hearts will be available or you can make your own.

**New Life**



From 17<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> March create new life and memories in your local churchyard. Place a ribbon on the shape to turn it from ugly to pretty in memory of Jesus and New Life.

**WHY NOT ADVERTISE IN THE CLYST VALLEY NEWS?**

If you are interested in advertising in the Clyst Valley News for 2021, now's the time to get in touch - with no obligation. We have a few spare slots still, at very reasonable rates! Please contact the Editor, Peter Skelton, at [clystvalleynews@gmail.com](mailto:clystvalleynews@gmail.com) or on 01392 879857.

**Contributions, photos and letters to the editor for the April 2021 issue of the Clyst 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, Clyst St Mary, EX5 1BX by Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at the latest, please. Please note that contributions may be edited.**

**EDITOR'S NOTE**



*Hello and welcome to this March edition of the Clyst Valley News. As I write we can all see the encouraging signs of spring keen to break through in our gardens, fields and hedgerows; and it's good to hear from the Prime Minister how his 'road map' is setting out a timetable for a phased return to normality (thanks in part to the unbelievable success so far of the NHS vaccination campaign) when we can finally say 'good riddance' to the coronavirus. So let's seize on the optimism that is beginning to take root...and even allow ourselves a little smile – behind our masks, of course!*

*No doubt, there will be a time before too long for us all to say a proper thank you to all the heroic frontline and NHS staff, care and support services, teachers, police and fire and rescue services, scientists, volunteers and key workers – and indeed any other individuals who have made a contribution to our wellbeing – for getting us through to this pivotal point in seeing off the pandemic. There will also be a moment to remember all those, especially those we know and love, who have succumbed to this terrible scourge.*

*My thanks to Trupti Desai (who happens to be my wife) for this month's cover photo of a spectacular sunrise taken from Church Lane in Clyst St Mary during her early morning run. I don't know about you but we have got ourselves into the habit of binge-watching TV mini-series during this pandemic. There are so many really absorbing series available for us, most of them detective dramas and many of them British. The standard of acting is often remarkable – as close to realism as one could imagine; more often than not the drama of the hunt for the criminal(s) is set against a backdrop of tricky personal traumas affecting both the judgment and the effectiveness of the lead cop in directing the investigation. It's been a rare pleasure during lockdown to be entertained so royally.*

*We have to be grateful that so many of these series were filmed mainly pre-pandemic; nevertheless, I wonder how many of you out there find yourselves, like me, either suppressing a natural inclination at the beginning of the first episode to say, 'Hang on, aren't you standing too close? Where are the masks?' Either that, or we lapse into a bit of nostalgia for the good old days when we didn't have to think about these things. Ho hum...*

*Another common theme in these mini-series is to tackle pressing social issues, past or present, head on. Some of these make for uncomfortable viewing but there's a sense in which it feels good for the soul to confront the issues rather than sweep them under the carpet; to face up to our own prejudices and preconceived notions of what is the norm. A striking example of what I mean has been the recent series called 'It's a Sin'. This shed an uncompromising light on life in the gay communities in London in the 1980s and the impact on them of the outbreak of HIV/AIDS. It depicted an eye-opening, ultimately desperately sad evocation of an era of blind bigotry, love forced underground, desolation, selfless kindness, family breakdown and bereavement. An incredibly powerful piece of thought-provoking television, in my view.*

*Although all of this television that we've been glued to is fictional and the product of brilliantly creative imaginations, I think it's also salutary to remember that much of it is grounded in the writers' own experiences which may not always be so far removed from those of our own. There but for fortune...*

*I hope you enjoy this month's magazine. We have another teasing quiz from Barbara Scales; a beautiful poem from our very own John Smith; a reworked engaging walk from Clyde Bish; and, of course, all our regular contributions from the villages and towns. Not to forget Monthly Giggle! Take care and stay safe! Best wishes. Peter Skelton*

#### ~~~~~ **YOUR PHOTOS ALWAYS 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!

#### ~~~~~ **SUBSCRIBE TO THE CLYST VALLEY NEWS NOW! IT'S COMPLETELY FREE!**

If you'd like to receive your own copy of the CVN direct to your email address every month, completely free of charge, all you have to do is email the Editor, Peter Skelton, at [clystvalleynews@gmail.com](mailto:clystvalleynews@gmail.com) with the following message: **'I am happy to receive the Cyst Valley News at this email address once a month. I understand that the CVN will not pass on my email address to any third party without my written permission.'** Please do sign up! You can cancel at any time. Thank you.

#### ~~~~~ **CLYST ST MARY**



##### **Cyst St Mary Church**

We are sad that along with the other six Mission churches we have shut Cyst St Mary Church. Our main services are not happening for now but we are opening the church for private prayer every Sunday from 10 am to 3 pm. Notices and information are available at the church and of course we hope that you will adhere to these and keep yourselves and anyone else who may be there safe.

We will inform everyone as soon as possible when we will be allowed to open for some services in the future. In the meantime, if you would like to talk to someone in the church, please contact the Churchwardens Pat on 01392 877907 or Linda on 01392 875708. Take care everyone, stay safe and God Bless.

#### **Church Coffee Mornings**



These have been suspended until further notice.

#### **Coppers!**



Despite the lockdown, several packets of coppers have either been handed over in church or left with Don Axford in Frog Lane in support of church funds. Our sincere thanks to you all, you know who you are; it has helped to keep our heads above water financially in what has been a very trying time, in more ways than one. Shopping online means that there is not a lot of small change about but if you do have any that is weighing your pockets or purses down, it will be gratefully received. Either leave it in church or with Don Axford at 34 Frog Lane. If in difficulty to deliver, Don will collect, obeying social distancing rules, etc, if you ring him on 01392 873615.

Don retired as Cyst St Mary PCC Treasurer as from 1<sup>st</sup> January and Gill Fenwick is taking over but he will still be around to collect your loose change.

#### **Bishops Cyst Parish Council**



*Flood Defence and Weather Proofing.* The Parish Council recently secured funding from the Devon Emergency Resilience Fund to purchase sandbags and a container for Cyst St Mary and would like to thank David Jordan, landlord at the Half Moon

Inn, for storing sandbags in his yard and David Burdick for moving them to the container at the Half Moon Inn for the Parish Council and providing storage for additional sandbags. It is reassuring to know these are in place but the Parish Council would stress that they are for **emergency** use only. Empty sandbags are available in the village shop for residents to collect free of charge.

A concern has been raised about lack of gritting facilities on the Greenspire Estate. The Parish Council agrees and will arrange this as soon as possible.

*Greenspire to CSM Village Footpath Update.* The Parish Council proposals for the new footpath now incorporate steps down to the A3052 footpath by the toucan crossing to enable Winslade Park residents to access the safer route to the village and play area. Having agreed the line of the entire footpath in principle with all landowners, tender invitations have now been issued for the preparation of detailed drawings in order to apply for planning permission. *Play Area.* We are delighted to announce that work on the new play area next to the Village Hall in Cyst St Mary is scheduled for March. Pupils from Cyst St Mary Primary School were asked to vote for their preferred design and the most popular included a Ninja Warrior Trail! The play area will be closed while work takes place and we will endeavour to give a week's notice of closure via a post on the Cyst St Mary Facebook page. Goal posts and safety fencing are also soon to be installed in the field behind the Village Hall.

*Dog Fouling.* On a less positive note, we have become aware of an issue with dog fouling in the field behind the Village Hall which is particularly distressing as it is a children's play area and clearly signed prohibiting dogs. The area is covered by CCTV so the Parish Council will be sending any evidence of dog fouling to East Devon District Council for further action.



**Parish Council Vacancies.** You may be aware that there are vacancies for Parish Councillors on the Bishops Clyst Parish Council. If you would like to represent the residents of Clyst St Mary and Sowton Village on the Parish Council we would very much like to hear from you. We are particularly keen to recruit someone with an interest in the environment to be our Climate Change/Green Champion. If this appeals to you, or you have other areas of interest, please email our Clerk, Karan Bennett, at [bishopsclyst@gmail.com](mailto:bishopsclyst@gmail.com), with a personal statement setting out what skills and experience you would bring to the council.

**Parish Council Meetings.** To keep abreast of Parish Council activities, meetings take place on the second Monday of the month at 7.30 pm, currently via ZOOM. If you would like to attend please contact our Clerk for the ZOOM link in advance of the meeting. Agendas and minutes are posted on our website <http://www.bishopsclyst.btck.co.uk/> and on noticeboards in Clyst St Mary and Sowton Village.

**Contact the Parish Council.** 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).

### Clyst St Mary Village Hall



**AGM Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm by ZOOM.** Where do the years go!! The Village Hall Committee would like to invite you to join them in reviewing the work of their committee that has happened despite the last difficult year. You may or may not know that the Village

Hall is owned and run by the village and as such, relies on the commitment of those of you who use the Hall or are residents of Clyst St Mary. Most of the committee at the present time have kept the seats warm for many a year and we are working on a plan for transition that will include a generation of new and younger residents ensuring the Village Hall remains open and relevant to those of you living in Clyst St Mary.

So to this end we would like those of you who are interested in hearing what we do and perhaps helping us in our endeavours to join us for our AGM as set out as above. If you would like to meet us and hear what does happen please email me at [pat@cusa.org.uk](mailto:pat@cusa.org.uk) and I will invite you nearer the time to the ZOOM meeting. Thank you for reading this article and fingers crossed, I will hear from some of you soon. You have my email. Best wishes. Pat Cusa, Secretary, Clyst St Mary Village Hall.

**Hall Bookings.** Having undertaken redecoration, repairs and improvements during the last six months, it's frustrating that our regular users are unable to enjoy the 'refreshed' facilities! However, we are open for business if your use is permitted within the government guidelines! If you know that this is the case, our new Bookings Coordinator, Ali West, would be delighted to discuss availability with you and can be contacted (preferably) through [bookings@clyststmaryvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@clyststmaryvillagehall.co.uk) or on 01392 949088.

### 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.



### Clyst St Mary Primary School



Firstly we would like to thank all our families and staff for their hard work supporting home learning during lockdown. Many of our staff have school-aged children and are very familiar with the issues presented by long periods in front of screens and social isolation, a very unnatural state for children of all ages, never mind the adults! Hopefully we are reaching the end of this challenging period and will soon be greeting the children face to face every day.

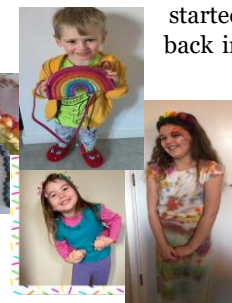


We have continued to receive great support from our PTFA who purchased 'superhero' teddies for all the children. Staff really enjoyed distanced meetings on doorsteps with those not in school while delivering the bears to their class. We have had many lovely messages about the bears' names, the adventures they are having at home, the houses that have been built for them and more. Planning has started back in

for a massive Teddy Bears' Picnic once all the children are school and it is safe for the bears to visit from home too!



Rainbow Day was a great success, raising over £300 for the RD&E Starfish Appeal, which is fundraising to improve the environment in the children's ward and outpatients department. Just as importantly it brought the school community together via Google Meets and children shared their amazing, brightly coloured outfits whether in school or at home.



At the end of the half term Class 1 created fantastic chefs' hats to help them produce delicious pancakes. Let's hope they did just as well on Shrove Tuesday!

We hope that by the time you read this infection rates will have reduced and the vaccination programme will be impacting all our lives positively so that all our children are able to be in school together again.



## From My Front Door - Let's Try Again! (A Reworked Version of One of Clyde Bish's Earlier Walks)

Talk about bad timing! Just as the original version of this walk was published in spring 2020 the Clyst St Mary to Sowton footpath it follows was closed for the Flood Defence Improvements Programme to begin! Now the works are on hold until this spring, there is the opportunity to explore the local history - both natural and man-made - using this original path connecting our village with Sowton. It is about 5.5 km (3.25 miles) long but as it is primarily a there-and-back walk you could turn round at any time. As before, within the directions I have included some brief notes. The walk starts at the lower car park in Frog Lane.



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.

1. Turn left on leaving the car park, walk up the road.

Frog Lane is quite aptly named for much of the left-hand side was marshland before the pumping station was installed to prevent flooding. The terrace of houses on the right is Tugela Terrace, named after a battle during the Boer War involving local-boy-made-good Redvers Buller. On the left, just before the road turns, number 33 is aptly named Toad Hall!



2. Continue forward to where the road bends right.

Having turned right the road now probably follows the route of the Roman road to Dorchester. This would have forded the Clyst somewhere on a line from the Travelodge site to where you are standing. The track leading up to the notice-covered gate on your left may be the route of the road up from the ford.

3. Continue ahead then, at the next gate, follow the footpath left and cross the new stile.

The tree overhanging the stile is a rare Black Poplar (the triangular leaves may be just be opening). It is a male tree. (You may find it surprising to learn that trees (and other flowers) can be single sex, but it is not uncommon. Another example is holly - so if you have a holly bush in your garden which has never produced berries, it may be a male one.)

4. Cross the small wooden footbridge and continue towards the next stile.

The stream to your right is the mill leat - but more about the mill on your way back. For the moment let us concentrate on the hedge behind the stream. Dr Max Hooper of the Nature Conservancy suggests that if you count the number of different types of trees or shrubs in 100 metres of a natural hedge and multiply by 100 you will get a good estimate of the age of a boundary feature. When you get past the cleared area why not give it a try?



5. Cross the stile, face the bridge ahead, then turn half right.

On the skyline you will see a single flat-topped tree and to its left a spire and chimneys. These belong to Bishop's Court, originally the summer palace (and escape from disease outbreaks!) of the Bishop of Exeter. (You may remember from Walk 1 that this is where St Gabriel's Hospital was located before Bishop Stapleton moved it, and the piece of Farrington parish it occupied, into Clyst St Mary village - presumably because he didn't want 'blind and infirm



priests' wandering around his palace!) Built (or perhaps altered) by Bishop Branscombe in 1268 it was in use as such for 300 years. The Bishopstock Festival featured as the final location in the TV marathon blues transmission of 1998 to end 'A Perfect Day'.

6. Continue forward on the raised path, crossing the bridge over the River Clyst. Walk on to a second smaller bridge.

This is the original bridge over the River Clyst. If you look to the left you can see a ditch which marks the river's natural channel. Part of the Clyst to the north of the Old Causeway was straightened to help with flood prevention early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. We are still working on it now!

7. Cross this bridge and follow the path on through a small gate built into the main gate. At the next gate the path bends to the left of the wire fence to a stile. Cross the stile and continue along a wide track.

You will notice how fine the soil is here. The River Clyst has not always followed its present path, meandering back and forth across the valley bottom. (If you look on Google Earth at the fields to the east of Sowton village you will see these paleo-meanders showing up as darker areas.) As it did so it deposited fertile silt - labelled alluvium on geology maps - along its path. Hence the lush meadows along our walk. Lucky cattle!

8. This track turns left through another small gate by the side of a larger gate. Continue on but stop by a field entrance on the left.

The water course you have been following on your right is the tail-race of a mill leat. But where is the mill? If you look to your right you can see a small bridge with a tall building adjacent to the leat. This would be an ideal place for a mill. The building looks very much like the original mill building in Clyst St Mary, now demolished, so perhaps it was Sowton's mill.

9. At the end of the track pass through yet another small gate by a larger one. The track leads through a farmyard, past the maybe-mill and on to a lane. Continue along the road to the junction ahead.

You have now reached the village of Sowton, a name of Saxon derivation meaning South Settlement. (So nothing to do with pigs.) But in the Domesday Book it is recorded as Clist Fomison (perhaps because it was held by Richard Fomicun of Gloucester - and the scribe couldn't spell!) On the way up the village street you will pass a number of listed buildings - Sowton abounds in them - but we will make our first stop by the church. On your right the building next to the row of - you've guessed it - listed cottages is the Village Hall, but was originally the school. Although education was compulsory from 1880 it was not free. For example, local labourers' children were charged 1d per week (but if you weren't from the parish the fee was doubled!). Even as late as 1923 there was only one teacher, with the infants being taught by a senior pupil.



Turning round we face the church, dedicated to St Michael and All Angels. The church was rebuilt during the ecclesiastical revival of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The son of John Garret of Bishop's Court decided the design - High Church ecclesiological, influenced by the Tractarians. This result was a rare design which is now a Grade I listed building. You will have noticed a Commonwealth War Grave plaque from WWII. If you enter by the lychgate - a memorial to Sarah

Garratt - and walk round the left side of the church and up through the churchyard you will come on the left to a granite memorial to Sgt Maurice Frederick Causley of the Devonshire Regiment, who was killed on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1941 in a motorcycle accident on the Honiton Road, age 22. He is named on the Pinhoe War Memorial.





As you approach the road junction (having passed a Listed telephone box!) look up to the left. The large building within the trees is the Old Rectory.

At the junction you will come face to face with an impressive



memorial. This is the Sowton War Memorial, unusual because it lists the names of **all** who served in the Great War, not just those who died. It is probably for this reason that the monument is located here. It seems that the memorial tablet was intended for the church but the Bishop of Exeter decreed that only the names of the fallen could appear on Anglican church memorials so this wayside

cross was built to house the tablet.

The drive to the right leads to Bishop's Court. The Court Lodge is Grade II listed - and so are the Gatepiers!

The house behind you with the chequer-board brick is December Lodge. Surely not another lodge for Bishop's Court? The drive to the right of the building by the road sign leads to the Old Rectory you have seen through the trees so perhaps it was the lodge for the Rectory. It is not listed so it may be a more recent lodge - built in December perhaps?

If you fancy a wasted journey, walk 50 metres up the lane to the right of the Memorial to the pink house and look at the plaque on the gatepost. (I did warn you!)

8. Now it's time to turn back, retracing your route past the church and through the farmyard. At the end remember to take the left track.

The right track was originally another footpath which led to Moor Lane. It was a registered footpath when the motorway was built so a culvert which carries a stream under the carriageways had a raised walkway built into one side to maintain the route. (The path is no longer open.)

9. Go back through the two small gates, turning right after the second one, then back over the stile and along the footpath.

It is worth remembering that in days gone by you had to be buried in your parish church. So if you lived on the side of Clyst St Mary village street opposite the school your parish church was St Michael's at Sowton. Hence the old name for this route - the Bier Path. Picture a funeral procession travelling along, the coffin being carried by six bearers...

(If you are returning from your walk when it is getting 'dimpsy' - the Devon dialect word for twilight, you may witness a small murmuration of starlings pass over on their way to join their mates to put on a show over the Exe viaduct.



10. After crossing the small then larger bridge over the river turn left to visit the weir.

You may see the abandoned remains of a swan's nest on the far bank just before the weir. The swans had begun nesting when the river level rose and flooded the nest. You may see the adults around, but no youngsters. It seems they didn't try to nest again.

The mill leat starts to the right of the weir. It was important that the

water level was regulated so this unique spillway was incorporated to drain excess water back into the river if the level became too high.

The wood behind the mill leat is rumoured to house a Holy Well.

11. Follow the mill leat, cross over the stile and continue on the path back to the wooden bridge. The right-most of the new dwellings ahead of you is built on the foundations of the old mill. There is no record in the Domesday Book of a mill here (but the Normans tended to concentrate on windmills, not water power. We know, for example, that tide mills were totally ignored!). There are, however, references by the 12<sup>th</sup> century with it variously named as Clyst



or Clist or the Lord's Mill. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century costs for repairs are recorded in the Estate accounts. It was originally a corn mill which later became a saw mill. The new dwelling is aptly named Mill House, with a rather larger replacement to the original cottage accompanying it but still retaining the name Mill Cottage.

12. Cross the stile and follow the footpath right into Frog Lane where we started our walk. [Many thanks once again, Clyde, for putting this informative and enjoyable walk together.]

## Clyst St Mary Wombles



Of all the tasks with which I've ever been connected, this is possibly the most potentially disheartening! Obviously, during the pandemic, we've temporarily suspended our regular 'sweeps' and in the knowledge that this is the case, wouldn't you think that our resident litter louts might take a break? No way!!

We've only lived in the village for 41 years but can recall that one of the punishments meted out at the primary school used to be 'litter picking' (around the school grounds). I remember our daughters being 'aware' that such a fate was to be avoided if possible but it didn't leave any lasting scars (of which I'm aware!) and it did reinforce the message delivered at home, that litter is simply antisocial! Sadly, looking at our village, it seems that no one cares any more 😞. But some do!!!

The good news is that the Clyst St Mary Wombles are only temporarily sheltering! So what's the plan, I hear you ask? Well, we can't yet safely forage together again (Old Uncle Bulgaria is quite mature you know) but already, our 'youth section' (under 70s 😊) has started up on her own and the gear is all here in my garage! So...if you'd like to make a start (maybe solo or with a socially distanced friend), why not borrow a 'picker', hoop, tabard and bag (bags are non-returnable 😊) and get the ball rolling? If you contact me with a time that you'd like to collect, I'll leave the gear in my drive and will ensure it is sanitised before and after use.

We really would welcome some younger members and particularly residents in the village itself. It is something that you can do whilst taking your exercise and know that the village will be a nicer place for everyone to live in after your effort! Thank you.

Roger Norman, [rogernorman@clyststmary.net](mailto:rogernorman@clyststmary.net) or 01392 874597.

## 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 re-built 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 has remained open throughout the pandemic for all our children and is now full at almost every session. We are currently taking applications for September 2021 and beyond with sessions available on every day. Sadly we are not yet able to hold open days or taster sessions but hopefully this will change as lockdown is eased and things return to a new normal! To apply, or for more information, check our website [www.clystvalleypreschool.org](http://www.clystvalleypreschool.org). You can also call us on 01392 876615 or email us on [manager@clystvalleypreschool.org](mailto:manager@clystvalleypreschool.org).

## 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 Church

Along with the other six Mission churches, we have had to close Clyst St George Church. Our usual services will not be taking place and the church will not be open for private prayer while we undertake essential building works.

We will inform everyone as soon as we are able to re-open the church. For more information, please contact Jacquie Manser at [jacquie@jmanser.co.uk](mailto:jacquie@jmanser.co.uk).

## Clyst St George Parish Council Chairman's Notes, March 2021

Two items of note for March. Firstly, Census 2021 is on 21<sup>st</sup> March this year; it will be online - expect a letter soon with details of how to log on. If you can't then there will be details of other options. The census has taken place every ten years since 1841 (except 1941) and your details are kept safe for at least 50 years. The last one made public was the 1911 one. Government needs accurate and up to date data to help provide services such as the NHS. Secondly, East Devon DC is running a consultation on planning and is updating its Local Plan. Please see their web site for details, and have your say. Finally, I will restart the coffee mornings in the Parish Hall asap, hopefully in April when we can get out and about more. 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.)

## Norman's Weather Report



We started the year on a quite dry note with less than half an inch of rain falling over the first 18 days, which were of course at times very cold. From 19<sup>th</sup> January onwards abundant rain and some more frosts were experienced during those last two weeks of the month. The total rainfall for January here at Ebford was 3½ inches or 90 mm, which is very close to the recent 10-year average of 88 mm. 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. 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).

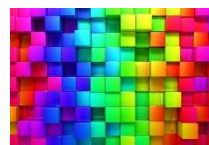
## WOODBURY SALTERTON



### Church Services

Along with the other six Mission churches, we have had to close Woodbury Salterton Church. Our usual services will not be taking place but the church will be open for private prayer on Wednesdays, 3 – 6 pm and Saturdays, 9 am – 12 noon. We will inform everyone as soon as we are able to re-open the church.

## Colours Quiz



Last year I was asked to run a late spring/early summer quiz to raise funds for our church. I linked this to our annual scarecrow event - which of course could not take place.

I am preparing one this year on the theme of colours and am thinking of publishing it early as some of my regular quiz participants would no doubt welcome a diversion during the remaining weeks of lockdown.

Hopefully it will be ready early March and entry forms will cost £2. Copies can be obtained directly from me, hard copies or by email, or from your usual local source – people in our local churches who kindly help us by selling copies. Thank you to all who support this.

Katharine Wheeler, 01395 232009 or [avmx79@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:avmx79@dsl.pipex.com).

## Monthly Church Coffee Mornings



These have been suspended until further notice.

## 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.

## Masks

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

## 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.]



## POETRY CORNER

by John Smith (of Clyst St Mary)

### Metamorphosis

If memories, like dreams,  
Are worked in self-persuasion  
And coloured to perfection  
In shimmering pools of wishes,  
Then these remembered  
fragments  
Of perverse imagination  
Would take another lifetime  
To remember them complete.



But detail, imagined or real,  
Cannot in essence defile  
The past within my being  
That makes me who I am.  
For the only truth that matters  
Is the truth in what I feel.

©John Smith

~~~~~  
AND FINALLY...

### 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.





# How to contact the police

If you need to contact us, and it's not an emergency then follow these simple steps to make sure you get the help you need:

- 1 Want to report a breach of COVID 19 restrictions?**  
You can report a breach of restrictions via the national reporting form - [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)
- 2 AskNED - the non-emergency directory**  
Need to ask a question but not sure who to ask for help, then AskNED - [dc.police.uk/AskNED](http://dc.police.uk/AskNED)
- 3 Go online - [dc.police.uk](http://dc.police.uk)**  
On our website you can find the answers to many of the questions people ask when calling the police, plus helpful information and advice.
- 4 Report Crime Online**  
If you need to report a crime or tell us something, then why not report using WebChat or the online Crime Reporting Form. Alternatively, you can email [101@dc.police.uk](mailto:101@dc.police.uk)
- 5 Call - 101 non-emergency number**

Remember in an emergency, always call 999



Devon & Cornwall Police

## Census 2021

# census 2021

Households across the nation will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021. The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941. The Census is a snapshot of who we are and how we live our lives. The information is vital for assessing community needs for services such as schools and doctors' surgeries as well as how our communities are made up and changing. Census weekend is 21<sup>st</sup> March. It is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them. Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations. For more information visit [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk) and follow us on Twitter and Facebook at @census2021 or LinkedIn; just put Census 2021 in the search box and there is loads of useful information for you there. How you can help now:

- Visit the social media pages for Census and add their links to your community social media site.
- Print off the posters attached and display on your community noticeboards.
- Stay in touch and send me any questions you may have about the census.
- Place a Census agenda item on your meetings and encourage everyone to look up the Census 2021 websites where possible.
- Let me know if there are any groups or people who may need a little extra help to complete the census.

I am really keen to ensure that this presents the best and most inclusive picture of our area and am more than happy to come along to your meetings either online or in person where possible. Thank you for your time reading this and I look forward to keeping you updated with Census 2021 news.

Steve Selley, Census Engagement Manager North and East Devon, Office for National Statistics. Tel +44(0) 7452929055; email at [stephen.selley83@field.census.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.selley83@field.census.gov.uk).



## Estuary League of Friends

Working to improve the quality of life of those in need of care, comfort and support in our community since 1987

At Estuary League of Friends we are very pleased to be working in partnership

with Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue service with regard to their FREE home safety visits. If you would like to find out more please call the Estuary League of Friends office on 01392 879009 and we can arrange a referral to the service for you.

First point of contact with you will be a 'phone call from them to establish risk to your home. In light of current lockdown restrictions DSFRS are triaging calls to establish if you meet the following criteria:

- Faulty alarm/beeper
- No working smoke detection in the property
- Hard of hearing alarm required
- Fire retardant bedding required

If it is deemed you are high priority a Home Safety Visit will be actioned to address the issue. Any HSV will follow PHE guidance and the technician will wear the appropriate PPE. Home safety advice can be given over the 'phone. If it is not a priority, but the client would still like a Home Safety Visit, an appointment will be made after lockdown. For further information please follow the link below.

<https://www.dsfire.gov.uk/YourSafety/SafetyInTheHome/Index.cfm?siteCategoryId=4&T1ID=35>



**Topsham Post Office Is Open**  
**For 1 To 1 Appointments.**

**Our Opening Days & Times:**

**Tuesday: 9.15am – 3.45pm**  
**Wednesday: 9.15am – 3.45pm**  
**Thursday: 9.15am – 3.45pm**  
**Saturday: 9.00am – 11.45am**

**To book your appointment please call 01392 879009.**

**No appointment, No entry!**

**PLEASE WEAR A FACE MASK WHEN INSIDE THE BUILDING**

**NOTICE**  
PRACTISE SOCIAL DISTANCING  
  
DO NOT ENTER IF YOU ARE SICK



Face masks must be worn

## Cryptic Popular Breeds of Dogs Quiz by Barbara Scales



See how much you know about *doggies*. Answers after 'Monthly Giggle'.

NB Questions 1-9 are the names of Terriers

1. English county plus a bovine.....
2. A valley in Yorkshire.....
3. On the edge.....
4. ? tea party.....
5. Sly.....
6. Body of water surrounded by land followed by the solid part of the earth's surface.....
7. Eastern County.....
8. The blue stuff overhead.....
9. Opposite to east on ground that is not low.....
10. Does Mr Manning have the patience of this?.....
11. Deutsch keeper of the sheep.....
12. Lash out at this domestic animal?.....
13. Do an aimless sketch and initially ask for a replacement P.....
14. Show a decimal place before the Queen.....
15. Ancient, plus a native language and controller of the flock .....
16. Result of a sore throat?.....
17. Relatively large Viking?.....
18. The all sorts harass relentlessly.....
19. Badgers' home includes the Queen and follows a native of Eire.....
20. Coal miner minus the last digit goes after the facial hair.....
21. The liquid of life is going to relentlessly pester.....

22. From the island awarded the George Cross.....
23. From Peking.....
24. Scottish island sheep helper.....
25. South African with a narrow raised strip on his spine.....

[Many thanks, once again, for compiling this quiz, Barbara. Ed]

www.healthwatchdevon.co.uk

0800 520 0640

**healthwatch**  
Devon

**UK Government announces "roadmap" for easing Covid restrictions in England.** [Click here to see the full road map](#)



People aged 65 and over who have not yet been vaccinated against

COVID-19 are being asked to contact the NHS to arrange a jab.

If you are not eligible yet (specifically, people under 65 years of age) please wait to be contacted. The NHS will let you know when it's your turn to have the vaccine. It's important not to contact the NHS for a vaccination before then.

You do not need to contact your GP about the vaccine.

Find out more here: [www.nhs.uk/CovidVaccine](https://www.nhs.uk/CovidVaccine)

**Over 65 and have not been vaccinated? Click this button to contact the NHS or call 119 free of charge**



**There are four ways local people can help the**

**NHS vaccinate as many people as possible:**

- Stay at home
- Get vaccinated when it's your turn
- Follow the government advice eg Hands, Face, Space
- Choose the right service for your needs, such as 111



## Love Topsham has a Spring in its Step this March



*Lifting the spirits has perhaps never been as important as it is today but there is cause for quiet celebration - honestly.*

Firstly, the days are lengthening and temperatures gently rising - perfect for making the most of walks and visits to locations like Topsham, as regulations allow. Secondly, charming annual landmarks are on the horizon, starting this month with **Mother's Day on 14<sup>th</sup> March** - a perfect excuse for gifts and treats. Even with restrictions still in place it will be easy to ensure a memorable and unique experience - from Topsham you can send flowers or a fruit basket, buy a voucher for a Michelin-quality meal or book a special treatment day. More details of these can be found on [LoveTopsham.co.uk](http://LoveTopsham.co.uk).



See the Shopping Directory on the website for links to many shops in Topsham



Sadie Horler, one of a number of buskers in Topsham last summer

And in just a few weeks' time there's the biggest symbol of spring - the **Easter Bank Holiday weekend** at the very start of April. Weather and COVID-19 restrictions will be the governing factors but do please keep an eye on our website - we use this, along with



Fun times at Topsham's Charter Day a few years ago

our social media channels, as 'live' noticeboards for any activities we, or businesses or community organisations, can run. At the very least, we'll be letting you know precisely how we are celebrating with local food and drink provided - in style - by Topsham's suppliers...and hope you will join us with something from your favourite shops. Another way to keep in touch with events, soon and in the future, is to subscribe to the **Love Topsham Newsletter**: it's entirely free of charge and is guaranteed to make you feel better about the town we all love. Head to the website [LoveTopsham.co.uk](http://LoveTopsham.co.uk) and you'll find the quick form to sign up to the newsletter at the bottom of the home page.

Finally, of course, a reminder about our **Love Topsham Card** - this is how we can promote Topsham and its community. A £3 monthly contribution for a card gives you the opportunity to enjoy discounts in some of our shops, cafés and restaurants - online as well as in person - while at the same time contributing to Topsham's future.

Keep safe and please remember - we'll be here for you when you can visit again. From the Love Topsham team.

## Force Cancer Charity

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

For psychological and emotional support

☎ 01392 406168 / 406169

✉ help@forcecancercharity.co.uk

www.forcecancercharity.co.uk

*We are very keen to let as many people as possible in communities across the county know that FORCE is still offering support to people in Devon affected by cancer, despite the impact of COVID-19. The virus brings another layer of anxiety and distress for many of the people we support so we quickly adapted our services when the pandemic restricted our ability to offer the face-to-face contact so integral to our mission. Our main Support Centre in Exeter was temporarily closed and our weekly outreach programmes in East, West and Mid Devon have been severely impacted. But our staff were on the end of a 'phone or video link to offer advice and information on all sorts of things like claiming benefits, accessing our counselling service, how to take exercise that can boost your immune system or just general guidance on coping at such a difficult time. They were able to answer many of the questions posed in these uncertain times - and not just by cancer patients. FORCE is also supporting families and carers - anyone impacted by a cancer diagnosis in someone they love. Those online services are still available but we are delighted that our Support Centre is now open again, with strict COVID-safe measures in place to protect staff and visitors.*

*The nurses we fund at the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital are also still able to deliver vital chemotherapy and we have worked closely with the RD&E to develop a new cancer hub in Ottery St Mary. What has been considerably affected is our income. So many events have been cancelled or postponed and we have had to close our charity shop for significant*

# CHILDREN'S ART COMPETITION!

Prizes for 4-11 & 12-16 age groups!

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**Help us celebrate our 60th anniversary and create the cover art for our next LOVE Devon magazine!**

Devon Communities Together is a community charity for Devon and as part of our 60th anniversary celebrations we'd like children in Devon to create a picture that shows us their favourite part of Devon and why they love it!

Is it building sandcastles at the beach? Maybe it's scrambling over rocks on Dartmoor? Perhaps it's playing in their own back garden? It could be a local park or even a special street or landmark... we want to see what children love about living in Devon and view their favourite Devon spots through their eyes.

The competition is open to any school aged children (aged 4-16), with categories for primary (4-11) and secondary (12-16) and one overall winner. Plus prizes for category winners and runners up! The winning entry will be featured on the cover of the magazine and also on our website.

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND TO ENTER ONLINE, VISIT:**

[www.devoncommunities.org.uk/childrens-artwork-competition-why-do-you-love-devon](http://www.devoncommunities.org.uk/childrens-artwork-competition-why-do-you-love-devon)

**CLOSING DATE: 1ST APRIL 2021**



periods. But we continue to get fantastic support from communities like yours. We still have a significant gap in our finances to plug, but every donation makes a difference and means we can continue to help local people affected by cancer. Thank you for your continued support.

## Monthly Giggle



Due to lockdown I seem to be gaining weight; either it is because of the length of my hair now or I am overdoing the self-catering. Seems I need some extensions to my apron strings.... [Thanks to John Flitney.]



*A man went in to the doctor's and said, 'I feel like a moth.' The doctor said, 'What did you come in here for then?' The man said, 'Your light was on...'*

A little boy rushes out to his dad in the garden. 'What's sex, dad?' So Dad goes on to explain the ins and outs in as simple a way as possible. When he has finished explaining, he asks his son why he had suddenly asked. 'Because mum told me to tell you that lunch will be ready in two secs...'

*Doctor: Relax David, it's just a small operation.*

*Patient: I'm not David.*

*Doctor: I know. I am David.* [Thanks to Lesley Richardson for these.]

*I went into the newsagents and asked the fellow behind the counter for a Twirl and a Boost. He span round and said, 'You look fantastic, have you lost weight?'*

Teacher: Right, Tommy. If I give you two rabbits, then another two rabbits, how many rabbits have you got?

Tommy: Five, miss.

Teacher: No. Now listen. If I give you two rabbits, then another two rabbits, how many rabbits have you got?

Tommy: Five, miss.

Teacher: All right, if I give you two apples, then another two apples, how many apples have you got?

Tommy: Four, miss.

Teacher: Well, where do you get five rabbits from?!!

Tommy: I've got one at home.

## Answers to the Dog Breeds Quiz

- Staffordshire Bull Terrier
- Airedale Terrier
- Border Terrier
- Boston Terrier
- Fox Terrier
- Lakeland Terrier
- Norfolk Terrier
- Skye Terrier
- West Highland Terrier
- St Bernard
- German Shepherd
- Whippet
- Poodle
- Pointer
- Old English Sheepdog
- Husky
- Great Dane
- Basset Hound
- Irish Setter
- Bearded Collie
- Blood Hound
- Maltese
- Pekinese
- Shetland Sheepdog
- Rhodesian Ridgeback



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