

# CLYST VALLEY NEWS

## FEBRUARY 2022



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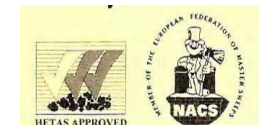
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### MESSAGE FROM THE VICARAGE



This is the story given by an assistant curate of the first time she went to church – for a small congregation. If the words are hers, I will use *italics*. My apologies for my non-churchgoing readers, but I am sure you can draw parallels in more secular life.

When the curate was fourteen, she turned up at a church unaccompanied, was given a pile of books and papers and told to sit wherever she liked. So, she says, *'I slipped in at the back...and was totally baffled.'*

The vicar did try to help giving page numbers, but they were wrong! (I know that feeling.) She continues: *'...by the end, I had decided that this church thing wasn't for me. It didn't make sense. I hadn't got anything out of it and wouldn't be going back. That might have been the end of the story, if it weren't for Patricia.'*

This lady, in her eighties, wasn't an evangelist, but simply said: *'Hello, dear, you're new, aren't you? I'm sorry I didn't see you come in or I would have asked you to sit with me. Would you like to sit with me next week?'* The teenager, brought up not to disappoint old ladies, agreed and went back the next week to sit with her. And...she kept going to church, amazingly.

All Patricia did was to point out what page we were on and telling her when to stand or sit. *'That's it. That's all she did. No proclamation of the faith, no moment of "conversion".'* But as a result, Patricia helped the young woman encounter God. *'Quietly, unexpectacularly, on an ordinary Sunday, this very unassuming woman changed my life...by her gentle witness to the steadfastness of God.'*

In her article the curate points out that Jesus regularly calls our attention to the small and the ordinary, and people like Patricia. There are many 'Patricias' in our church communities and in our villages. But are you one of them; would you have behaved in a similar neighbourly way in a similar situation? The problem of course is that our 'British stand-offishness' doesn't help. Nevertheless, I hope and pray that you would do the same as Patricia, whatever your belief, whatever your 'churchpersonship' (forgive the use of this word).

The curate finishes, as do I, with this paragraph: *'Anyway, all this is to say: don't underestimate the Patricias in your congregations...Pray for them, and thank God for their quiet, hidden ministry and faithfulness – even if neither you nor they will ever see the fruit of it.'*

Bill and Daff Lemmey, Woodbury Vicarage [revbillwhitecross@gmail.com](mailto:revbillwhitecross@gmail.com) 01395 232161

### WHITE CROSS MISSION COMMUNITY



#### Important Church Announcement (valid at time of writing)

\*Following new Government guidelines, mask wearing is now compulsory in church.

\*In particular, this is most important when entering, leading and moving around the church.

\*Hand gel should be provided and used as much as possible.

\*If involved in leading liturgy or music, masks can be removed, but it remains strong advice that congregation members should wear masks when singing.

\*As ever, there may be local suggestions about social distancing, etc.

\*For outdoor events, different rules apply; in most cases, the local church will provide its own guidelines, following a risk assessment.

## Church Services

Please see the schedule of services within the WCMC for February. Please note that there will be a Zoom service on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> February at 9.30 am. Please contact Jill Dupain at [dupain@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dupain@hotmail.co.uk) or on 01395 232953 for information on how to join this service.

**Contributions, photos and letters to the editor for the March 2022 issue of the Clyst Valley News should be sent by email, to the editor, Peter Skelton, at [clystvalleynews@gmail.com](mailto:clystvalleynews@gmail.com) by Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at the latest, please.**

**Please note that contributions may be edited.**

**If you experience any difficulty in receiving your copy of the CVN, please contact your local distributor, as follows:**

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## EDITOR'S NOTE



Hello and welcome to this February edition of the Clyst Valley News. I hope you've been able to enjoy the lovely, crisp, sunny days which have interspersed the rather less exciting rainy and windy ones that typify the weather patterns at this time of year. My thanks to Jacqueline Ranft for our very striking cover photo this month of Winslade Manor in its Christmas décor. A nice, cheering image, even though the festive season is past now. (I realise too late that the black and white version of the photo on the printed copies of the CVN will not do justice to the fabulous blue illumination – so do please try and see it in colour online.)

A quick theological lesson: Ash Wednesday just escapes this month and falls on 2<sup>nd</sup> March this year – the first time not in February since 2019. This is all because Easter, as you will know, is a 'movable feast', traditionally celebrated on the first Sunday following the full moon – officially called 'Paschal Full Moon' – that occurs on or after the spring equinox. The Christian Church calendars state that the spring equinox always falls on 21<sup>st</sup> March, whether that's scientifically correct or not. So Ash Wednesday always falls six weeks and four days (ie the 46 days of Lent) before Easter Sunday which will be 17<sup>th</sup> April this year. C'mon, keep up!

So, why am I bringing this up now? Well, your humble editor is nothing if not pragmatic. Covid restrictions, allied with sugary festive season excesses, have done little to keep the editorial waistline in trim condition; so knowing how far ahead the precise date of the start of Lent is, when the planned privations will hopefully engage the girth-reduction process, becomes a matter of serious concern. The later date this year is a mixed blessing: nice that I've still got a few weeks of indulgence left before I don the hair shirt; guilt-inducing because I really do want to hide the choccies away very soon! My way of dealing with this painful dilemma? Planning a phased scaling down of choccie intake over the precise number of days remaining to Ash Wednesday, thus making the transition to total abstinence for Lent more manageable. The only snag is how to factor in the consumption of a sizeable pile of pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. I'm working on that...

Best wishes; and don't forget to share the love on Valentine's Day! Enjoy the magazine.

Peter Skelton

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## 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. Simple!

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If you'd like to receive your own copy of the CVN (in full colour!) 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 Clyst 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



### St Mary's Church in February

We would like to apologise to you for the cancellation of some of the December services and we felt this very deeply. We managed to have the Christmas morning service which was a lovely service led by Ruth Flanagan.

February is in the planning so we keep our fingers crossed that we won't have to send out sad notices. Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February, 9.30 am will be the Family Breakfast Service with Rev'd Sid

Humphries, our retired Vicar, which will be Candlemas. This commemorates the presentation of Jesus 40 days after his birth. We will be blessing our candles for the new year. Many people put a lighted candle in their window.

We were sad to cancel the Christingle before Christmas so we will be including this in the service on the 6<sup>th</sup>. We invite you to come along to enjoy the service with us but if you have any questions please contact me on 01392 877907. Everyone welcome!

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February will be the Holy Communion Service, again led by Rev'd Sid. This will be at 9.30 am and everyone is welcome to come along and see what St Mary's has to offer.

We think there may be some hidden talent out there who like to sing and we are looking for new members to join the choir. They rehearse at the church once a week so please get in contact if you would like to know more. All ages and voices required. Don't be shy!

Happy New Year to you all. Pat Cusa, Church Warden, and all of us here at the church.

## Church Coffee Mornings



The February coffee morning will be held in church on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February from 10 till 11.30 am. Please come along and join us for coffee and a chat.

## Christmas Table Decoration



Learning from Margaret Stanfield on how to do a Christmas table decoration. Everyone was pleased with their finished article. A new venture for the church and we will do it again. Thank you, Margaret.



## Bishops Clyst Parish Council



*Queen's Platinum Jubilee.* We would be grateful for a volunteer to co-ordinate activities in Clyst St Mary for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend. If this is something you would be willing to do, please contact the Clerk, Karan Bennett, at

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

*Community Grants.* Community grants of up to £500 are available to groups, clubs and voluntary organisations based in the parish for non-commercial activities which benefit residents of the parish. Please see further details on our website ([www.bishopsclyst.org.uk/community-grants/](http://www.bishopsclyst.org.uk/community-grants/)).

*Parish Council Vacancies – Environmental Champion Required!* There are still 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 the 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.* Parish Council meetings take place each month and dates, agendas and minutes are posted on our website ([www.bishopsclyst.org.uk](http://www.bishopsclyst.org.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).

## Village Hall AGM: New Committee Members Urgently Required!



The Village Hall AGM will be held in the Hall on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm. The Hall is well used by a variety of groups and individuals and letting income covers our running costs so we are solvent. However, we have now reached the point where soon **it will not be possible to**

**carry on operating the Hall.** The majority of committee members are well over 70 and, unless we get some new and active members, there will be nobody able or willing to serve as officers. If you feel that you can give some time to help to run the Hall, please contact the Chairman, Rob Hatton, on 01392 874305; or come along to the AGM and volunteer.

Meanwhile, bookings for the Village Hall are building as hirers find that they are able to operate within the guidelines particularly given that the Hall is spacious and can be well ventilated. Our new website <https://www.clyststmaryvillagehall.co.uk/> gives details of availability and prices but if there's anything else you'd like to know, please drop Ali West an email on: [bookings@clyststmaryvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@clyststmaryvillagehall.co.uk). We look forward to seeing you soon.

## Clyst St Mary Primary School



Happy New Year to you all! The new term is now well underway and we are enjoying the sunshine, when it appears, and the lighter evenings which are already drawing out. The catkins on the trees in the school grounds tell us that spring is just round the corner!



Our Christmas celebrations were enjoyed by the school community with the Christingle Service taking place in a dry but chilly playground and the Key Stage One Nativity in the Village Hall albeit with very limited audiences. As always, the little ones' performances were heart-warming and very entertaining. We had no idea how important it would be to command the prime place right in front of the microphone. The narrators had a whole range of techniques this coveted position! The celebrations also included Christmas Save the Children UK's Christmas Jumper Day when we raised in £150 to support their work with children in need both in the UK further afield. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



for gaining lunch and excess of and



Work on our British Council Project with the school in Tanzania to reduce the use of single-use

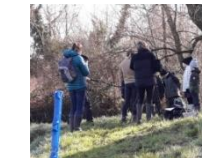


plastics in both schools continues and has seen the school council out litter picking in the school playground and in the area around Clyst St Mary Village Hall.



The first week of the new term brought all the fun of the pantomime when the children watched M&M's production of Jack and the Beanstalk in the Village Hall. Young and old were totally engrossed for the whole performance. Thank you, M&M Productions.

This last week has seen Year 6 exploring the River Clyst, by the weir, with a film crew from the Beaver Trust. The children learned about our local environment, how to spot signs that beavers are around, how the reintroduction of beavers is impacting the River Clyst and its flood plain



and took part in filming to support the work of the Trust. They had a wonderful so much about the wildlife



time and learned on our doorstep. This trip has been so easy that has become rather challenging, years. As the children's work with the British Council, COP 26 and Surfers Against Sewage is showing we need to protect these environments so that we can continue to enjoy and benefit from them.

reminded us how lucky we are to live and work where view and access our natural environment. Something particularly important to many of us over the last two, particularly important to many of us over the last two,



As the children's work with the British Council, COP 26 and Surfers Against Sewage is showing we need to protect these environments so that we can continue to enjoy and benefit from them.

## Table Tennis Club



Please come and join us! We resumed play at the Clyst St Mary Table Tennis Club last May. New members always welcome. We play at the Village Hall every Thursday, 4- 6 pm. The minimal fee of £20 for a 10-week session includes use of all equipment and refreshments. For further details please contact Pam Gardner on 07714 097220 or by email to [pamelamgardner9@gmail.com](mailto:pamelamgardner9@gmail.com).

## Clyst Valley Pre-School



We are now almost full at every session and are currently taking applications for the summer term and September 2022. Check us out on Instagram or visit our website, [clystvalleypreschool.org](http://clystvalleypreschool.org). You can also contact us on 01392 876615 or by email to [manager@clystvalleypreschool.org](mailto:manager@clystvalleypreschool.org).

## CLYST ST GEORGE AND EBFORD



### CSG Parish Council Chairman's Notes, February 2022

The Parish Council have now set our finances for 22/23 at NO increase. I think that both Devon and East Devon Councils plus the police will be putting their share up, but every little helps. East Devon are working on their Local Plan which will guide development into the future, 2040 in this revision, and the Parish Council are keeping a watch on this. There will be a public consultation in the coming months. Still time for you to join our text alert system. Please text our Clerk with the message 'please add my number' to 07740 531980 or email [clyststgeorgeparishcouncil@googlemail.com](mailto:clyststgeorgeparishcouncil@googlemail.com).

Stay safe. All the best.

John Manser

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

01392 874861

## Norman's Weather Report



December was very mild at Ebford, as throughout our region, and amazingly dry here for 13 days before Christmas. However, before and after this period rainfall total was 97 mm (3.8 inches); almost half of which fell during the four holidays of Christmas! The previous ten-year average was 98 mm. The annual amount for 2021 was 919 mm (36.2 inches) with considerable monthly variations to recall: May 177, October 169, April 16, November 15 mm. The average annual rainfall here at Ebford between 2017 and 2021 was 897 mm (35.3 inches). I should like to point out that this is 17.3 per cent greater than the average annual value between 2001 and 2010 of 765 mm (30.1 inches). Norman Cann

## Lady Seaward's C of E Primary School



There are a number of exciting events that we are looking forward to, with our teachers preparing some exciting topic work including historical artefacts and how we research events that occurred in the past. We will also be holding some virtual events with

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On  
Tuesday  
7<sup>th</sup>  
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2021

WE  
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The Club plays on Tuesday evenings in Clyst St Mary Village Hall from 8-10pm. We are a friendly & a mixed ability group, of varying ages. We need new and old members to come to enable the club to continue. So do come and give it a go.

Please contact either Hilary on 01392 874722 or  
Anne on: [annecurryer@gmail.com](mailto:annecurryer@gmail.com) if you have any questions. Thank you.

Devon County Council and their Recycling Centre. The Heatree Residential will be for our Year 4 class and that will take place later this term. We look forward to hearing about their adventures.

## Clyst St George Parish Hall



The Committee of Clyst St George Parish Hall is looking for some keen new members to boost their numbers - no special qualifications necessary apart from a desire to help the community in which you live. We would love you to help in the future proofing of the village hall and assist in building up some more community activities. We would welcome anyone from Clyst St George or Ebford and wanted to include all areas particularly Clyst Road or Odams Wharf for example, that may be interested in helping. We have approximately five meetings a year. For more information please contact one of our existing committee members who are Paul Bragg, Helen Cragg, Colin Pilcher, Claire Marks, Alan Marks or Donna Pagliero in Clyst St George or Pamela Diffey, Anna Smith or John Manser in Ebford; or ring our Chairman, Pamela Diffey on 01392 877497 or Vice Chairman, Paul Bragg on 01392 874599 for more information.

## 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.)

## Little Dragons Pre-School

We are very proud of our children who took part in our Nativity - they sang beautifully. We just want to say a huge WELL DONE!! We would also like to say a big THANK YOU to all of our parents and staff for supporting us throughout this difficult year. We have limited space at the moment but if you are looking to start your child from September 2022 you may want to contact us now! 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



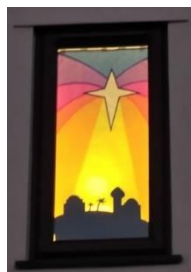
### Holy Baptism

Alice Rose Fuller was baptised by Rev'd Margaret Scrivener on 12<sup>th</sup> December at a service attended by family and friends. She was given a knitted baptism bear - one of those kindly made by Ngaio Southard - as a memento of the occasion. Her parents, Hannah and Christopher, were married in our church on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and had asked that their marriage and growing family would receive a blessing. Rev'd Margaret did this at the end of the baptism service in the place in front of the altar where they had made their wedding vows. The family now live in Australia.

## How Did We Celebrate Christmas?



**Festive Windows.** Eight people responded to the request to decorate their windows to brighten up the village and raise some money for the church. The prize for the best entry, chosen by vote, was that of Geraldine Cobley with Debbie and Geoff Jung's a close second. Geraldine generously handed back her prize money to the church.



**C of E School.** This year the school was able to hold a Christingle Service in the church and Christine Grist led the service. Because of concern over the new strain of Covid, parents were unable to attend this. However, the parents of those children performing the Nativity were allowed to watch it, sitting spaced out, and there were two performances to keep the numbers attending very small.



New choir member  
Andrew Place with  
Ellie, Luca and Panka.

**Carol Service.** Holding this service outdoors proved so popular last year that it was decided to do the same this year, a decision which proved to be very wise as the omicron variant was spreading rapidly. The service started at 4 pm and was led by Debbie Jung. Mark Lovett read the nativity story. The carols were accompanied by Katharine Wheeler on her keyboard, William Olney played *It came upon the midnight clear* on his trumpet and the choir sang *Hallelujah* to Christmas words about the wise men. The retiring collection of £200 will be divided between the church and those affected by the recent fire (see below).

**Midnight Communion.** We were delighted to welcome back Rev'd Nigel Mason to take the Midnight Christmas Communion Service.

**Carol Singing Round the Village.** A group of 14 singers, led by Debbie Jung, went round the village singing carols and collecting for the work of The Children's Society. Arwen from The Digger's Rest provided hot mulled wine to warm everyone before they started. This year the singers were ably supported by William Olney accompanying them on his trumpet. The sum of £159 was raised.

## Church Christmas Tree and Flowers



Thanks again to Clinton Devon Estates for their gift of a tree. This had been decorated beautifully by Sally Rawlings, who also did two of her stunning arrangements on the altar. Sally has been in charge of our church flowers for eight years, organising the rota and doing many of her spectacular arrangements. She has now retired from this task and the church showed its

gratitude by giving her a garden token. THANK YOU, SALLY! We now need someone to take on this task for the church. Any volunteers?

## Church Quiz: Feathered Friends



This annual quiz has been very well supported. 162 paper copies were sold and many more were sent by email. Twelve entries were completely correct so they were put into a bag and Debbie Jung drew the entry to receive the winner's prize at the Family Service. The prize went to Sue Palin from Exmouth. Local correct entries were from David Potter, Liz Whittaker, Margaret Tyler, Judy Spargo and Greville and Shirley Moore. The quiz raised just over £600 for church funds.

## Woodbury Salterton C of E Primary School



We know Christmas is over and your tree has been taken down, but we have lots to tell you about how we celebrated Christmas in our school community. Christmas is a special time of year for all schools, especially church schools like ours. We hope you enjoy reading our latest news; if you want to know more about our school, please see our website <http://www.woodbury-salterton.devon.sch.uk/website> and click on the events tab for details. Covid-19 has made whole school indoor events difficult and it was a rare



pleasure to celebrate our Christingle together in church, although as you will see we did not have the joy of celebrating with our parents and wider school community.



This year we had the joy of holding our annual nativity play in church and the children did a brilliant job at re-telling the Christmas story through the eye of a fictitious young stable boy called Sam, who has to look after the animals in the stable. No one seems to notice his hard work, until crowds start to gather in Bethlehem for the census and the inns fill up. Some very special visitors are shown to Sam's stable and gradually Sam starts to realise his worth. Well done to all the children for learning their lines so well and singing beautifully, it was a great start to our festivities in school.



The children collected soft plastics to create a sculpture which was displayed in an art exhibition called *Guiding Star* at Exeter Cathedral. Each pupil adorned a bamboo star with layers of soft plastics. Our eye catching and eco-friendly sculpture had the title 'We are all recycling superstars'. The exhibition ran from Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November until Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January at the Cathedral.

Christmas jumpers were worn for this year's Santa Run where the whole school, supported by our PE coach, got active in charity. There were festive treats for the our local Forest School provision. The children love to learn outside



Our thanks to Mr Salvation Army 2. The children saw and learned about heard that the and his wife who told stories people on the



Andrew Cutler from the who came to talk to Class the different uniforms their importance. We founder, William Booth, Catherine were Christians about Jesus to poor streets. We were



interested to learn that the Salvation Army works closely with the Exmouth Food Bank and Mr Cutler kindly answered lots of our questions.

## Village Support for Fire Victims

Following the devastating fire at Dagworthy Cottage on 21<sup>st</sup> December which destroyed all the thatch and caused water and smoke damage also to the two adjacent cottages, the church decided to give some of the collection from the carol service for immediate relief and to show sympathy to those who had suffered, The PCC then decided that as people were wishing to give donations, the church would spearhead a response in the form of a collection. Donations quickly came in and in mid-January the sum of £500 was given to each of three households affected, as a practical expression of concern and friendship from the village. Paul and Sam, two of those affected, asked that a public thank you be said through the magazine to all those in the village who responded so generously.



## Mavis Chudleigh

Former pupils at our church school were sad to learn of Mavis' death. For many years Mavis was a Meal Time Assistant at our village school and was much loved by the children. Her funeral service took place at the crematorium on 26<sup>th</sup> January and her ashes will be interred later with her husband Lars in our church yard. We extend our sympathy to her family and especially to her son Stuart.

## AND FINALLY...

### Exmouth Mobile Library Timetable 2022

Day	Village	Stop	Arrive	Dates
Monday	Exton	Station	09.45	7/2, 7/3, 4/4, 6/5, 27/6, 25/7, 22/8, 19/9, 17/10, 14/11, 12/12
Tuesday	Clyst St Mary	Winslade Park	14.50}	15/2, 15/3, 12/4, 10/5, 7/6, 5/7
Tuesday	Clyst St George	Layby B3179	15.20}	2 & 30/8, 27/9, 25/10, 22/11
Friday	Aylesbeare	Nightjar Inn	09.50}	4/2, 4/3, 1 & 29/4, 27/5, 24/6
Friday	Woodbury Salterton	Kennels	12.50}	22/7, 19/8, 16/9, 14/10, 11/11, 9/12
Friday	Woodbury	White Hart	14.00}	

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.

## Exmouth A Cappella



We would like to introduce ourselves to you and to your local community. We are a ladies' a cappella singing group based in Exmouth and are delighted to say that, after the many months of restrictions caused by the pandemic, we are now able once again to rehearse and perform. This means that, from the New Year onwards, we can make ourselves available to offer some entertainment at locally held events. We are also keen to help organisations such as local charities and community groups by taking part and appearing at fundraising events organised by them.

Using just our voices, we sing a very wide range of songs in four-part harmony. This is quite an unusual format and one which we find popular with audiences. Our chorus has around 25-30 members who love to sing together. We know, though, that not every event wants, or

indeed could, accommodate such a large group and so it is sometimes possible to arrange for a smaller number of singers to attend.

Some important information to pass on to you - all our members are fully vaccinated against Covid and will have produced a negative lateral flow test on the day of any indoor engagement.

We are hoping you may be able to tell your local community about us so that they have the opportunity to think about whether we could be of use to them. We certainly all love the opportunity to sing! If anyone would like to discuss their requirements, in the first instance they should contact Jean Thomas ([jeanthomas\\_pearce@msn.com](mailto:jeanthomas_pearce@msn.com)) on 01404 515348 or Gill Barrett ([gillbee54@gmail.com](mailto:gillbee54@gmail.com)) on 01395 267131.

## The Exeter Forum Talks Programme: 2<sup>nd</sup> February to 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022



The Exeter Forum weekly talks take place on Wednesdays at the Mint Methodist Church in Fore Street, Exeter. Members get together from

10.15 am. After time for coffee and socialising, the talk starts, usually at around 10.45 am.

Date	Speaker	Title
2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Devon & Exeter Medical Heritage Trust (Professor David Radstone)	<i>An Exeter Surgeon and his Mummified Mistress</i> The Devon & Exeter Medical Heritage Trust is a charity which looks after a collection of historical medical items. This talk will look at the unusual story of an Exeter surgeon and will be illustrated with examples of medical items from the time.
9 <sup>th</sup> February	Lucy Mottram	<i>The Challenge of Waste and Recycling in Devon</i> Lucy will look at what happens to Devon's waste, and the challenges of disposal and recycling.
16 <sup>th</sup> February	Brian Banks	<i>The Mystery of Bog Bodies and What We Can Learn from Them</i> Brian will look at where bog bodies are found, how they are preserved and what they can tell us about life in the past.
23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Amyas Crump	<i>Odette - A Love of the Blackdown Hills</i> Local historian and author Amyas will talk about how Odette, a young mother of three from Devon, became a WW2 SOE Agent in France, being subsequently awarded the George Cross.
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	David Jenner	<i>Orchids of the UK - a Photographic Celebration</i> David Jenner will make a welcome return to the Exeter Forum with another of his wildlife talks illustrated by his own photography. David has photographed nearly all of the UK wild orchids. His talk will particularly focus on the common and rarer species found in Devon.
9 <sup>th</sup> March	Kevin Cox	<i>Where Have All the Birds Gone?</i> Kevin Cox, Chair of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, will look at issues facing our bird life and ways of restoring species and diversity.
16 <sup>th</sup> March	Dr Todd Gray	<i>Devon and African Enslavement at the Time of Emancipation: An Impartial Analysis of the Evidence</i> Devon historian and author, Todd Gray, will look at the evidence for Devon's connections with slavery and the effects on the county of slave ownership.
30 <sup>th</sup> March	Stephen Powles	<i>Otters - Coming to a River Near You</i> Stephen will follow up his wildlife photography talk with this celebration of the life of the otter in Devon. His talk includes rare videos of otters on a tributary of the Exe and insights into the life of these wonderful but elusive animals.



6th April	Keith Walton	<i>Exeter's Historic Churches and Their Roles in Mediaeval Times</i>
13th April	Martin Young and Jonathan Smith	<i>Chernobyl and its Effect on the Local Environment</i> Martin and Jonathan will look at the legacy of the Chernobyl nuclear accident in 1986 and particularly its on-going effects on the local environment.

## Will Topsham Be Your Valentine This Year?



So what if the weather is still cold and the nights too dark - love is definitely in the air if you visit Topsham this February! There can be no better place to celebrate a romantic 14<sup>th</sup> February than by starting with a cocktail in one of our bars or pubs, enjoying a hand-holding stroll along the side of the estuary, and then making your way into a Topsham restaurant for a candlelit dinner to remember. It's vital to book so if you haven't a favourite little place already, please check out [lovetopsham.co.uk](http://lovetopsham.co.uk) to see the best of Topsham's pubs and restaurants.



Of if you prefer something gift-wrapped, we have everything from a celebration cake to a wonderful piece of jewellery, from that perfect bouquet of flowers to a surprise beauty session. Topsham spoils you, so you can spoil your loved one!

Alternatively, if it's a moment of peace you're after, remember that Topsham offers peerless views over the Exe Estuary, plus gentle walks past historic architecture and unspoilt countryside just moments away - our website lists walks to inspire you.

And if you would like to top up your present to a loved one with a unique gift that will keep on giving throughout 2022, why not become a Love Topsham Cardholder? For a donation of £3 a month you will directly help us keep the town vibrant, attractive and focussed on our community of residents and visitors alike. You'll also be entitled to discounts in some shops and invitations to VIP events.

You know the score by now - [lovetopsham.co.uk](http://lovetopsham.co.uk) has all the details plus, in the very near future, a full programme of Love Topsham's events for 2022.

Have a great month, and we'll see you in town soon! Best wishes from the Love Topsham team.

## Free Advice on Your Energy Bills This Winter from Devon Communities Together



With rising energy bills and intense pressures on household finances this winter, independent charity *Devon Communities Together* is providing 1-2-1 support to individuals who are struggling with fuel bills and heating their homes, thanks to funding from Western Power Distribution. The charity can offer home visits, video calls and telephone support, with trained experts giving practical advice on tackling energy issues tailored to each household.

'We know this winter is proving to be very tough for many households in Devon,' said Harry Bonnell, Project Manager at *Devon Communities Together*. 'We are here to support those households that are worried about their energy bills so please do book a session and speak to one of our advisors if you would like some help.'

The support Devon Communities Together is offering includes:

\*Practical help dealing with energy suppliers and finding the right tariff \*Checking eligibility for schemes such as the Priority Service Register and Warm Home Discount \*Assistance

accessing financial support \*Help understanding the terminology around domestic energy \*Looking at alternative energy sources/suppliers \*Improving your energy efficiency \*Any other questions

As well as providing personalised help with energy bills, *Devon Communities Together* will be able to support people with related issues, such as housing and health challenges, by working with other organisations to ensure that people receive the help they need.

**How to Book.** People can book an individual support session by clicking this link <https://linktr.ee/DCTenergyadvice> and choosing an available time that suits them. If anyone has any questions or would like to discuss a session outside office hours, please get in touch with Martin on 07984 001542 or email [martin@devoncommunities.org.uk](mailto:martin@devoncommunities.org.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.

**It's Tea Time!**  
Please join us for a 'socially distanced' friendship group. We will be offering a 2 course meal and take home afternoon tea for £9 per person.  
14<sup>th</sup> January 14<sup>th</sup> February 14<sup>th</sup> February  
BRADBURY CAFE  
Nancy Potter House Nelson Close Topsham EX16 0DX  
RSVP 01392 879009

**Babies and Toddlers**  
Friends with a Bobble Reg  
09:30am - 11:00am  
11:30am - 12:30pm  
11:30am - 12:30pm  
Every Tuesday @ Nancy Potter House  
Got any queries or would like to book? Get in contact with us! We are happy to help...  
Mail: friends@bobble.org.uk  
Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsWithaBobbleReg/>  
**Baby Massage**  
To find out more or book in for a session please email: [sally@babymassage@npt.com](mailto:sally@babymassage@npt.com)  
What are the benefits of infant massage?  
• Encourage interaction between you and your baby.  
• Help your baby relax and sleep.  
• Positively affect infant hormones that control stress.  
• Reduce crying.

**Shopping Trips**  
The next shopping trip dates will be:  
Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January  
Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January  
Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February  
Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February  
If you would like to attend these shopping dates, please call us on 01392 879009 and we will get you booked in with George.  
Thank you.

**Jigsaw PUZZLES**  
Choose from our catalogue of 60+ puzzles and book them out for either 1, 2 or 3 weeks for only 50p a time!  
Please ask the receptionist at Nancy Potter House to browse our puzzle catalogue.  
We have a range of large piece puzzles available!

**Needle Craft Group**  
Held in the Bradbury Cafe at Nancy Potter House, Topsham.  
Wednesday mornings from 10:00am - 12:00pm.  
Why not come along and join in?  
New members welcome!

**THE BRUNCH CLUB**  
Come along to our Brunch club and enjoy a freshly cooked full English breakfast!  
Served with a choice of tea or coffee and a glass of juice.  
£7.00 per person.  
Held every Friday in the Bradbury cafe 10am - 12pm

**the WI INSPIRING WOMEN Topsham**  
Come and join us on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January Nancy Potter House 7pm to meet Rachel Dunn.  
Rachel designs and hand-creates bespoke fascinators, hats and bags in a range of styles, colours and fabrics. Each item is individually crafted to ensure a perfect colour match to complement and enhance any outfit. All her accessories are handmade to order in Devon using only the highest quality, locally-sourced materials.  
If you are interested in the rich and rewarding experience of volunteering for a charity, look no further than Estuary!  
Call us today on 01392 879009, we're eager to hear from you.

**VOLUNTEER TODAY**  
Estuary League of Friends are in search of volunteers who are willing to help with:  
Transporting clients to hospital appointments  
Providing assistance with IT  
Hot Meal Deliveries  
If you are interested in the rich and rewarding experience of volunteering for a charity, look no further than Estuary!  
Call us today on 01392 879009, we're eager to hear from you.

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Oncology physiotherapist ☎ 01392 403094  
✉ support@forcecancercharity.co.uk

For psychological and emotional support  
☎ 01332 406168 / 406169  
✉ help@forcecancercharity.co.uk

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cancer charity  
**force**  
www.forcecancercharity.co.uk

## Monthly Giggle



These sentences appeared [allegedly] in church bulletins or announcements:

- The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.
- The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'
- Miss Charlene Mason sang, 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
- Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5 pm – prayer and medication to follow.
- The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
- This evening at 7 pm there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
- The Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 pm. Please use the back door.



"Candlelight dinners aren't very romantic.  
Every time I lean over to kiss you,  
my nose hair catches on fire."

- Weight Watchers will meet at 7 pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
- The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge – Up Yours.'

[Thanks to David Palmer for these. Ed]



A lady rushes into the vet's surgery shouting that her duck needed immediate attention. She was taken into the surgery and was seen by the vet. 'Please help me,' she wails, 'my duck has been run over. Please tell me she isn't dead.' The vet examines the duck and shakes his head.

'Oh no,' says the lady, 'she can't be dead. Perhaps she is in a coma. Can we get another opinion?' The vet leaves the surgery and returns with a labrador on a lead. The dog goes up to the table,

puts its front paws on the edge and sniffs the duck. Then it shakes its head and goes out of the room. The vet then brings in a cat and puts the cat on the table with the duck. The cat sniffs the duck all over, shakes its head, jumps off the table and leaves the room. The vet goes over to his computer, taps a few keys, and produces the bill which he presents to the lady.

'How much?' she shrieks. 'Well,' said the vet, 'you wanted a second opinion. The bill would have been £25 but the price was pushed up to £125 after the lab report and the cat scan...'

[Thanks to Lesley Richardson.]

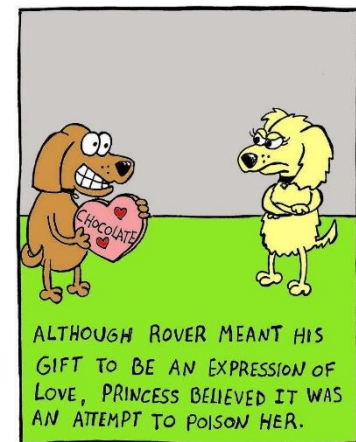
What did the flame say to his friends after he fell in love? I found the perfect match!

The lingerie store where my aunt works was crowded with shoppers selecting Valentine's Day gifts for their wives. A young businessman came to the register with a lacy black negligee. My aunt noticed that the next customer, an elderly farmer, was holding a long flannel nightgown and kept glancing at the younger man's sexier choice. When it was his turn, the farmer placed the nightgown on the counter. 'Would you have anything in black flannel?' he asked. [Contributed by Christine A Pandolfo to Reader's Digest Canada]

What's the best part about Valentine's Day? The day after when all the chocolate goes on sale.

What's the perfect thing to say to a coffee lover on Valentine's Day? Words cannot espresso what you mean to me.

What did the painter say to her boyfriend? 'I love you with all my art!'



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TOPSHAM  
COMMUNITY  
ASSOCIATION

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*WCMC SERVICES FEBRUARY 2022*

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February: Candlemas**

*Week 1*

11-15	AYL	Morning Worship	Christine Grist
09-30	WST	Holy Communion	Rev'd Margaret
09-30	CSM	Breakfast Family Service	Rev'd Sid Humphries
11-15	WBY	Holy Communion with Baptism	Rev'd Bill
16-00	EXT	Evening Worship	Rev'd Roz Harrison

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent**

*Week 2*

09-30	EXT	Holy Communion	Rev'd Bill
11-15	FAR	Holy Communion	Rev'd Margaret
09-30	CSG	Family service	Lay led

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent**

*Week 3*

11-15	AYL	Holy Communion	Rev'd Margaret
09-30	CSM	Holy Communion	Rev'd Sid Humphries
09-30	WST	Breakfast Family Service	Rev'd Bill
18-30	WBY	Evensong	Rev'd Peter Nikols-Rawle

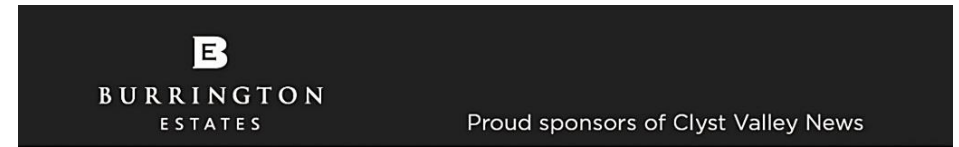
**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February: Sunday before Lent**

*Week 4*

11-15	CSG	Holy Communion	Rev'd Peter Nikols-Rawle
09-30	Zoom	Family Service	Zoom Team
09-30	FAR	Morning Worship	Carolyn Keep
10-30	WBY	Café Church	Lay led

*AYL Aylesbeare FAR Farrington EXT Exton WST Woodbury Salterton  
WBY Woodbury CSG Clyst St George CSM Clyst St Mary*

*For all pastoral needs, please ring Rev'd Bill on 01395 232161. For anything else, please contact Admin Officer, Jill Dupain at [dupain@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dupain@hotmail.co.uk) or on 01395 232953.*



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