

Moorland Parish Link

- Widecombe -

Huccaby - Ilsington - Lensdon - Postbridge



Ashton - Bickington - Buckland - Holne

February 2024

Church and Community Magazine of The Moorland Team

The Ministry Team

<i>Team Rector</i> Rt Revd Mark Rylands	The Rectory, Copperwood Close Ashburton, TQ13 7JQ	01364 716309 mark.rylands@mmuk.net
<i>Team Vicar</i> Revd Canon John Bennett	The Vicarage, Ilsington, TQ13 9RW	01364 661116 jskbennett@btinternet.com
<i>Mission & Family Development Worker</i> Heidi Lewis	Holne Vicarage, Holne, TQ13 7RT	07759578941 heidi@moorlandteam.org.uk
<i>Methodist Minister</i> Revd Kevin Hooke		01626 832369 hookekp@hotmail.com
<i>Team Curate</i> Revd Jenny Weigel		07355 354841 jenny@moorlandteam.org.uk

Safeguarding: If you have a concern about the safety of someone or the actions of someone working with children or vulnerable adults, please speak to someone:

Moorland Team Safeguarding Adviser - Judy Southcombe 01364 621520

Diocesan Safeguarding Team - SafeguardingEnquiry@exeter.anglican.org

Moorland Team Website: <https://ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/safeguarding>

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Responding to God's Love

Arriving home from our Christmas break in wet and windy Cumbria to a wet and windy Dartmoor, I was going through emails. One parishioner had written teasingly: 'Only 3 months till Easter!' What a thought. Christmas just gone and Easter is already looming up. Its enough to make any Rector dive back under the duvet. 'Why can't they fix Easter permanently to the 2nd Sunday in April?', I heard myself muttering the other day.

In a more positive frame of mind, I recognise that the short span between the two great festivals highlights their strong connection. The baby in the crib grows up to be the man on the cross. In Church, we speak of an 'almighty and powerful God'. But it is not 'almightiness' in the usual sense. It is not the dominating power of a dictator or the overbearing loquaciousness of an events announcer. The powerful appeal of God's love to humankind is seen in vulnerability and weakness. What could be more helpless than a new-born baby? Maybe, a man outstretched in crucifixion. God never compels us to come to him; he beckons and invites us. He even takes 'no' for an answer.

In these next few months, we have an opportunity to follow Jesus from the wonder of that starry night in Bethlehem, surrounded by shepherds, to questioning and learning beside Lake Galilee in the company of fishermen. Finally, we walk to the showdown between Love and Evil at Calvary, engulfed by a mob. It is the chance to be a pilgrim.

The Christian season of Lent begins on 14th February – Valentine's Day. What an appropriate time to consider our response to God's great love for us and the whole Creation. 'Lent'- relating to the lengthening of days as winter fades – is an opportunity for springtime in our souls and an internal spring clean.

To receive the cross of ashes on the forehead is not a meaningless ancient ritual. Properly understood, it is an act of courage: an acknowledgement that we have not got it all sewn up; that we are daring to open ourselves up to reflecting on God's love and spiritual growth. Above all, it is a symbol of our frailty and mortality and a sign of our need for God's forgiveness.

This Lent, we are looking at ways of 'Responding to God's Love'. Please see details of the Lent Course elsewhere in the magazine. God is for us; God is with us and God humbly gives us an invitation. RSVP.

+Mark

Churchwardens

St Mary the Virgin, Holne with St Raphael, Huccaby			
Gillian Parker	Thimble Hall, Hexworthy, PL20 6SD	01364 631507	stmaryvirgin2022@gmail.com
Anthony Parker	as above	as above	staphael1868@gmail.com
St John the Baptist, Leusdon			
Geoff Bamsey	26 Old Manor Close, Holne Cross, TQ13 7JF	01364 652820	geoff.bamsey486@gmail.com
Patrick Simpson	Spitchwick Manor, Poundsgate, TQ13 7PB	01364 631209	admin@bennah.co.uk
St Gabriel, Postbridge			
Wendy Watson	Middle Merripit Farm, Postbridge, PL20 6TJ	01822 880215	wendy@merribridge.plus.com
St Pancras, Widecombe			
Michael Pascoe	Wooder Bungalow, Widecombe, TQ13 7TR	01364 621333	pascoewooder@yahoo.co.uk
St Andrews, Ashburton			
Francis Parffrey	Hillcrest, Bowden Hill, Ashburton TQ13 7EA	01364 654067	francis.parffrey@gmail.com
Joyce Arscott		01364 388279	joyceaomc@gmail.com
St Mary the Virgin, Bickington			
Michael Hext		07458 359541	grannypats.pat50@gmail.com
Peter Warren	Rentor, Bickington	01626 821213	pw.rentor@gmail.com
St Peter, Buckland in the Moor			
Clare Caunter		01364 653234	
Marie Jessop		01364 653234	
St Michael's, Ilsington			
Linda Hall		01626 821603	lindamhall@outlook.com
Peter Dickinson		07801 042767	peter@pmqd.com

For all editorial information - copy date, contact details etc. please see inside back cover.

BENEFICE OFFICE - Cassie will be in the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. She will be working remotely on Thursdays. Office hours are 9.00am - 3.00pm

Telephone **01364 654280/07445 240 133** or email: admin@moorlandteam.org.uk

PARISH OFFICE - Email: parishoffice1@tiscali.co.uk

Moorland Team Officers

Treasurer	Francis Parffrey	Hillcrest, Bowden Hill, Ashburton TQ13 7EA	01364 654067	francis.parffrey@gmail.com
Secretary	Gillian Parker	Thimble Hall, Hexworthy, PL20 6SD	01364 631507	stmaryvirgin2022@gmail.com
Safeguarding Adviser		Judy Southcombe - 01364 621520		judysouthcombe@yahoo.co.uk
Team Administrator		Cassie Long - 01364 654280		admin@moorlandteam.org.uk

Church News & Events



Call out for Volunteers

The Churches Conservation Trust is looking for volunteers to help with events and fundraising activities for our beautiful church of St Michael and All Angels, Princetown. This fascinating building is the only church in England to have been built by prisoners of war.

We are currently looking for one or more volunteers to help bring a regular series of events into our calendar which encourage more visitors into the church, raise the profile of this wonderful space amongst the local community and to raise much needed funds.

If you would like to be involved but have different talents you'd like to share, such as baking cakes, researching local history, cleaning and caring for an ancient building, music or stewarding, get in touch! As long as you'd enjoy being part of team to help save this historic building for future generations, St Michael's Local Community Officer would love to hear from you.

Contact Marie Leverett, Local Community Officer for the Churches Conservation Trust, on mleverett@theccct.org.uk or 07831873489

ASHBURTON & MOORLAND MISSION COMMUNITY

Responding to God's Love

A course for Lent 2024, reflecting on the impact of God's ultimate act of love: Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

WED 14TH FEB 7pm	IN FAITHFUL WITNESS <i>Communion & imposition of Ashes</i> Speaker: Bishop Mark Rylands	St Michael Ilsington
TUES 20TH FEB 7pm	IN LOVING SERVICE <i>Licensing of Rev Ross Hathway</i> Speaker: Bishop James Grier	St Pancras Widecombe
WED 28TH FEB 7pm	BY LISTENING FOR HIS CALL Speaker: Rev Preb Amanda Rylands	St Andrew Ashburton
WED 6TH MARCH 7pm	WITH AN OPEN MIND Speaker: Mack Robinson LLB	St Mary Holne
WED 13TH MARCH 7pm	THROUGH LEARNING & STUDY Speaker: Rev Jenny Weigel	St Andrew Ashburton
WED 20TH MARCH 7pm	IN WORSHIP & ADORATION Speaker: Canon John Bennett	St Michael Ilsington

www.ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/lent

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MOOR WORSHIP

Every fourth Sunday of the month
7pm to 8pm

St Andrew's Church, Ashburton
Refreshments from 6.45pm

WORSHIP, PRAY, REFLECT, RECHARGE

22 OCTOBER, 26 NOVEMBER, 28 JANUARY,
25 FEBRUARY, 24 MARCH, 28 APRIL

*Some months Moor Worship will be at
St Michael's Church, Ilsington.

See our Facebook page: ashburtonallagechurch for details

From the Registers

Memorial and Burial of Ashes

Widecombe

6th January

John Mousley

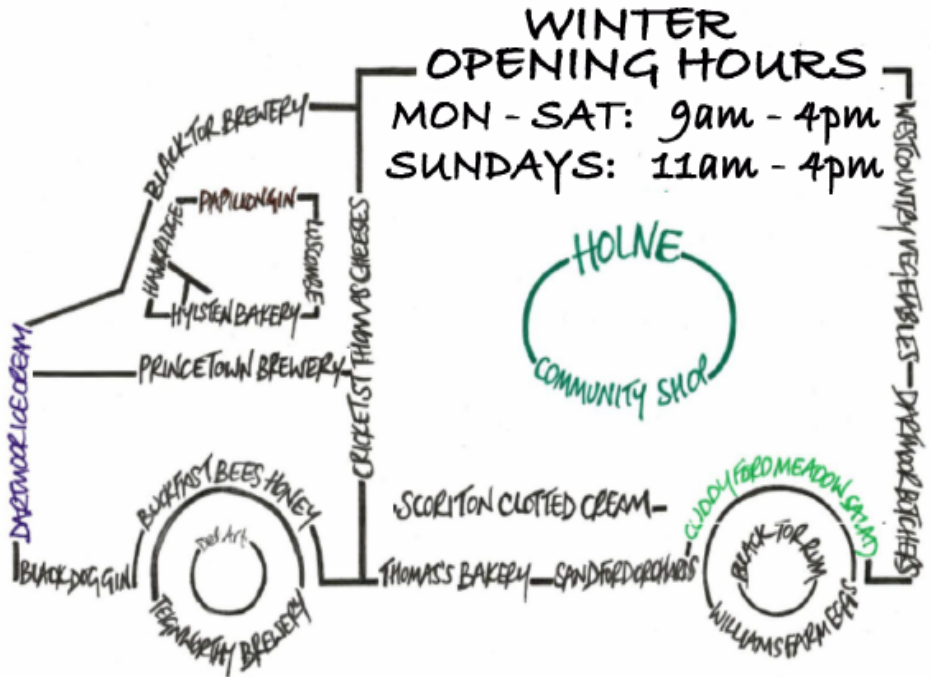
Holne, Scoriton and Combe

The Parish Link is delivered in our two parishes by six stalwart members of the community and we are very grateful to those who are willing to spend an hour or so each month helping with this.

Currently we have one 'round' which we would like help with so if there is anyone out there who would like to help, please contact us – it might be something a person who likes cycling, walking or running could consider.

With many thanks,

Gill and Colin
01364 631111



Youth HANGOUT

Every Thursday during term-time at Jenny's home, Year 7 and up.

Just turn up, or bring a friend!

Pizza, Games, Snacks, Chat
 6.45pm - 8pm



For more information and the address, email or text Jenny, the church curate:
jenny@moorlandteam.org.uk | 07355 354841 | www.ashburtonandmoor.org.uk



St Mary the Virgin, Holne

For contact information, ministers and church officers please see front of the Link

Church Services—see Page 22 for details or

www.ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/holne

Date	Time	Service
11th Feb	18.00	Holy Communion
18th Feb	09.00	Holy Communion at Huccaby
25th Feb	17.00	Evening Worship

February is the shortest calendar month of the year, but it can be a very busy one, both for nature and the Church. Depending on the weather, the snowdrops and other Spring bulbs appear and traditionally, birds start to nest on St. Valentine's Day. After the dark January days, the days become noticeably longer, and the year ahead seems to open up with promises of better things to come.

For the Church, the season of Epiphany ends on the 2nd February, also known as Candlemas. This celebrates the occasion when Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem, in accordance with the Jewish law, to present him to the Lord and to offer a sacrifice.

Two people took a particular interest in the presentation of Jesus – Simeon a priest, and Anna, a woman who devoted her life to prayer and worship in the Temple. Simeon immediately recognised Jesus as the promised Messiah or Saviour who would bring light to the whole world, not just the Jewish people. He went on to bless Mary and Joseph and to tell them that although Jesus would bring light and glory, his life would also be difficult, and that Mary would suffer great sorrow as a result.

Anna, in contrast, having praised God for the gift of this Saviour, immediately told everyone she met about this wonderful event, the long-awaited arrival of the Messiah.

Within the account of this event is a wonderful summary of who Jesus is, his life and purpose on earth and the impact that he has on the lives of others.

The Son of God was born to bring the opportunity of a renewed relationship with God to anyone willing to acknowledge him for who he is. He died to pay the price for human sin and the suffering it brings. He rose from the dead to intercede on our behalf with God at the time of judgement. Jesus is the one who gives us hope for the future and strength for our time on earth.

Anna thought that this was something so compelling, so wonderful that she could not wait to share the good news with everyone she met. Being a Christian is not meant to be a burden, trying to live up to a set of impossible standards and using a special language that can exclude others. It is about joy, love, and hope which we cannot help but share with others. Better things will come in 2024.

Gillian

Improving biodiversity and tackling climate change in our local area

TUESDAY 6th February 7.30pm Holne Village Hall

What options do communities have to improve biodiversity in their local areas and take action on climate change and domestic energy use?

Sune Nightingale from Sustainable South Hams will be attending the February Parish Council meeting to share what other local parishes are doing and help us think about our own local area.

All welcome. Refreshments provided.

For further information check www.holnevillage.co.uk



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details

Holne Whist



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February from 2pm

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Judy Henderson on 01364 631461
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St Raphael, Huccaby

For contact information, ministers and church officers please see front of the Link
Church Services—see Page 22 for details or
www.ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/huccaby

Visitors to Pilgrims - ecumenical Pilgrimage and Songs of Praise:

Leusdon to Poundsgate Sunday 4th February 2024

Approximately 1.5 miles in length, the Pilgrim Trail will be clearly marked with highly visible Pilgrim guides walking with you.

The start location of St John the Baptist Church, Leusdon (Grid reference SX 709732), has been more than once described as 'beautiful' and undoubtedly the location offers brilliant vistas – including on a clear day - views to the sea!

From the outside, and the thing perhaps not easily seen, is that it is not Medieval. Many High Dartmoor churches are Medieval but of the Victorian ones, Leusdon is the largest. There was a Chapel of Ease dedicated to St Leonard near this site before, part of the ecclesiastical parish of Widecombe in the Moor. St Leonard's Chapel in 'Spychwyke' is referred to in a grant of 1284 issued by Roger de Rous of Wydecomb. The area below Leusdon is still called Spitchwick, from the Old English 'spic' for bacon and 'wic' for a farm or trading place for pigs.

Please gather at 2pm at the Church for a short briefing on our Pilgrimage and prayers led by Revd. Jenny Weigel - before setting off on the Pilgrimage. (Families, cars and dogs are all welcome!)



Just 30 minutes later, if you are walking, at the top of a small incline, you will see the Poundsgate Methodist Church, (Grid reference SX 720731), known as the 'Chapel on the Moor'. Poundsgate Church is 'older' than St John the Baptist Leusdon, having been first recorded as a Trust on 17th August 1833.

Please go into this delightful Chapel, pick up a Visitors to Pilgrims brochure, and get your Dartmoor Pilgrim Passport stamped.

At 3 pm there will be a Songs of Praise service led by Revd. Kevin Hooke. The Chapel literally 'sings the faith', expressing its Methodist theology through singing. Then, of course, its coffee and cake!

P.S. Talking of old Chapel's - maintenance and refurbishment work is almost complete at St. Raphael's and yet again it looked splendid for a packed congregation attending our candlelit Carol Service, (last year!).

Snowdrops!

It's that time of year, and by Mid-February the extensive carpet of snowdrops, (estimated to be over 20,000 of them by Galanthophiles), will be blooming once again at St. Raphael's. Please call in to see this delightful and spectacular display.

(Please note: this year we will not be 'selling' the single potted snowdrops – albeit the Chapel raised over £15,000 in the last eight consecutive years we did this! But its time for a rest – not only for the personal five or six-month commitment to pot up over 16,000 single snowdrops in the 8 years, but to allow the wonderful St Raphael's Chapel grounds to 'recover' – in the fallow ground – perhaps the Hosea 10:12; Jeremiah 4:3 – principle?

Tony Parker

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St John the Baptist, Leusdon

For contact information, ministers and church officers please see front of the Link
Church Services—see Page 22 for details or
www.ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/leusdon

Date	Time	Service
11th Feb	12.00	Parish Communion
18th Feb	12.00	Parish Communion
25th Feb	12.00	Parish Communion

Leusdon Church is open all day, every day. You are welcome to visit at any time – an opportunity to sit quietly, say a prayer and enjoy our beautiful building.
Any queries, please contact **Rt Revd Mark Rylands** (Team Rector) 01364 716309
mark.rylands@mmuk.net

The late Marion Howard of Rowbrook Farm
Friends of Marion are invited to meet up at Brimpts Farmat 1.00pm on the 17th February for pasties, cream teas and memories. And afterwards to the scattering of her ashes at Rowbrook.

Leusdon Memorial Hall

We held our first Coffee Morning of 2024 on 3rd January, it was well supported and overall we raised £126.00 for hall funds. Our next Coffee Morning is on **Wednesday 7th February 2024 10.00am -12.00 noon**, hopefully we will welcome our **Community Support Officer**, who will be happy to discuss any concerns you might have, it would be good to see you there.

There will be the usual Whist at Leusdon on **Monday 12th** with the lunch at 1.00pm followed by whist at 2.00pm.

You can now keep up to date by visiting **Leusdon Memorial Hall Facebook page** to get details of events in the Hall and the wider community. Thanks to our social media team we now have over 300 followers.

Should you wish to book the Hall, it is available for hire at **£10.00 per hour**, there are special rates for regular users. Further details can be obtained by contacting our Booking Secretary: Amanda Routley on **01364 631432**
email: leusdonmemorialhall@yahoo.com

Tables at the Coffee Morning can be booked for £5 per table per session,

(Continued on page 15)

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(Continued from page 13)

please either book these by using the details above or coming to see us at the coffee morning.

In the meantime, if anyone would like to discuss any aspect of the Hall, please contact myself or any committee member.

John Southcombe - email: johnsouthcombe@hotmail.com
for Leusdon Memorial Hall Charity no 300887

Moorland Parish Link Online

This edition of the Moorland Parish Link (and previous editions) can be downloaded from:

https://www.widcombe-in-the-moor.com/parish_link/index.php

<https://ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/magazine-%26-notice-sheets>

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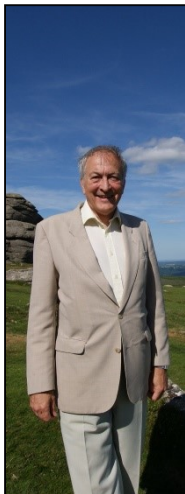
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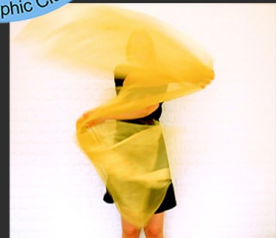
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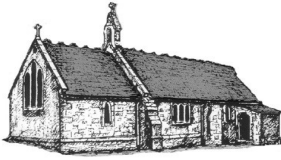
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St Gabriel, Postbridge

For contact information, ministers and church officers please see front of the Link
Church Services—see **Page 22** for details or
www.ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/postbridge

Date	Time	Service
25th Feb	18.00	Evening Worship

Postbridge Church is open all day, every day. You are welcome to visit at any time – an opportunity to sit quietly, say a prayer and enjoy our beautiful building.

Any queries, please contact **Rt Revd Mark Rylands** (Team Rector) 01364 716309
mark.rylands@mmuk.net



Postbridge Coffee Morning

Our next coffee mornings will
 be held on
**Monday 5th February and
 Monday 4th March**
 at 11am in
Postbridge Village Hall
Maureen

POSTBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

Welcome you all to our monthly
 Coffee Shop & Mini Market

Monday 19th February
11.00am - 12.30pm

Raffle, Stalls - local meat, produce,
 cards, books, puzzles, craft etc

If you are interested in bringing your
 stall, trade or charity
 please call **Sue on 01822 880223**

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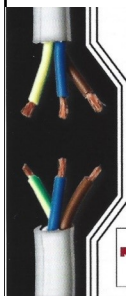
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Buckland Community Hall

The Community Hall at Buckland in the Moor is available to hire. It is a modern building set in a quiet and beautiful location and has parking.

The charge for hiring the hall is
Parishioners £8 per hour
Others £10 per hour

For further details or to book, please call
01364 653845

Buckland-in-the-Moor Church Service

Sunday 4th February 2024

There will not be the usual 3.00pm service. Buckland's congregation have been invited to join the Pilgrimage from Leusdon to Poundsgate Methodist Chapel.

You can either walk the 1.5 mile route to the Chapel for the service, or just attend the service in the Methodist Chapel at 3.00pm.

Buckland-in-the-Moor Whist



12.30pm Optional soup and a roll lunch £2 at 2.00pm
Whist £3 including half-time refreshments & draw



Thursday 22nd February

Whist every fourth Thursday in the month.

PHYL'S FOLLIES

RED

A fun pantomime for all the family
Performances begin 7.30pm
on 25th, 26th January, 1st, 2nd & 3rd February 2024
Matinee on Saturday 27th January at 2pm
At Postbridge Village Hall
Tickets available from 5th December (£8 adults, £4 children)
Ice creams must be ordered in advance, £2 each
Box office postbridgepanto@gmail.com
or ring 01822 880223

Church Services for February 2024

4th February 2nd before Lent Green

Readings - Proverbs 8.1, 22–31, Psalm 104.26–37, Colossians 1.15–20, John 1.1–14

Widcombe	10.30	Candlemas Service	Ashburton	08.00	Holy Communion (BCP)
			Bickington	09.00	Holy Communion
			Ashburton	10.30	Candlemas Service
			Illesington	10.30	Holy Communion
			Buckland	15.00	Holy Communion

11th February Sunday before Lent Green

Readings - 2 Kings 2.1–12, Psalm 50.1–6, 2 Corinthians 4.3–6, Mark 9.2–9

Widcombe	10.30	Parish Communion	Illesington	08.00	Holy Communion (BCP)
Leusdon	12.00	Parish Communion	Ashburton	10.30	Parish Communion
			Illesington	10.30	Family Service
			Ashburton	15.00	Moor & Messy Church
			Holne	18.00	Holy Communion

18th February 1st of Lent Purple

Readings - Genesis 9.8–17, Psalm 25.1–9, 1 Peter 3.18–22, Mark 1.9–15

Widcombe	10.30	Parish Communion	Huccaby	09.00	Holy Communion
Leusdon	12.00	Parish Communion	Ashburton	10.30	Family Communion
			Illesington	10.30	Holy Communion
			Bickington	10.30	Morning Worship
			Buckland	15.00	Evening Prayer
			Ashburton	18.30	Celtic Reflective Service, St Petroc's*

20th February

Widcombe	19.00	Licensing of Rev. Ross Hathway
----------	-------	--------------------------------

25th February 2nd of Lent Purple

Readings - Genesis 17.1–7, 15, 16, Psalm 22.23–31, Romans 4.13–25, Mark 8.31–38

Widcombe	10.30	Parish Communion	Ashburton	09.30	Breakfast Church
Leusdon	12.00	Parish Communion	Ashburton	10.30	Parish Communion
Postbridge	18.00	Evening Worship	Illesington	10.30	Morning Praise
22			Holne	17.00	Evening Worship
			Ashburton	19.00	Moor Worship

Holy Communion

Midweek & At Home

There is a service of
Holy Communion every Wednesday
at 10.30
 at St. Andrew's Church in Ashburton
 You will be most welcome!.



Communion at home
 If you would like to receive Home
 Communion please contact Mark
 (see page 2 for contact details)

Dates for the Diary

February 2024			Page	February 2024			Page
1st	Widecombe PC		25	10th	Widecombe Church Concert		24
2nd	Holne Soup & Cheese Lunch		9	10th	Bickington Community Lunch		37
5th	Postbridge Coffee Morning		19	11th	Parish Link Deadline		
6th	Holne Whist		9	13th	Leusdon Whist		13
6th	Biodiversity Talk, Holne		8	14th	Dunstone Charity Lunch		35
6th	Princetown History Group		37	16th	Valentine's Dinner & Dance		26
6th	Photography Exhibition		17	19th	Postbridge Mini-Market		19
7th	Leusdon Coffee Morning		13	22nd	Buckland Whist		21
7th	Widecombe History Group		29				

Rainfall in December 2023

Place	Total Rainfall	Days without rain	Wettest Days
Postbridge	280.3mm (11.0")	2	3rd 27.6mm (1.1") 9th 20.0mm (0.8")
	(December 2022 - 292.4mm (11.5"))		
Holne	387.1mm (15.24")		27th 44.9mm (1.77")



Total Rainfall in 2023

Place	Total Rainfall 2022	Total Rainfall 2023
Postbridge	1742.3mm (68.7")	2143.0mm (84.1")
Holne	2040.4mm (80.33")	2582.8mm (101.68")



Widecombe & District Sports Group



For membership renewals please email cl.partridge@hotmail.co.uk or tel: 621468.

Alternatively membership forms can be found in the noticeboard by the court.

Regular Bookings: Tuesday & Thursday: Tennis Adults (16+) 6.30 Under 16's with ability are welcome to these sessions with a parent who is also playing.

For queries re tennis phone Di Cameron on 621218.

Please remember to wear soft soled shoes and to leave the court tidy with the net replaced. Report any damage immediately to Claire Partridge (Secretary) on 621468. Close all gates and replace the keys.

For more information about WDSG visit www.widecombe-in-the-moor.com/sports_group/

Thank you and enjoy your sports area.

Widecombe Church House Management Committee Chairman - Mike Pascoe

To book the Hall please contact Rose Mortimore 01364 631238.

Rates of Hire

Local Events: £6.00 per hour

Non-local Events: £10.00 per hour

Non-local commercial events: £100.00 per day

For any other rates please contact the Bookings Secretary

Payment by cheque is preferred.

Cheques to be made payable to Widecombe Church, House Fund and send to Sarah Reeve,

Bonehill Cottage,
Bonehill Lane,
Widecombe-in-the-Moor,
TQ13 7TD

For all other matters relating to the Church House please contact Diana Cameron on 01364 621218

FERIO SAXOPHONE QUARTET

St Pancras Church
Widecombe

Saturday 10th February 2024 6pm

In aid of the organ replacement project

Tickets available from Rugglestone Inn or Café on the Green. £15 each, non reserved seating. Or at the door.

Reserved seating £20 per ticket, via mikebrown007@hotmail.com

Drinks available for purchase beforehand and during the interval. *Payment with cash only.*

Handel, Elgar, Bernstein, Gershwin and more

"Unalloyed delight....irresistible exuberance"
Financial Times

www.Feriosax.co.uk





St Pancras, Widecombe-in-the-Moor

For contact information, ministers and church officers please see front of the Link
Church Services—see Page 22 for details or
<https://ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/widecombe-1>

Date	Time	Sidesperson	Coffee	Flowers
4th Feb	10.30	Dawn	Brenda Boston	Jenny P
11th Feb	10.30	Wendy Beard	Audrey and Ali	Jenny P
18th Feb	10.30	Philly	Philly and Michael	None (Lent)
20th Feb	19.00	Clare	The welcoming and Licensing of Ross Hathway	
25th Feb	10.30	Debbie	Debbie Dracup	None (Lent)

Widecombe Church is open all day, every day, 9-5. You are welcome to visit at any time – an opportunity to sit quietly, say a prayer and enjoy our beautiful building.
Any queries, please contact **Rt Revd Mark Rylands** (Team Rector) 01364 716309
mark.rylands@mmuk.net

Widecombe Parish Council
Next Meeting
Thursday 1st February 2024
in the Church House at 7.30pm



 **Widecombe Fair**


The Widecombe Fair Committee Company invite organisations to apply for small grants which will be considered at the March meeting.

All requests must be made in writing or emailed to the Chairman:

Mike Pascoe
Wooder Bungalow, TQ13 7TR.
pascoewooder@yahoo.co.uk



From the Posties



*Another Christmas done and dusted,
Apart from me van...nothing busted!
The weather didn't help, t'was awful wet,
The Kids wanted some snow, I'll bet!
I'm just glad I could deliver the post,
'Cause this is the time I enjoy the most!
So, thankyou to you, for all your gifts,
My heart received so many lifts!*

Mike 'The Post'



Widecombe Community Hall CIO invites you to a

VALENTINE'S DINNER & DANCE

The Old Inn
Widecombe-in-the-Moor
February 16th 2024
7:30pm
with music from
'Go Tell Alice'



Tickets are £30 for two course meal & coffee
Tickets available from: chrismayhead@gmail.com
or from widecombecommunityhall.org



PreSchool (2-5years)

Tue 9:15am - 3pm

Wed 9:15am - 12:45pm

Fri 9:15am - 3pm

See website for fees and funding info.

Widdytots (Newborn-5years)

Parent & Child sessions

On the last Monday of the month that falls in term time. 9:30am - 11:30am
Relaxed informal group with drinks and snacks. £3 per child, £1 sibling.

"You can tell how much the staff love the preschool by how much they put in to it and in return how much the children love them!"

Our PreSchool is set in the heart of Widecombe with weekly music, yoga, cooking and lots of exploring and play!

We also have a fantastic sensory garden, space to dig, grow vegetables and pick fruit.

Our outdoor classroom is run every Wednesday in our field nearby where we cook over an open fire, hunt for bugs and swing in the trees!

www.widecombepreschool.org.uk

Info@widecombepreschool.org.uk
(01364) 621273

'Our children have both thrived at Widecombe exploring the various outside spaces and taking adventure walks around the local fields'

Widcombe Christmas Tree Festival Results

The Christmas Tree Festival was held in the Church from the 9th to the 17th December 2023, it proved a great success, with visitors from all over the country as well as a several from overseas, visitors from the USA who came in early one morning, were “doing” Dartmoor in a day! Some lovely young Language Students are going to take the idea back to their countries, Italy and Switzerland, they told us they have nothing like it in their countries. The couple from Kent who come every year to see the Festival came back again, it is always lovely to see them. Penny’s flags were, as always a great success, with flags going as far as Australia this year!

The theme this year was “Animals” which as usual, was interpreted in many different ways, we were especially thrilled to have Sir David Attenborough’s approval! (See last month’s Link)

The results were:

ADULT’S TREES

- 1st Widcombe Kiosk (Mary)
- 2nd Parish Link, Debbie & Fiona & the Church Mouse!
- 3rd Lizwell Workshops
- 4th Widcombe Sewing Circle

CHILDREN’S TREES

- 1st Widcombe Primary
- 2nd Widcombe Pre-school
- 3rd Widdy tots
- 4th McAfee Family

SMALL TREES

- 1st Cafe on the Green
- 2nd Mike “The Post”
- 3rd Widcombe History Group
- 4th Shop on the Green, Elaine

Other participants:

Jacqueline Welby

Leusdon Church

Dunstone Chapel

Hedgehogs Toddler Group

Heatree Activity Centre

Ann Murphy

St. Gabriel’s Church, Postbridge

Shallowford Farm Trust

Ilington Village Shop

Choice Words, Katherine Walcot

Judy Southcombe

Dartmoor Hill Ponies

Over the course of the Festival we had a collection for “Asperations” charity number 1132344, the collections from the Carol Service, Crib Service, the Christmas Day Service and the Widcombe Whist Drive also went to Asperations, we were able to present them personally with a cheque for £1,331.27, it was wonderful to be able to do this and meet the people there, they were extremely grateful and said it would make a big difference to them.

Thank you to EVERYONE concerned with the

Festival, the Participants, the many Stewards and especially David, who unlocks and locks up the Church everyday, and puts all the many lights on the trees on and off every time!

Judy



Who was St Pancras and how many Churches in Devon are dedicated to him?

A question often asked by visitors to the church. Referring them to the article on the “Church Guide” which sets out who St Pancras was and why he was “canonised” by the Church Authorities following his execution in AD 313.

It was 250 years later that Pope Gregory authorised St Augustine to come to England to convert the Anglo-Saxon population to Christianity. Augustine arrived in Canterbury in AD 597 and was successful in converting Ethelred the Anglo Saxon King and thus starting to bring Christianity back to England. When he arrived Augustine had with him relics of St Pancras which Pope Gregory considered would be of help to Augustine in his preaching. This led to one of the very first churches founded by Augustine to be dedicated to St Pancras.

Today there are 14 churches in England dedicated to St Pancras including four in Devon.



Exeter



Pancrasweek



Plymouth



Widecombe



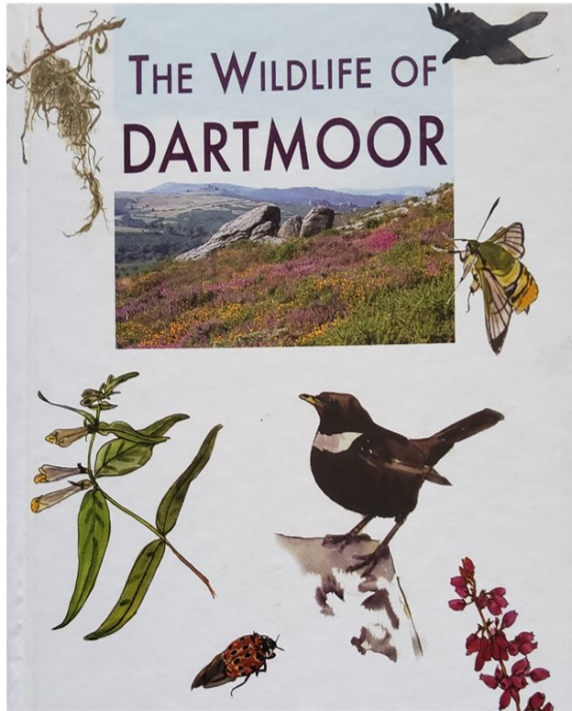
Rousdon

A fifth church at Rousdon in East Devon dedicated to St Pancras has been deconsecrated and converted into residential accommodation.

On the ‘Historic Church Website’ it is claimed St Pancras Church at Widecombe in the Moor is one of the most visited churches in England

David Ashman

WILDLIFE OF DARTMOOR



WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 7TH 7.30PM

A talk from John Walters, passionate naturalist, artist, radio and TV personality, whose work features in many publications.

COME AND JOIN US IN THE HISTORIC CHURCH HOUSE,
WIDECOMBE IN THE MOOR

EVERYONE WELCOME

DOORS OPEN 7PM FOR 7.30PM START. £3 DONATION

Coming up next – March 6th – History and wildlife of Stover

(Please note that talks may be subject to change after this notice has been published.)

Widcombe History Group Registered charity No. 1144684

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Widcombe Parish Council

Invitation to bid for the Sheep Grazing in the Parish Field for 2024



The Parish Council is offering a Licence to graze sheep in the Parish Field from March to November 2024 and is inviting bids for this grazing.

Please note:

- The field is planted with Apple Trees in wire guards which is why only sheep are to be grazed.
- There will be a minimum of three 2-week periods in the year when the field must be clear of sheep for events being held by the Jubilee Orchard Committee. There will be at least 6 weeks notice given of the date for each event.
- The Licensee will be required to prove valid current Public Liability Insurance

PLEASE ALSO NOTE THAT THE FIELD NOW HAS A WATER SUPPLY

Bids must be submitted by **29th February**.

Please submit your bid to the Parish Clerk, Suzanna Hughes

Email: suzanna.hughes21@gmail.com or

Write: Mrs S Hughes, Widcombe PC, 16 Westwood Cleave, Ogwell, Newton Abbot, TQ12 6YE



Mobile Post Office Every Monday

(excl Bank Holidays)

Widcombe 10.00 - 11.30
Green Car Park, next to Café On the Green
Postbridge 12.30 - 14.00
Top of Dartmoor National Park visitors Car Park
Walkhampton 15.00 - 17.00
Village Hall, Main Car Park



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Widcombe Singers

.....if you want to join the Singers they rehearse at

The Church House, Widcombe
on

Tuesday evenings at 8pm
Admission £3

Telephone Rose 01364 631238 for anymore details.....



Add your Voice

News from the East Shallowford Trust



'Everyone keeps complaining about the cold weather. Can't they remember what it was like last week? Rain, rain, nothing but rain for days and days? You can do anything in this cold weather. It's just cold!' said the very sweet man at Mole Valley who was loading up my car with chicken feed. He was right of course. The weeks before, Will had not been able to deliver straw as it was so ferociously windy that the devilish air would have whipped it up and tossed it with laughter all over the moors. Our pigs and chickens would have been left shivering as their pens were buffeted by this not playful, but seriously dangerous wind. It was battering the moors if not the whole country. I stopped a few times to lift branches and rocks off the road, glad for solid walls that sheltered the car and sheep who hunkered down to veritably cling to the ground in fear of being tossed and spun up and across the land



Robert carefully maneuvering through the snow dusted yard.

It's these extremes 'they' tell us will become the norm with Climate Change. Having said that, a few glances in those good books and documents on Dartmoor tell us that the moors and rocks have seen so very much since they exploded from the earth's centre about 280 million years ago. What are a few days of blasting wind and spear like rain? It is man's quarrying and building that makes the biggest difference. Dartmoor rocks to the Arizona Desert? That will raise some geological eyebrows in the future should all the paperwork and stories be lost

I do love the look on children's, if not their leaders faces when we stand on a hill, surveying all that is around, throwing arms out wide and breathing in the deep fresh air. Or stopping to look up the sides of the valley in a wide expanse to open eyes and seek the dancing clouds across the horizon. Then to pronounce as if by accident and somewhat incidentally 'You know, all this is not natural. It's all man made!' The look on their faces is just priceless! The commitment to come to 'the great outdoors, 'the unknown', the 'wilderness' and then, 'What?' We have to grin! Then begins the tale of Dartmoor, humans and the real colonisation of the wilds.

In spring we can quite successfully forage nettles, sorrel, cow parsley, fat hen – the list is endless and the childrens' faces are curious often repugnant at the thought that we might just scoup up our food from under our feet. But you can see why everyone came off the moors in winter. Yes, you might find a rabbit to stew or have saved a few sweet chestnuts from the valleys to roast, but on a day to day basis..... if you had feet and could walk, it would have been much more sensible to walk down to the beach, pick some seaweed, fish and survive on the easy catches. Why would you not protect the feet of your cows and sheep which might gain some debilitating infection if stuck in slurping mud for days on end?

Animals got off the moors in the old days, down the drovers lanes, the Green lanes, the paths to safer places. Those days lasted four or five thousand years? We had choices when we were not confined by modern economics and Govt regulations. We think us modern people are clever..... but sometimes we have to wonder?

Dartmoor in winter is fantastic, with the warm light often bouncing from the underside of clouds to create a fleeting soft orange glow in the morning.

(Continued on page 34)

Rolling Along ...



Rolling Along ... the email newsletter for Widecombe in the Moor - bringing you news of events in the village, with an emphasis on pictures and some longer stories that 'The Parish Link' does not have space for ...

- Why the 'Cathedral of the Moor' deserves a new organ - and how this will benefit the village over time ...
- Widecombe Singers with **Jim Causley** revive the tradition of Wassailing in the Jubilee Orchard ... details of the event
- Details of a Saxophone Concert in St Pancras Church on 10th February ...

And more about Renowned Artist and Author **John Walters** who is speaking on 'Wildlife on Dartmoor' on 7th February in the Church House

Sign up for FREE at Widecombe.substack.com

We are based on the substack platform, a commercial venture. But 'Rolling Along' is free to residents of Widecombe and always will be!

The sign-up page may invite you to 'make a pledge' in support - but Rolling Along does not accept pledges, so please skip past this page. You can unsubscribe at any time.



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(continued from page 32)

Other days it shoos humans indoors scuttling for warmth whilst our ponies Scrappy and Girlie seem totally unperturbed. How did humans end up with such a pathetic body that we have to hide indoors, stitch skins and wool together and cut down trees or dig up oil in order to keep us warm? What differentiates us from the ponies, who can tolerate the extreme weather or hedgehogs that curl up



White Tip, like many Mother's, enjoying the delights of her cheeky, frolicking piglets

and sleep throughout the cold. Esther Boserup would say, 'Necessity is the Mother of invention!' Because we came out of Africa about 70,000 years ago with thin skins adapted for warmer climes we HAD to invent or die. We had learned to hunt that developed our brains, we learned to cook that improved our digestion and theoretically our cognitive skills. A trajectory that enabled us to speak about 50,000 years ago, then passing on learned skills until PING..... in the modern world we can learn, store and pass on the information to share and increase knowledge at ever dizzying speed. The accumulation and sharing of knowledge. Is that what divides us from the natural world?

Every now and then some child or adult will say, 'we are not animals' and I have to stop and try to understand where that thought comes from. A sense of human superiority? A certain interpretation of faith? If humans believe they are better than the world on which we depend, if we believe our existence to be more important than anything else, then, yes, all the trees get cut down and we remould the world. We create Dartmoors, which do host life, but at the time humans cut down the trees (I know I'm simplifying) people had no awareness of the impact of their actions.

(continued on page 35)



Dunstone & Poundsgate Methodist Chapels

Ministers: Rev'd Kevin Hooke (01626) 832369

Church contacts: Nigel Davis (01364) 631476 or Serena Walcot (01364) 631279

Sunday Service

Dunstone - Informal service at 3pm in Dunstone Chapel every week and all are welcome.

Poundsgate - On **Sunday 4th February** we meet at **2pm** for a Pilgrim walk from Leusdon Parish Church to the Chapel, with Songs of Praise at **3pm** led by Revd. Kevin Hooke.

Dunstone Charity Lunches

The next lunch will be on **Wednesday 14th February from 12 noon until 3pm.**

As this month's lunch falls on Valentine's day our lunch is in aid of the
British Heart Foundation

There will be soup, bread, sushi, savory dishes, salads and cakes.

There is no set price, you are asked to make as generous a donation as possible for the charity we are collecting for.

Thank you to all those who came to the January Dunstone lunch in aid of the **Widcombe Community Hall**. Through your generosity we raised £86.50 and £86.50 for the Chapel, this is very much appreciated.

Please support our lunch to make it worthwhile putting it on.

(continued from page 34)

We did not know that cutting the trees down in America would cause a mini ice age in the Victorian period in Europe (at least this is one theory). Driven by need to survive, for food and then when mining became important, the drive for economic gain, which is surely no more than survival stepped up a notch. Not just surviving but learning to live, to keep learning and enjoy the life we have been given. Do ponies enjoy life, the pigs we breed, the cows and sheep? We know they are happy when they skip and jump for joy. We know they are unhappy when separated from their young or in pain. We hold the responsibility for their happiness when they are in our care, but then we *have to care*. The children learn that when they stay with us. They gain empathy transformed often out of fear. Reaching out to touch the enquiring nose of a cow for the very first time Which of the two creatures is more scared? Cow or child? One can walk away, the other can only back off and hide within it's herd. We all tend to retreat to comfortable known environments when faced with fear.

But humans are different. We face challenges and don't wait for a biological adaptation which might take several generations. We change the environment around us, to suit us. We have assumed the right to do this. No other species has the articulation to challenge our arrogant superiority, although there is a pod of Orcas somewhere off the Iberian peninsular who may have decided 'enough is enough'. Other animals succumb to our offer of food and bend to our demands becoming compliant and 'domesticated'. Trees grow where we plant them, bacteria thrive when we cluster together. But as we watch some of the young people driven by hormones they are merely reacting to, when world leaders puff out their chests and cause wars it's clear we are not so far from the gorillas in the mountains. Empathy, care, love and not being forced by economic demands. But how do we define what is 'right and good?' Ask a child with empathy!

Julia



MED Theatre presents



THE EXPERIMENT



Touring March 2024

Tickets, info & video description:



Fri 15th, 7:30pm & Sat 16th, 2:30pm* - Manaton Parish Hall
Tues 19th, 7:30pm - Winkleigh Village Hall
Wed 20th, 7:30pm - Buckfast, Southpark Community Centre
Fri 22nd & Sat 23rd, 7:30pm - Moretonhampstead Parish Hall

Tickets £6-8 Under 16s | £10-£14 Adults

*The matinee on Saturday 16th will be a relaxed performance



For more information:

www.medtheatre.co.uk

01647 441356 / info@medtheatre.co.uk

Part of MED Theatre's 'What If...?' project,
supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund

MED Theatre is a Registered Charity, no. 1119302



Other Community News and Events

Prinetown History Club

meets **1st Tuesday** of each month at
Prinetown Community Centre

7 for 7.30pm

February 6th A talk by Steve Fryer on
Yelverton and Harrowbeer

March 5th A talk by Paul Rendell, on the
construction of Burrator Reservoir

For further information, please contact:

Mr John Lissenden

phone 01752 47573

email jlissenden@talktalk.net

Mr Bill Radcliffe

email bill.radcliffe2@btopenworld.com

facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PrinetownHistoryClub/events>



High Moorland Women's Institute Prinetown

We are a small friendly group of 16 ladies based in Prinetown, but many of our members live outside. We try to support the community whenever we can and are always open to ideas and suggestions in this area.

We meet on the **FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH** in **PRINETOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE** at 7.30pm. Our meetings usually finish around 9 to 9.30pm.

BICKINGTON GOODWILL
COMMUNITY LUNCH CLUB

Once a month at Bickington Village Hall.
Everyone is welcome!

Delicious homemade soups, mains, puddings, tea, coffee and a monthly raffle. (Prize donations gratefully received!)

MIDDAY-2PM
(Second Saturday of each month)
13th JANUARY 2024
10th FEBRUARY 2024
9th MARCH 2024

Pay what you can (cash or card)
Supporting various charities each month.

INFO:
07458 359541

ASHBURTON AND BUCKFASTLEIGH HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

REG. CHARITY NO. 900416

Are you interested in helping your local community?

If so why not come and join your local League of Friends.

Our object is to relieve patients, former patients and those in our community who are convalescent, disabled, handicapped or infirm and generally to support the work of our local hospital.

For further information please contact us on:

07814 365531 or email

ashburtonleagueoffriends@outlook.com



ROTARY CLUB OF YELVERTON

2024 MIDWINTER UPDATE

During December we were pleased to be visiting our local Parishes with Santa and his sleigh, which always proves to be an enjoyable time warmly supported within the communities.

We also did static collections with the sleigh at Tesco Roborough and Tesco Tavistock, finally collecting on Saturday 23rd December at the Yelverton shopping forecourt on a cold, wet day.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all for the generous support given again this year raising £1936, which will go towards the spring tea party and the children’s fun day as well as other worthy causes we support.

Our January speaker evening was provided by five members from the West Devon organisation Nightingales UK Group, unpaid volunteers dedicated to providing much-needed medical aid to Ukraine hospitals, and sourcing 4 x 4 vehicles to deliver directly to the front line.

The commitment, dedication and putting this into action was an inspiration to us all.

Should you wish to find out more about Yelverton Rotary and our activities or perhaps considering joining please contact us via:

president@yelverton.rotary1175.org

Or see our website www.yelverton.rotary1175.org



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COMMUNITY BUNCH CLUB

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BICKINGTON VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAYS	13TH JAN 2024
12PM - 2PM	10TH FEB 2024
	9TH MARCH 2024

RAISING MONEY FOR LOCAL CHARITIES

INFO 07458 359541

BICKINGTON GOODWILL COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY CUPPA
and crafting!

EVERY THURSDAY 10AM - NOON

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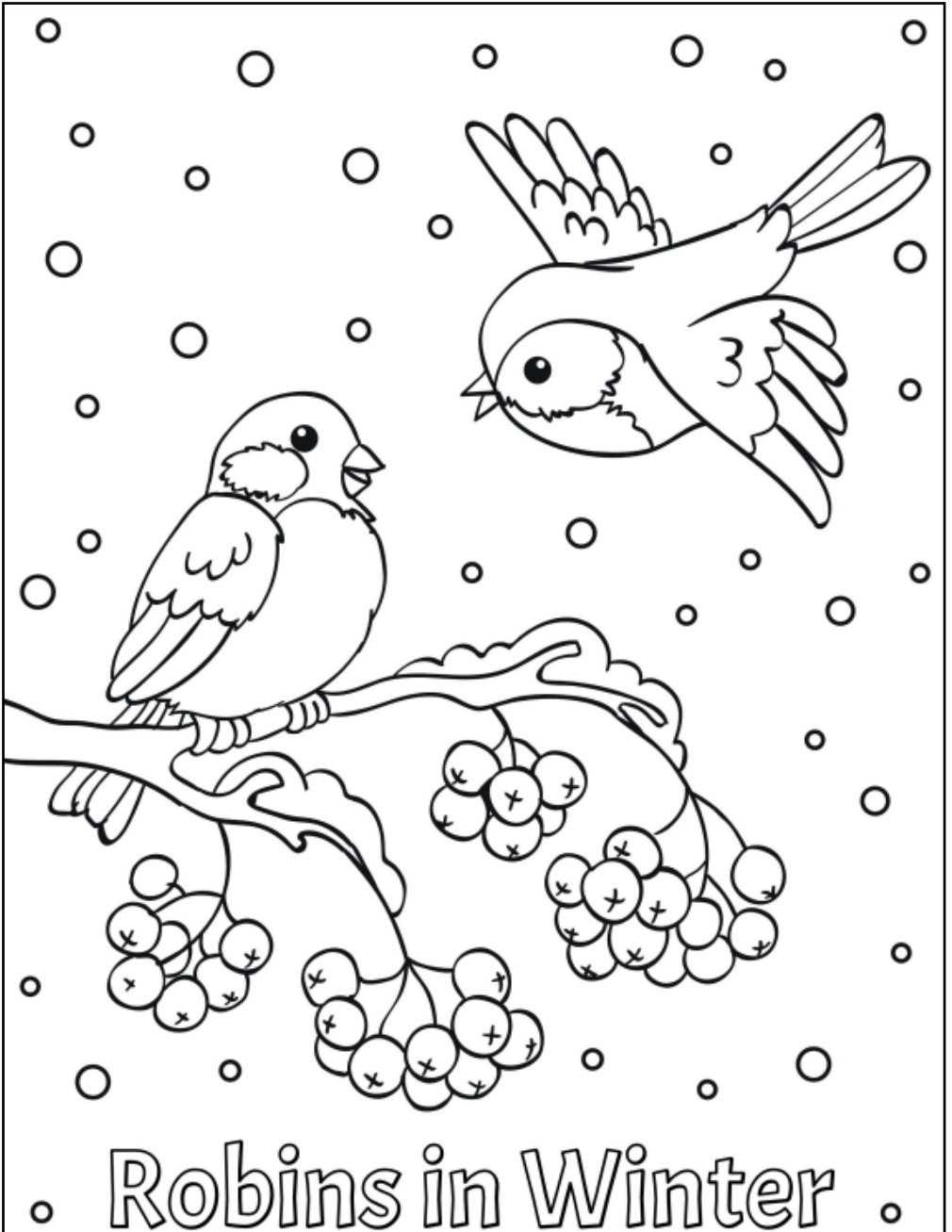
ALL WELCOME!

WHERE? BICKINGTON VILLAGE HALL
OLD HILL, TQ12 6JU

WHEN? EVERY THURSDAY 10AM-NOON

INFO: MICHAEL 07458 359 541 BICKINGTON GOODWILL COMMUNITY

Morning or afternoon, a picture to colour, to give busy parents and grandparents a break and to keep inquisitive minds busy!!



Business Directory

In each issue of the Parish Link we promote businesses across the Parish and surrounding area, these businesses support us and enable us to publish this magazine for the local community. If you are looking for a great local business then look below. Next to each business is the page where they appear in this issue. If you call them, please let them know you found them in the Parish Link.

Agricultural Services		Home Improvements	
Dartmoor Rural Services	20	Ashburton Glass & Locks	30
Architect Services		Clear Decorating	18
HMAD Architects	12	K Decorating	20
Mike Gilbert Architectural Design	14	Rochelle's Curtains & Blinds	18
Cleaning & Domestic Services		Hotels and Inns	
A Clean Pair	16	The Rugglestone	30
Ashburton Chimney Sweep	12	Legal Services	
Carroll Cleaning Services	14	Francis Parffrey	44
Community		Machinery for Hire	
Holne Second Hand Books	9	Digger and Dumper Hire	12
Computing		Plumbing and Heating Services	
Computer Services	20	MH Perry	16
Crafts / Produce		MTP Services Ltd	10
Scott Elson Chainsaw Carvings	34	Private Water Services	
Electrical Goods and Services		County Cleansing	8
Darryl Hutchinson	20	Property for sale / rent	
J Searle & Son	44	Luscombe Maye	10
Funeral Directors		Robert Williams Estate Agents	16
Christophers Family Funerals	8	Stores	
Morris Bros. Funeral Directors	14	Holne Community Shop	6
Garden Services		Tree Surgeons / Timber services	
Mole Problems	20	Anton Coaker	30
Health, Wellbeing & Beauty		Geoff Partridge	12
Moor Mobile Foot Clinic	38	Moor Logs	38
Sophie Edmonds Massage Therapy	20	Sam Hall Professional Tree Care	18
		Spike Milton Timber Services	8

Contacting the Editorial Team

Email items for inclusion or any other queries to: link@moorlandteam.org.uk

For items sent by post please use the following addresses:

Link Finances (donations, advertising fees, invoices etc)

All Other Correspondence

Parish Link Treasurer
c/o Way Park
Widcombe-in-the-Moor
Newton Abbot
Devon
TQ13 7TU

Parish Link
c/o Merry Park
Widcombe-in-the-Moor
Newton Abbot
Devon
TQ13 7TQ

Cheques payable to:
P C C Widcombe - Link Account

Thank you to all those who make donations to the Parish Link.

Commercial advertising and donations ensure that the Link continues to be provided free of charge throughout the Moorland Team.

If you would like to make a donation, please contact the editorial team.

Groups and Individuals who support the Parish Link

Dartmoor Forest Parish Council

Postbridge Village Hall

Friends of Widcombe School

Various anonymous donations

High Moorland WI

Widcombe Church House Committee

Holne Parish Council

Widcombe Community Hall CIO

Holne Second-Hand Books

Widcombe Fair Committee

Holne Village Hall Committee

Widcombe History Group

Leusdon Memorial Hall

Widcombe Social Group

Moorland Merrymakers

Widcombe Parish Council

Phyl's Follies (Postbridge)

Widcombe Sports Group

We are putting this edition of Parish Link together in the middle of the coldest spell so far this winter and finding it difficult to imagine February, snowdrops, crocuses and the first early daffodils, but we are confident they will come.

In the meantime we are getting our diaries out to note down some of the exciting events that are happening this February. There is a second concert in Widecombe Church (24) in aid of the new organ fund, which sounds as though it will be a great evening, and a pop-up photographic exhibition in Newton Abbot (17) featuring work by some of our local youngsters. For those looking to dance the night away the Valentine's Dinner and Dance (26) in aid of the new Community Hall sounds fun and having seen Go Tell Alice at last year's Fair, it is sure to be a great night.

Add to that all of the regular programme of clubs, talks, coffee mornings, community lunches and whist drives to take part in. If you haven't already given one of them a go this could be the perfect opportunity to do so.

As ever we are very grateful to our advertisers for their support for Parish Link - we literally couldn't do it without them - so do let them know if you contact them as a result of seeing their advert in here. If you know of anyone who is thinking about advertising in the Link please do encourage them to get in touch.

We are looking for a few new volunteers to distribute Parish Link to local households, especially in Holne, Scorrion and Combe (6), so if you feel you could help we would be pleased to hear from you.

As always, if you want to get in touch please just send an email via link@moorlandteam.org.uk

with best wishes from "The Link Team"

Parish Link Advertising Costs

Size	Size	Month	Year
Sixth Page	61x60mm	£7.50	£80
Quarter Page	61x92mm	£12	£125
Half Page	128x92mm	£20	£215
Full Page	128x192mm	£35	£380

Please contact the Editorial Team for information and availability of advertising space at link@moorlandteam.org.uk

Final Copy Deadline

For the **March 2024** edition of the Link, copy deadline will be **Sunday 11th February** but please send as early as you can by email.

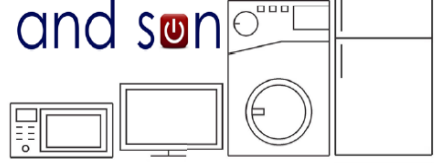
Next issue available on **Thursday 22nd February**

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