

NORTH DARTMOOR PARISHES

MAGAZINE

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2026



northdartmoorparishes.co.uk

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Final copy date for contributions for the March/April issue of the magazine is the 5th of February. Sooner is much preferred!

Please send contributions by email to:
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A View from the Rectory The Rt Revd Nicholas McKinnel



RING OUT THE OLD, RING IN THE NEW!

A new year gives the opportunity to reflect, to think back over the joys and sorrows of the year that is past, and to look forward with anticipation to the year ahead. Each year brings its happy memories and its sadnesses, its hopes and its regrets, its twin imposters of triumph and disaster.

After the advertisers have finished promoting gym memberships, fashionable diets and exotic holidays, and commentators have given their gloomy economic forecasts and political predictions, most of us will no doubt settle back into that familiar pattern of laughter and tears, successes and disappointments, that mixed up existence which makes up our lives.

I remember a head teacher once describing his school at me as "a place where children could learn to fail". In that he would be supported by the educationalist Paul Tough who argues that when children aren't given the opportunity to fail

"productively and creatively", they are more likely to fall apart when they encounter real difficulty later in life.

Surprisingly perhaps, it is from our disappointments that our characters are formed and we learn the most. I lose track of the various

failures in my life: failing driving tests, dropping catches, losing big fish, unsuccessful job applications. I have let people down, made poor decisions, ignored good advice and eaten too many crisps. I wish I was the person my spaniel thinks I am.

Fortunately forgiveness and redemption are part of the Christian faith. In the light of God's grace, failure is something that I can acknowledge - and then move on. To know we are forgiven frees us from guilt, self-pity and resentment. It also allows us to forgive others their failures.

Jesus invites us to pray, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who have trespassed against us" and goes on to say, "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who ill-treat you. If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also."

To be able to acknowledge our failures and so to be able to forgive ourselves and others is one of God's great gifts to our humanity. **It would be a wonderful way to start 2026.**

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Parishes Registers

November

Funerals	05/11/2025	Jasmine Joan Boswell Hatfield DARCH	South Tawton
	17/11/2025	Irene Mary KNOWLES	Spreyton
	21/11/2025	Shirley OSBORN	South Tawton
Thanksgiving	17/01/2026	Timothy DUDMAN	Chagford

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Moretonhampstead	01647 440482
Spreyton	01647 231321
Okehampton College	01837 650910

Announcement of Appointment of Helen Blaine as the new Associate Priest within North Dartmoor Parishes

We are pleased to announce that the Reverend Helen Blaine has been appointed Associate Priest in the North Dartmoor Parishes. Helen is presently Rector of Broadwoodkelly, Brushford and Winkleigh and Priest-in-Charge of Ashreigney in North Devon. As in her present ministry, Helen will serve on a half-time basis while continuing her academic research in theology and liturgy.



Helen is married to Alastair, a Royal Navy chaplain. As experienced walkers, the couple already know the North Dartmoor landscape well, having recently climbed their 108th Dartmoor tor. Helen and Alastair will move to Moretonhampstead Rectory next February and, subject to the completion of all legal formalities, Helen will be licensed as Associate Priest on Wednesday, March 4th at a service at St Andrew's, Moretonhampstead at which all will be welcome. ■

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LUSTLEIGH

Sarah Vantreen 01647 277411 or sarahvantreen@gmail.com

MANATON

Booking Secretary: Caroline Hart 01647 221445
manatonbooking@gmail.com

MORETONHAMPSTEAD

Parish Hall: Brenda 01647 440755
Moreton Community Club: Becky Beesley 01647 440428
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NORTH BOVEY

Contact Sarah Loughton email: sarahloughton14@gmail.com 07919532292

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Contact Lesley Terrell; lesleyterrell17@gmail.com

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Contact Victory Hall: southzealvictoryhall@gmail.com

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WHIDDON DOWN

Sandra Bellamy

whiddondownvillagehall79@gmail.com

News from the Worldwide Church

Rev. Dr. Harriet Every

Dark Days in Nigeria

Nigeria is a large and populous West African country whose 220 million people include many different and diverse cultures, peoples and languages including Yoruba, Igbo, Hausa, Edo and English. It is rich in natural resources especially oil and natural gas.

Approximately 46.3% of Nigerians are Christian and just over 50% are Muslim (mostly Sunni) with the remaining minority following traditional African religions. The majority of Christians live in the south of the country while Islam is much more dominant in the north and it is here that some Christians have found themselves under attack, both by Jihadist groups like Boko Haram and by criminal gangs.

The tensions and violence in the north first gained worldwide attention in April 2014 when 276 female students were abducted from the Government Girls Secondary School in the town of Chibok in Borno State by Boko Haram. Many girls have subsequently escaped or been rescued but over 100 are still missing.

In the last decade there have been several more school abductions carried out by both Islamic militants and by criminal gangs who have discovered that abductions can be a profitable enterprise and have garnered large sums of money from the payment of ransoms. Such payments have now been outlawed by the Nigerian government in an effort to curb this activity.



The most recent large-scale attack took place at St. Mary's Catholic and Secondary School in Papiri in the early hours of Friday 21st November when 303 pupils and 12 members of staff were abducted. Since then more than 50 girls have managed to escape but the vast majority are still unaccounted for. The identity and motivation of the armed group who attacked the school has not yet been ascertained.

There is certainly a lack of security in parts of northern Nigeria and there are examples of anti Christian violence attacks on churches but there is a lot of violence that is criminally motivated.

Since the attack on St. Mary's school there has been an attack on another school where 20 girls, all Muslim, were abducted and an attack on a church in Kwara state where 2 people were killed and 38 members of the congregation were abducted. In the latter case the gunmen have demanded a ransom of 100 million naira (roughly \$69,000) for each worshipper.

The Nigerian government is reluctant to accept that the violence has a religious dimension or that there is any persecution of Christians. A government spokesperson is quoted as saying: "Terrorists attack all who reject their murderous ideology – Muslims, Christians and those of no faith alike." ■

Pilgrimage News

Our plans for a pilgrimage to Greece from 14th to 23rd September 2026 are progressing well and we have a number of people who have signed up for the trip, but we could still do with a few more so please contact me (Harriet 01647 432402) or Rita Bullworthy (01837 89168) for more details if you are at all interested.



Corinth – all those places to which St. Paul addressed his epistles, so I am almost tempted to call it the Pen-friends Tour! WE will also visit some classical sites and other places of interest such as the spectacular Meteora Monasteries, the Corinth Canal and the city of Athens.

We will be travelling in a comfortable air-conditioned coach and staying some lovely hotels so it will definitely be a holiday as well as a spiritual journey and a great opportunity to travel with friends from all our parishes. ■

We will be following in the footsteps of St. Paul and visiting the places where the very first European Christians lived and learning something of their lives in places such as Philippi, Thessaloniki and

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News from Moreton St Andrew's

The best news of the past few weeks has been the appointment of a new associate priest, Helen Blaine, to live in Moreton Rectory. This must have been about the shortest vacancy period that many of us in the benefice have experienced in recent years. Find out more about Helen on Page 4.



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We have had a very steady few months at St. Andrews, with a few successful fundraising events, starting with a 60's coffee morning. It was to celebrate the 60th Wedding Anniversary of a couple and everyone charged 60p for everything. This caused quite a bit of confusion when giving out change, but a lot of fun and laughter was had by all and £550 raised

The start of December brought the Christmas Fair and the Christmas Tree Festival, both very successful and enjoyed by everyone that attended. The trees were decorated by local organisations, businesses and even some individuals, and it was enchanting to see how different they were. It was a joy to the senses, with the decorations and the church smelling very strongly of pine. Our hearing was even stimulated by the near torrential rain and terrible weather being thrown at us all weekend. Despite this it was lovely to see so many people attend these events where we raised more than £1700 for the church.

The torrential rain reminded me of a saying that my Mum used to tell me 'That God was cleaning his floor when it rains! Well, those floors will be more than spotless by now and maybe he can have a day of rest!

We are now looking forward to a quieter January where we can take a breather and start thinking about Lent. Best wishes to all the readers for a fantastic and happy 2026 ■





Kevin Hardie

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News from the Farm

What a vast array of weather happenings we have experienced over the last couple of months. From working in tee-shirt sleeves to digging out the thermal vests and leggings of late. We are always amazed at how well the animals cope with the daily changes, us being lucky that we can layer up or down as needed. So what is happening down on the farm at this time of year?

We run three different feeding systems through the winter with the cattle on our farm. The three systems being

moorland cattle, housed cattle and fodder beet outwintering. Our Hill cows who are hardy, and at their happiest roaming the moorlands of the Inner Chagford commons, can tell when the season changes and bring themselves home for extra hay supplementation – these ladies and their babies know the area so very well, teaching it to the next generation. These are the group of cows with the tracker neck collars on and are currently on rough grazing land supporting environmental conservation, essentially replicating the role of wild herbivores that once roamed the land. Cows tend to have a non-selective eating style (wrapping their tongues around plants and pulling them up) which creates a diverse range of vegetation heights and open patches of bare soil, which is perfect for a wide range of wildflowers, insects and ground nesting birds. An aim we are really trying to work with on the farm. Cows regenerate new growth by leaving footprints on the ground where seeds can fall into and germinate and for different micro-habitats to form. Without these cows grazing that land, it would be smothered by bracken and gorse. Our housed cattle tend to be our older cows, slightly leaner ladies or cows that have reared twins – these cows are fed home grown silage and have the comfort of rubber mattress, which is lovely and springy – it's a lovely sight when you walk into the shed first thing and they are all fast asleep in their beds! We have trialled growing fodder beet for the last four years and have been very impressed with its performance. The cows really love the crop and come racing to the front every morning. We give them a fresh patch of the field by moving the electric fence daily – not a job for the faint hearted, having cows breathing down your neck whilst walking amongst giant fodder beets has its amusing moments. It has become a running joke with a

score board recording the slips and slides – Lydia 6, Geoff 4 and Nicky 1!!! These cows have a grassy field to sleep in with homegrown haylage given alongside the fodder beet giving them a balanced diet.

We have been calf rearing – why I hear you ask? Well, we are trying to grow the herd and to increase the bottom line, so we have purchased some baby calves to rear by hand.

The key to healthy calves is attention to detail, having a good vet, bucketloads of patience and strong arm muscles!!

We don't have the luxury of hot water in the sheds.... yet (I'm working on that and may have added it to my Christmas list along with concrete!! Oh, what a treat it would be for a concrete lorry to rock up to the farm on Christmas morning!). Rearing calves currently consists of carrying lots of hot water and whisking and mixing milk powder and then lugging said prepared milk over 5 bar gates and into the feeder to feed hungry calves that are rather keen and then get so excited that they then tend to try and bypass the feeder and go straight for the bucket! Needless to say, calf feeding is probably one of our favourite jobs on the farm but it's a messy one. Our neighbours walked past during feeding the other day and I could just smell the milk and milk powder in my hair – good look hey?? The aim with the calves is to feed them a good quality milk replacer, alongside a balanced pellet and adlib straw forage. Straw is fed, rather than hay to help with physical action of the 'scratch factor'. The physical abrasion from fibrous feed that simulates proper development of the rumen lining improving nutrient absorption

and promoting healthy microbial growth for better digestion and growth. It's a key part of getting calves eating dry feed early, helping them transition from milk to solid food and develop a robust digestive system. This batch of calves will be weaned off milk shortly and moved into barns, their shed disinfected ready for a new batch in Christmas week.

We have been lucky to have a few surprises in the form of baby lambs – keen rams and unusual weather patterns have been blamed rather than farmer error of leaving a gate open!!

We hope you all have had a happy and peaceful Christmas
Cheers from the Arscotts aka the Great Weeke lot!

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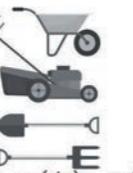
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News from North Bovey parish St John the Baptist

North Bovey Belles W.I.

Jan / Feb 2026 Programme

After a hectic programme of events in 2025, including cinema & theatre trips, a festive get together leading up to a visit to Exeter Cathedral for their wonderful Christmas Carol concert, it's now time to pause & think about New Year Resolutions. One resolution which is easy to keep is to come along to the North Bovey Belles who kick off 2026 with a lively debate on its topical resolutions for discussion at national level. Come along & let your voice be heard in a warm friendly atmosphere.

You may also wish to make a note in your diary for a very tasty treat when Liz Gavrilenko (right) will visit us with tempting ideas on delicious goodies on February 12th.



The North Bovey Belles meets @ 7.30pm in the Parish Hall North Bovey on the second Thursday of each month. We look forward to seeing you there. ■

Community Walk

During a week of very wet weather, 12 of us met at Dartmeet. The East Dart river was in spate and roaring down the valley!

We set off north, up river, through plenty of mud eventually arriving at the confluence of the East Dart and the Wallabrook and here we turned off to walk up the Wallabrook passing an old clapper bridge with the water cascading underneath. Having found an area of grassland and a wooden bench, (!), we paused for coffee admiring the lovely autumn colours. Having negotiated another clapper bridge we came to a lane and had a bit of relief from wading through mud! Uphill on tarmac we went to the hamlet of Sherril, one of the ancient tenements of Dartmoor having been in existence since the Doomsday Book. What thick granite walls and what stories these could tell!

We returned a short way before picking up a footpath over fields and then over a wooden bridge followed by another large field before climbing out over a stile and on to the flank of Yar Tor. We headed through the gorse and bracken admiring a prehistoric kistvaen and then headed for Sharp Tor.

Filming for a film called Wer Wulf was taking place on this Tor with lorries and fake medieval cottages! They obviously didn't want any extras so we peeled off into the valley to find a sheltered place for lunch and found a most obliging fallen tree on which to perch for our meal.

This was followed by a steep climb out of the valley and then down hill and back towards Dartmeet stopping to look at the coffin stone, an old resting place for coffin-bearers when carrying a body towards Widecombe churchyard for burial.

We soon arrived back in the car park at Dartmeet congratulating ourselves on not having had a drop of rain all day! About 5.5 miles. ■

Debbie Jenkin

Chagford health centre friends and patient group

A Message from Dr. Matt Symonds ART AT THE HEALTH CENTRE

In late November we began displaying the 2025 Children's Art Show, which is now in its second year.

The children from Chagford Primary and the Montessori schools had been working hard to produce a picture following the theme of the 'River Teign'.

The art supplies were generously funded by the Chagford Health Centre Friends & Patient Group.

The winning pictures displayed throughout December with a switchover in January to give more children the chance to see their creations framed in the Health Centre. We were lucky to have three local artists to judge the entries.

We are also promoting our Spring Art Show - which will take place in February (entries submitted by 30th January). This is for artists of any age! The posters are displayed in various

cafes and noticeboards around Chagford. For more information check our website or pop into the Health Centre.

Our thanks also to the Friend's and Patient Group for supplying a bench next to our front door. This sheltered seating is available to patients waiting for their transport... or simply wanting a sit down and a place to natter!

Stay healthy and warm, Matt ■



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News from Chagford

St Michael the Archangel

It is good to start a New Year with positive thoughts. Apparently, when asked for his New Year resolution, Albert Einstein replied: "Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow." A good principle to live by. So, what hope or tomorrow do we have to look forward to?

**"Learn from yesterday,
live for today,
hope for tomorrow."**

CHANTING FOR PEACE

with chants from the Taize Community

at St Michael's, Chagford at 5pm
18th January and 15th February

A silent space in which to be still, enjoy the peace of our beautiful church in candlelight and send love from the heart out into the world. Feel free to listen or please join in with a few simple, meditative Taize chants.

Everyone is very welcome and we'd love to see you.

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Chagford Church presents:
A 'PUZZLING' EVENING

Ward off those winter blues and warm up with an evening of Super Soups, Hot Puds and a Quiz [teams of up to 4 people]

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7th
7.30 pm
ENDECOTT HOUSE, CHAGFORD
Tickets £10.00
from Sally's Chagford
Raffle. Do bring your own alcohol

Saturday 7th February

In Chagford, 2026 gets off to a flying start and our first fundraising event is the 'famous' Puzzling Evening on Saturday February 7th.

If you're new to this, I'll explain!

It is a fun evening in Endecott House Chagford, with delicious soups and puddings and a Quiz. Teams of 4 vie for the enormous prestige of winning(!). If you don't come as a whole team, you will soon find others to make one up on the night. Tickets are just £10 each and are limited to 48. They go on sale at Sally's newsagents in Chagford on Monday January 5th and sell out very quickly, so pop in soon, so that you don't miss out!

Ash Wednesday 8th February

With an early Easter, Lent also starts early of course. On Ash Wednesday (February 18th) there will be a special (said) Holy Communion service at 10.00 am and, if they wish, people can be marked with a cross of ash on their foreheads. The (said) Holy Communion services will continue every Wednesday throughout Lent, at 10.00 am.



LIFE IN THE CHURCHYARD... from Phil Tucker, Churchwarden

2026, what does this hold in store for the churchyard?

Something I am sure of is.... fabulously Crocus, Snowdrops and Primroses, folks come a long way to enjoy them.

I do hope you have noticed our newly repaired granite walls. Well done our wonderful Devon Craftsmen.

With some of the high winds that we are getting lately, there is always going to be the odd branch down. Well, they did not go

LENT SOUP LUNCHES 2026

For 2026 we are delighted to welcome a great mixture of very worthwhile local and national causes and charities to be supported by the Soup Lunches. The lunches will be held in Endecott House from 12.30 - 2.0pm on Tuesdays in February and March, so do come along and enjoy the delicious soups and raise funds for:

- February 24 Friends of Chagford Library
- March 3 Chagford Pantry
- March 19 Kennedy Trust (Arthritis Research)
- March 17 Chagford Hospitality Network
- March 24 Chagford Cancer Research UK



Charity Soup Lunches

And, of course, throughout Lent, we have our regular Charity Soup Lunches. These will be held on Tuesdays: February 24th and March 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th from 12.00 noon – 2.00 pm, in Endecott House Chagford.

Do come and support a great variety of local and national causes and charities. Please see the box above for details.

As you know, we are a group ten parishes (a dozen churches) known as the North Dartmoor Parishes. Ten distinct parishes, each with their own personalities, qualities and quirks. However, we all work together for the good of our communities and to the praise of God. This is shown in the website: <https://northdartmoorparishes.co.uk> Do have a look at it - the more visits it gets, the more visible it becomes on search engines.

A monthly get-together of all those who lead services, provides an opportunity to share any successes (and failures), ideas, suggestions and initiatives. If you have anything you would like the Ministry Team to discuss, please do speak to one of the Worship Leaders.

And we look forward, very much indeed, to welcoming Revd. Helen Blaine, and her husband Alastair, as she is Licensed as Associate Minister for the North Dartmoor Parishes, at St Andrew's Moretonhampstead on Wednesday March 4th.

I will end with familiar words from Ecclesiastes 3.1 to start 2026 off: There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens. ■

Happy New Year.

Lucy Shields, Lay Chairman Chagford PCC

to waste; we have made bug hotels from the cut logs and I am looking forward to see if they have any guests!

Thank you to everybody that helped collect the leaves, take them away and sweep up to make the churchyard look so smart for the Remembrance service and the laying of the wreaths on the War Memorial. The rain just held off long enough for the parade to reach the Church fairly dry.

Just one request - to all the many dog walkers that use the churchyard; please, please try and keep our sacred grounds clean for the sake of the relatives that visit and the grass cutters, and rakers. ■

Do contact Phil direct about churchyard issues – her number can be found on page 2.

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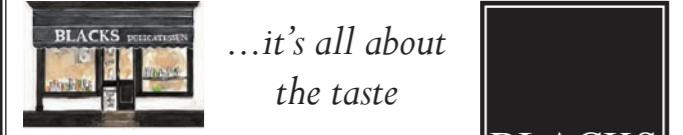
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News from South Zeal and South Tawton St Andrew's and St Mary's

The start of a new year offers us an opportunity to pause a while and to look back over the past 12 months with **humility and gratitude**. The vast array of work undertaken by our church volunteers and ordinary members of the parish community are largely unseen and frequently unacknowledged day to day. Their goodwill is humbling and we wish to express our deep gratitude by heaping our thanks on everyone who, by generously giving their time and talent, enable the weddings, baptisms, funerals, worship and everything else that is the life of the church, and which most of us value, to continue.

To mention just a few to whom we owe our thanks; John Milliard who opens and closes St Mary's, South Zeal, throughout the year and also cares for St Mary's garden, regularly cutting the grass. He is aided and abetted by Peter Watson's expert trimming of the trees there. Thanks also to Patrick O'Sullivan who looks after St Mary's Clock, rewinding the mechanism each week. Patrick is also the person who, with two of his skilled friends, constructed our beautiful nativity a couple of years ago which the children so enjoy.

St Andrew's church is made accessible every day thanks to our band of a dozen volunteer key holders who live in South Tawton and who unlock and lock the church each day, thus enabling public access to this unique and beautiful historic building. Many people who don't otherwise attend worship in church benefit by availing themselves of this quiet space for private prayer and reflection. And lastly, thanks to all the 'unsung heroes', volunteers who work alongside our churchyard contractor, Roger, to keep the (very) extensive St Andrew's churchyard and wildflower meadows in good order for both parishioners and visitors to appreciate its peace and solace. Finally, there must be living somewhere amongst the generous hearted populace of South Tawton and South Zeal one or two kind individuals who don't yet realise their calling to be Church Wardens! Please do come forward!

It has been heartening to see over time the continuation of our monthly Foodbank Friday coffee mornings in Church House now becoming truly established and valued as one of our regular church activities within the community. The gatherings are a happy legacy from Rev Mark Neave's time with us and although the continuing need for food banks everywhere is concerning, it is pleasing to see some good things coming out of it with people coming together to help others. PCC members and friends take it in turns to host the party and provide the coffee and tasty treats. Everyone is welcome so please do come along. Much produce is collected and last year well over the sum of £1000 was donated to the Foodbank. The photograph shows Church House ready to receive its guests!

The New Year has come and with it the possibilities of new beginnings! Our Open the Book team was delighted to welcome friends from Moretonhampstead church at the end of November to watch one of our rehearsals in St Mary's.

Our visitors, Lionel, Ros and Kate, are hoping to start offering bible story assemblies themselves in their local primary school in the forthcoming year. The photograph depicted shows us all posing with some props produced by Jan Mullin for the story of the Prophet Elisha healing Naaman's leprosy.

We subsequently performed the story for South Tawton School on 24 November with 18 of the children taking part in the performance as Naaman's soldiers and a 'human chariot'. We of course hope that Moretonhampstead will also be able to take the plunge and find these community excursions as much fun as we do! Many thanks to all the members of our team.

Wishing you all a happy and peaceful New Year.
Will and Kay Pyne, South Tawton PCC



CHURCH SERVICES

4 January - Second Sunday of Christmas

Chagford	9.30am 6.00pm	Holy Communion Moor Praise
South Tawton	11.15am	Holy Communion (CH, ST)
Drewsteignton	5.00pm	Family service
Hittisleigh	11.00am	Morning Prayer
Spreyton	10.00am	Morning Prayer
Gidleigh and Throwleigh	Other services throughout the Benefice	
Moretonhampstead	9.30am	Morning Worship
Lustleigh	11.00am	Morning Prayer
Manaton	11.00am	Holy Communion
North Bovey	10.00am	Informal Service

18th January - Second Sunday after Epiphany

Chagford	9.30am 5.00pm	Sung Holy Communion Taize Chanting
South Tawton	6.00pm	Evensong (SZ)
Drewsteignton	6.00pm	Holy Communion
Hittisleigh	11.00am	Celtic Morning Prayer
Spreyton	11.15am	Holy Communion
Gidleigh and Throwleigh	11.15am	Plough Sunday? (G)
Moretonhampstead	9.30am	Morning Worship
Lustleigh	6.00pm	Evensong
Manaton	11.00am	Holy Communion
North Bovey	9.30am	Holy Communion

11th January – First Sunday after Epiphany / Baptism of Christ

Chagford	9.30am 6.00pm	Family Communion In Drewsteignton
South Tawton	10.00am	Iona Service (SZ)
Drewsteignton	6.00pm	Choral Evensong
Hittisleigh	11.00am	Morning Praise
Spreyton	11.15am	Morning Prayer
Gidleigh and Throwleigh	11.15am	Holy Communion (T)
Moretonhampstead	9.30am	Holy Communion
Lustleigh	11.00am	Holy Communion
Manaton	11.00am	Celtic Morning Prayer
North Bovey	At Moreton	

25th January - Third Sunday after Epiphany

Chagford	9.30am 6.00pm	Celtic Morning Prayer The Well
South Tawton	10.00am	Holy Communion (SZ)
Drewsteignton	11.15am	Morning Prayer
Hittisleigh	11.15am	Holy Communion
Spreyton	At Hittisleigh	
Gidleigh and Throwleigh	8.30am	Said Holy Communion (G)
Moretonhampstead	9.30am	Holy Communion
Lustleigh	11.00am	Celtic Morning Prayer
Manaton	At Exeter Cathedral	
North Bovey	At Moreton	

CHURCH SERVICES

1st February - Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Chagford	9.30am 6.00pm	Holy Communion Moor Praise
South Tawton	11.15am	Holy Communion (CH,ST)
Drewsteignton	5.00pm	Service of Light (including Baptism)
Hittisleigh	11.00am	Morning Prayer
Spreyton	10.00am	Morning Prayer
Gidleigh and Throwleigh	Other services throughout the Benefice	
Moretonhampstead	9.30am	Morning Worship
Lustleigh	6.00pm	Candlemas
Manaton	11.00am	Holy Communion
North Bovey	10.00am	Informal Service

15th February - Sunday before Lent

Chagford	9.30am 5.00pm	Sung Holy Communion Taize Chanting
South Tawton	6.00pm	Evensong (SZ)
Drewsteignton	6.00pm	Reflective Service
Hittisleigh	11.00am	Celtic Morning Prayer
Spreyton	11.15am	Holy Communion
Gidleigh and Throwleigh	11.15am	Morning Prayer
Moretonhampstead	9.30am	Morning Worship
Lustleigh	6.00pm	Evensong
Manaton	11.00am	Holy Communion
North Bovey	9.30am	Holy Communion

18th February - Ash Wednesday

Chagford	10.00am	Holy Communion with Ashes
South Tawton	7.30pm	Holy Communion with Ashes (SZ)
Drewsteignton	7.00pm	Ashes
North Bovey	7.00pm	Ash Wednesday Service

22nd February - Lent I

Chagford	9.30am 6.00pm	Celtic Morning Prayer The Well
South Tawton	10.00am	Holy Communion (SZ)
Drewsteignton	11.15am	Morning Prayer
Hittisleigh	11.15am	Holy Communion
Spreyton	11.15am	Celtic Morning Prayer
Gidleigh and Throwleigh	8.30am	Said Holy Communion (G)
Moretonhampstead	9.30am	Holy Communion
Lustleigh	11.00am	Celtic Morning Prayer
Manaton	6.00pm	Evensong
North Bovey	At Moreton	

PLEASE NOTE ALL SERVICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK <https://northdartmoorparishes.co.uk/services-news/calendar/> for updates and any changes.



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News from Spreyton St Michael's

New year, new beginnings, new year resolutions, new friends and relationships. There's plenty to get excited about when 1st. January comes. It reminds me of the new books at the start of the new school year; all pristine and you try to keep them clean and tidy all year. Like new year resolutions they get broken, dogeared and forgotten.

Thank you for all the lovely comments I received about our recent service of light service for those always loved but no longer with us.

The Three Wise Men or Magi came to visit the child, Jesus and we sing "we three Kings" carol at our carol service at Christmas but January is when we celebrate Epiphany, and the manifestation of Jesus Christ to the Magi, as do many other countries on 6th January. Perhaps we should sing it again on January 11th?

Easter is on April 5th so Lent begins with Ash Wednesday February 18th and Mothering Sunday on 15th March. Our lent meetings will be starting Tuesday or Wednesday afternoons from 2 - 3.30pm from 25th February.

Did your new year resolution s include joining a new club? Here's a selection of some of the clubs held in the village hall, some weekly and some monthly. Craft afternoons, Garden club, bowls, art, yoga, bingo and coffee and chat weekly. Others include Mother and toddler, Pub Quiz Night, volunteering in the shop or bell ringing. their practise nights are Mondays. Call Jenny Lee for details 07403 862 937.

Join a committee, the village hall trust, become a parish councilor, or be a member of the PCC church council. You may have new ideas to inspire others.

The church draw fund is paid to the church council at the end of each year and this year £600 will be given the them. Why not set up a standing order or pay cash and join in with the chance of winning back your annual fee. it's £10 a year for each draw number, 6 X £10 prizes drawn each month.

Ask me more about it 01647 213393.

Judith Talbot

THE SPREYTON CALENDAR

2026 Calendar by Liz Mary

DIARY DATES

JANUARY		
Tues 6th	8pm	Bingo
Tues 13th	2-3.30pm	Craft Afternoon

FEBRUARY		
Tues 3rd	8pm	Bingo
Sat 6th	10-12	Big Breakfast and Market
Tues 24th/Weds 25th	2-3.30pm	Lent Meeting, Spreyton Barton farm

CHURCH DRAW

JANUARY	
T. Baker;	
J. Hawkins;	
G. Whitaker;	
J.E. Leonard,	
H. Elston;	
Manfred Evans	

FEBRUARY	
Brian Cox;	
J. Elston;	
W. Morris;	
Brad Cox;	
C. Hedly-dent;	
A. Hawkins	

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News from Hittisleigh

St Andrew's

News from Hittisleigh Village Hall

■ Produce Market:

2nd Saturday in the month 10am - 12pm

■ Tea & Chat:

Last Tuesday in the month 2.30pm - 4.30pm

■ Quiz Night:

14th Quiz Night: Saturday 28th February.
More details to follow on the Hittisleigh Hub

The Community Library is open during the Produce Market, Tea & Chat, Craft Group and Ladies Club times, at present. Extra times will be announced in the coming months.

The Village Hall Committee still has one vacancy and desperately needs "new blood". If you are interested in joining them please contact the Secretary on hittisleighhall@btinternet.com.

Chris Thomas
Hittisleigh Village Hall Committee Secretary ■

News from St Andrews Church

One of our stalwart church members, Jane Pearson, has recently moved away to South Devon and on the 16th November we sadly said our goodbyes. Jane has been a loyal member of St Andrews Church for the 16 years she has lived at Binneford. She has been on the flower and church cleaning rota, beautifully decorated a window at all the annual events and celebrations, Secretary for FOSACH (Friends of St Andrews Church Hittisleigh) and been responsible for keeping the toilet clean and fresh.

For many years in November, she and her husband David cleared the wild garden area in the churchyard, bringing their own equipment and thoroughly clearing away the debris so we could enjoy the early Spring bulbs. We will miss her immensely, wishing her and David happiness and peace in their new home near Newton Abbot.

Many thanks to Sonia and Pete who helped clear the Wild Garden area on the 2nd December. We managed to dodge a very heavy rain shower whilst having coffee in the church but eventually we were beaten by the persistent heavy rain. Thanks too, in advance, to Alan Wykes who will be clearing the rest of the churchyard before Christmas.

The Hittisleigh Craft Group Quilt is almost complete and squares for the draw to win it are available to purchase at £5 each. Please email scmatthews@live.co.uk for more information.

We all look forward to spotting our first snowdrops of 2026 in our churchyard and hedgerows, a herald of spring! ■



News from Manaton

St Winifred's

Music feeds the soul. By Rose Underhill

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL



Here we are again at the start of a new calendar year, with Christmas behind us and some of us filled with good intentions to be an improved version of our selves this year. I have in the past mentioned that new year resolutions are not my thing. Too many years of failure have resigned me to not trying new year for improvements.

Now here we are in January with the excess of Christmas behind us, we are facing what can be a bleak time of year. The weather is quite often cold and wet and the lights

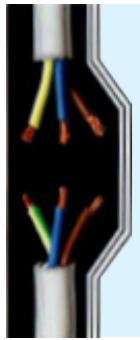
that shone in our homes and streets are to be packed away, we are told, until next year. Having said that I believe Queen Elizabeth the second left her tree and lights up until Candlemas, so there is no reason why we should not keep up ours too. Especially if they bring any kind of joy.

The other thing that is missing after Christmas has finished is the music. There are many people who do not know any hymns but do know a few familiar carols. Shops were blaring out Christmas music and we all had fairly well attended carol and other seasonal services with a lot of people only come to church at Christmas.

Music can bring back memories of good times and bad and evoke strong emotions. My taste in music is apparently weird according to my children. This is because eclectic doesn't even begin to describe it. It includes music from my childhood, this being the record of Top Hits of 1973 and my first personal purchase, a shawddywoddy tape. On though 1980's rock and back to the Mozart I had to study for my O level music. This starting a love of powerful classical music but not yet Opera. There was a phase of musical theatre songs ranging from Gilbert and Sullivan to Evita and of course the pantomime songs I had to learn. I have listened to country, folk, dance, heavy metal, sea shanties and pop music. My listening depends on my mood and I have many playlists to choose from. I like the music my kids and their friends play in my car and loudly all around the house. It makes me happy to know they are at home here and living life to the full.

Music in our churches is usually what we are used to, nice familiar hymns and organ music but maybe we could play a little more variety. There are so many kinds of music dedicated to the glory of God there are plenty to choose from. Angles sang of the arrival of the baby Jesus and ever since the voices of the faithful have raised in praise. I only heard Taizé sung for the first time in a service in chagford a couple of years ago and loved the sound it made. Maybe my new year resolution will be to make an effort to go and listen to more live music and support the events that are put on and just to dance around the kitchen more!

Happy listening into 2026. ■



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News from Drewsteignton Holy Trinity

As a Christian living in a largely secular community, I am happy that the values of that community – its ethos and spirit – aligns itself completely with those values that the faith community of which I am a part profess in worship each week. Support for each other as we engage in common pursuits, honesty in our dealings and, above all, understanding the importance of kindness. This latter means trying to see the best in our neighbours, not dwelling on mistakes and trying always to give the benefit of the doubt rather than leaping to offence. Such ways of being characterise what we might call 'the well-being' of the whole community. They can help us to keep our village spiritually healthy and essentially relaxed – a good place to live and grow.

So, nothing distresses me more than when I see our Christian values being somehow hijacked and used to sow dissention, division and hatred. The image of Tommy Robinson and his supporters waving the crucifix and even chanting the Lord's Prayer is deeply, searingly distressing to me. And, although I am naturally sympathetic to the argument that religion and politics don't mix, I am nonetheless drawn to point out the manifest discrepancy between the ideas of the far right and the values of the Christian faith.

Insofar as the bible gives us a blueprint for life in a rural village, it is not one that would be recognised by those supporting Tommy Robinson. The blueprint, provided in Leviticus, is detailed and clear.

When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not strip your vineyard bare or gather its fallen grapes. Leave all this for the poor and the stranger.

Do not withhold until morning the wages due to a hired hand.

When a foreigner resides with you in your land, do not mistreat him. Treat the foreigner living among you as native-born and love him as yourself, for you were foreigners yourselves once...

This is definitely not an easy set of instructions to follow, and, undoubtedly, we all have our struggles as we try. And there are no nice 'get-out-clauses', no caveats; we are not told we only have to leave enough for others, for the stranger; if we have plenty for ourselves! But being kind and generous, rather than grabbing, selfish and mean are the positive directives that run right through our Christian faith like the name of the town through the stick of rock. Anyone who is arguing for a community of exclusion and sameness rather than a community of inclusion and diversity is supporting a politics of hate rather than a politics of love. Christianity has nothing in common with such a politics, and all the shouting and strident voices in the world will not make it so.

Meantime, in the quiet space of Holy Trinity, I savour both the peace of early morning when I open up and the tranquillity of late evening when I shut the church. In the morning, I light candles for those for whom I am particularly praying – currently

two babies, two young people and a friend who is ill. I check the Honesty Store – the only shop that the village now has – and I tidy the village space. The building itself enfolds me in its ancient and settled peace.

By contrast, the craft fair (below) provides a view of the church at its most bustling and busy!

Well over a hundred people come to see the wonderful crafts on view – everything from candles to crockery, from prints to posies and from wool craft to wood turning.

The café is on the go all day supplying soup lunches, teas and – of course! – cakes.

Anyone is welcome in Holy Trinity. People can come with

their children, their friends and their dogs. Come to sit quietly, to chat cheerfully or to play with toys. Come to buy essentials or to borrow a book. Come to light a candle and to meditate or pray, as the spirit moves you. Help us to engender a spirit of kindness in our community.

Ruth Merttens Church Warden ruth@merttens.co.uk

Our services and events through the New Year are as follows:

- 4th January – Family Service 5pm Come and make your own New Year's Resolution and then celebrate the entry of 2026 with baked potatoes and cake and a bit of bubbly!
- 11th January – Choral Evensong 6pm with the Chagford singers – not to be missed
- 18th January – Quiet reflective Holy Communion service by candlelight 6pm
- 25th January – Morning Worship 11:15 – a lovely thought-provoking service
- January 25th – Music and Meditation 6pm – for those of all faiths and no faith. Come to our beautiful church and sit in the musical quiet of the candlelight to meditate.
- 1st February – Family Service of Light – with candles and a baptism
- 8th February – Family Holy Communion 11:15am
- 15th February – Quiet reflective service 6pm
- 22nd February – Morning Worship 11:15am

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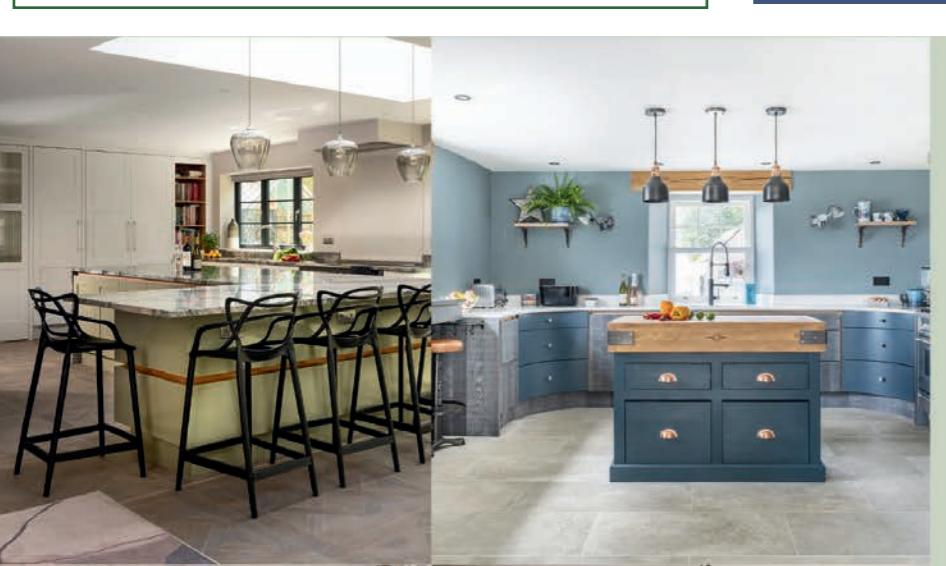
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Nature Notes Eleanor Ludgate



I expect by now we are all keen to spot any signs of spring, luckily we always have a wonderful display of snowdrops in the churchyard in Chagford and these first come into flower towards the end of January, followed by a mass of crocus in mid-February, strangely though as I am writing this in November I have primroses coming into flower and bulbs coming up in my garden, confused I imagine by the very mild autumn weather we had last year.

We can also have some lovely crisp frosty days when all the twigs, dead grasses, and plants are covered in a beautiful coating of sparkling frost. At this time of year many of the smaller birds find it hard to get enough to eat when the ground is frozen solid, so on my walks I nearly always carry a small bag with crumbled digestive biscuits and fat pellets for them and the robins always seem to be very grateful for this and they even seem to remember me the next time I walk their way and wait expectantly!

Around the 18th of February the lesser celandines come into flower opening their shiny yellow petals wide on a sunny day. This shine is there because they have a layer of cells packed with white starch grains behind the petals yellow pigmented outer layer, which accentuates and scatters the light like a tiny reflector, giving the petals their bright glossy appearance. This is the same principle that makes vehicle reflectors and traffic lights shine. This reflective surface acts like a visual pointer to make the flowers stand out from their background and attract early pollinators such as queen bumblebees and brimstone butterflies. The lesser celandine is one of the first flowers to



Large watercolour:
hungry robin
Left: great tits
Above: snowdrops,
violets and celandines

emerge in the spring and is a crucial early source of nectar for insects that have been dormant over winter.

We often see a few goosanders on the rivers here at this time of year; they seem return to the same place each winter. They are lovely looking birds, the male having a dark green head, black back and white sides and a red beak. The female is a grey colour with a ginger head and orange beak, they have serrated bills for catching fish so they are not always popular with fishermen. Surprisingly they nest in trees along the river banks so it is helpful for them if we leave some of the older trees that are suitable nesting sites.

Later in February the great-tits have started to call to attract a mate and this call often sounds to me like 'Machu Picchu', and I always like to listen out for this early sign of spring. ■



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News from Gidleigh & Throwleigh *Holy Trinity and St Mary's*

As we write this, we are in the wondrous season of Advent and look forward to the re-telling of the first miracle - the birth of Jesus and the story of Christmas.

■ November 9th

Our Churches, Holy Trinity in Gidleigh and St Mary's in Throwleigh have been busy but with slightly smaller congregations. On November 9th, we held a service of Remembrance at St Mary's for Remembrance Sunday. The congregation stood for the Roll Call of honour of the names of the villagers who died in the World Wars - a moving moment during the service.

■ November 29th

On November 29th we held the annual Gidleigh and Throwleigh Christmas Bazaar at Gidleigh Village Hall. This was a highlight of the village social calendar, and was enjoyed by a generous crowd of people who braved the road closures and unhelpful weather and the change to a morning event. There was a wonderful Raffle and many Christmas presents were obtained at the gifts and bottle stalls. The Christmas cakes sold well and there was a stall with very locally crafted Crochet and knitted items. The refreshments were delicious as usual. A highlight was the table-top game run by Geoffrey Fenton for children of all ages. Our thanks must go to everyone who came, and especially the kind people who ran the stalls.

■ 19th December

We are looking forward to the Christmas events in the villages. In Throwleigh, the "Carols in the High Street" will take place on 19th December at 6pm and as long as the weather is fair, many carols will be sung by the usual enthusiastic carollers around the village and round the Memorial Cross.

■ Christmas Eve

On Christmas Eve in St Mary's we will hold a Carol service by candle-light in the afternoon. This service is always well attended and the children will have a large crib to set around and admire when they sing their carols.

■ Christmas Day

On Christmas morning at the early time of 8.30am we will celebrate Christmas Holy Communion at Holy Trinity. The Celebrant will be Rev Noel Walter for this beautifully quiet service for the start of Christmas Day for our faithful congregation.

■ December 28th

On December 28th at Holy Trinity we hold a service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 9.30am with the Christmas story being re-told by many readers from the congregation, and familiar and joyful carols being sung loudly.

■ January 18th

On January 18th we will celebrate Plough Sunday at Holy Trinity. This is the first of the Agricultural festivals during the year (the others being Rogation, Lammastide and Harvest festival). We bless the farm machinery to be used by the farmers during the start of the tilling and planting season of spring. A ploughman's lunch will be provided for the congregation after the service.

Then we look forward to Lent and Eastertide. ■

C G B Warren



Libraries Unlimited



Devon County Council (DCC) have launched a formal consultation on the future of the library service in Devon. This is a crucially important time for local libraries across Devon. DCC commission us to run 50 public libraries in their area (the 4 we run on behalf of Torbay Council are not affected by this consultation) and we want as many people as possible to have their say and help shape how services are delivered in future.

You can access the consultation document online and complete the survey by visiting <https://devon.cc/your-libraries>. And if you don't have your own device to do this, public PCs in libraries can be used to complete the survey which closes on the 22nd February 2026.



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News from Lustleigh St John the Baptist

Lustleigh's WW2 Commemoration



Above: Dad's Army: (L-R)
Bob Arnold, Peter Mason,
David McGahey



Left: Elouize Newman
singing Vera Lynn song

St John's Church was packed on the evening of 8th November as the village came together for performers and audience to commemorate the end

of WW2 in 1945. Put together by Chris Wilson and Sandy French, the evening contained poignant tributes to individual Lustleigh people who had lost their lives for the defence of our country, vivid letters from servicemen who had endured the DDay landings, and touching and

compelling poetry from writers experiencing that exciting yet harrowing time.

There were also memoirs from evacuees with some contrasted experiences of enforced country life, and a scholarly analysis of the unique effects of Churchill's great speeches. Spirits also had been lifted during those dark days by humour in cartoons and broadcast shows, so it was appropriate to include a classic Dad's Army sketch in 'radio' form.

The evening began with an evocative soundscape from Paul McCabe featuring sirens, aeroplanes and guns, followed by a procession of 'evacuee' children, complete with gas-mask cases who then sang Run Rabbit Run! with great aplomb and charm. The music of the era is always going to call to mind Vera Lynn, and We'll Meet Again, The White Cliffs of Dover and A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square brought nostalgic smiles to many faces, as did a toe-tapping saxophone medley of Glenn Miller favourites. A surprise for many was the specially composed piece of music 1945 by Will Carnell, consisting of the short movements War Heroes, The Battlefield (Sky, Land and Sea), Lament for the Victims of War, Patriots, and Victory March. Will is to be congratulated on bringing together twenty amateur musicians from the village to perform these inspiring themes.

There were 36 performers in the concert (which is why this piece cannot name them all), giving of their talents to help Chris make this special tribute. His own contributions of time, energy and patience were very much appreciated. ■

Alexa Mason
LEAP (Lustleigh Entertainment and Arts Project)

Divertimento String Quartet

The next concert by Divertimento will be on Sunday 8th February in the Village Hall at 3 pm. The main works will be by Kreisler and Schumann. We hope to attract a good audience for another fine professional concert of live music-making. Tickets available at the door.

Lustleigh Film Night

Lustleigh Film Night will be showing The Roses – a broad comedy and a dark satire, re-imagining the classic 1989 film The War of the Roses – on Saturday 3rd January in the Village Hall.

7.00 pm – doors open, bar/refreshments available

7.30 pm – film showing, with a short interval

9.45 pm – close

Tickets on sale in Lustleigh Dairy 14th-31st December or online via the LEAP booking page at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/leaplustleigh> (also from 14th December); or at the door.

Lustleigh's Café in Church resumed for winter – on every first Friday morning of the month until March



BERYL TRIST NEWMAN

– the Lustleigh Artist who 'lived to paint'



For the last three years Peter Mason has been researching the life and work of Beryl Trist Newman and he will be presenting his findings in an illustrated talk for the Lustleigh Society in January.

Beryl Trist, born in 1906, came to Lustleigh in the nineteen thirties and remained here for the rest of her life. She initially lived with the family doctor and his wife who had earlier retired to Lustleigh. The Muir's built a studio for her and, no doubt, encouraged her career. This was a time when she was being commissioned for book illustrations and portraits. During the Second World War she painted portraits of recipients of awards and recorded life at the Moretonhampstead Military Hospital.

In 1945 the Reverend Rupert Newman (1889 – 1961) was appointed Rector of Lustleigh and in the following year Beryl and Rupert were married. As well as fulfilling the role of a 'vicar's wife' Beryl continued with her art returning to it full-time after Rupert's death. She continued to draw, sketch and paint almost to the end when she died in Moretonhampstead Hospital in 1991.

Best known for her portraits she also painted landscapes inspired by her travels to South America, Indonesia, Norway, France and Switzerland, as well as the local Dartmoor scenery.

Beryl's story is a fascinating one which deserves to be better known. There will be people who remember Beryl or Rupert or both of them, but there is much in this story that will be new to many. The talk is open to all. ■

Wednesday 28th January, 7.30 p.m.
(refreshments from 7.00 p.m.)

Lustleigh Village Hall – Admission £7.50
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CHAGFORD REC TRUST LOTTERY DRAW RESULTS

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£20	164. Margaret Marsh	£20	143. Louise Winstanley
£20	303. Sheila d'Arch Smith	£20	232. Ralph Mackridge
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£10	248. Lucy Shields	£10	107. Liz Giles
£10	99. Phillip Webber	£10	12. Rebecca Ellis
£10.	315. Richard Taylor	£10	61. Sue Power

A huge thank you to all who have joined this year and for supporting The Recreational Trust. **We have increased the prize money by £50 per month.** Anybody who has not been contacted and wishes to know their numbers, please email: rodwebber@btinternet.com.

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Chagford Community & Memory Café Update

The days may still be short and the weather unpredictable; but the one thing you can be assured of at a CC & M café session is a warm welcome! We meet on the second Thursday of each month between 1:30 and 3:30 in the Jubilee Hall. You might spot our sign in the square or our big flag outside the hall to remind you where and when we are!

We meet on the second Thursday of each month between 1:30 and 3:30 in the Jubilee Hall.

2025 was rounded off on a real high: with our highest ever attendance for a fabulous Christmas lunch (superb service as always from the team at Fingle Bridge) just after our December session where we made Christmas crackers and were treated to some delicious soup from Oli & Jordan from The Chagford Inn. Huge thanks to them. It never ceases to amaze me how generous our community

is in supporting this and other initiatives around our community – whether it is the regular time volunteers give or the wide range of exceptional locally talented people who come and share their expertise. It all adds up to a richness of community and connection which certainly warms the heart. Particularly at this time of year.

The new year brings an opportunity to look forward to what 2026 will bring and we look forward to welcoming friends new and old to our café sessions. It also allows for a moment of reflection and gratitude to our guests and volunteers current and past who come together and create such warmth and mutual affection for each other and the magic which is co-created each month. Delicious food, fun activities or a good old natter added to a bottomless tea pot and laughter is a marvellous tonic for the soul. ■



Stone Lane Gardens: open all year for visitors and community groups

Many of you know our beautiful gardens. Maybe because you visit our Music Fest every year or you enjoy our outdoor theatre in the Summer. But not many know that our gardens are open all year; and every season brings its own atmosphere and beauty. There is a lot of work going on at the moment: selling our trees from the nursery (there is a nice 20% discount if you buy a tree and collect it yourself), seed collection, pruning and planting in our new arboretum and brainstorming about the upkeep of the many water features in our gardens. The work is mainly done by our Garden Manager Paul and his assistant gardener Jesse. Every Friday they are supported by a nice group of very enthusiastic volunteers who are passionate about what they do.



hot drink after you have walked around the gardens and the arboretum.

Activities to join

Not many people know that Stone Lane Gardens is a charity, so we depend on volunteers for supporting us in the gardens, as trustees and for donations. As a charity we also like to take on an active role in the surrounding communities. You will see more and more activities being organised with and for community groups, schools and garden enthusiasts. We also reach out to craft lovers, photographers and scouts by organising specific activities, like our winter events and seasonal photo competitions. We offer a limited amount of trees to be planted in our local communities as well.

Looking forward to seeing you at Stone Lane!

Stone Lane Gardens is situated in the North East corner of Dartmoor National Park, OS map ref. SX 708 907 (OL28 Dartmoor).
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Monday 16 March 2026

19:30 ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL



TICKETS: £25 AVAILABLE AT DUBLINBRASS.COM OR ON THE DOOR