

COUNTRY NEWS

MARCH 2024

Parish Magazine of
Shillingford St George and Dunchideock



The Language of Flowers: Spring

Daffodil - Rebirth & new beginnings.

Iris - Faith, wisdom, hope.

Asparagus fern: Fascination

Spring is Springing!
Please check the Diary for things you may
actually want to go to.





FROM THE RECTORY...

The year is already whizzing by - here we are in March and almost in the middle of Lent! Writing at the beginning of February, to be in time for this month's copy date, I can see snowdrops and camellias in flower, and one or two glowing crocuses – but I know that by the time this issue is opened daffodils and all kinds of bulbs will be springing up in our churchyards, where we try to balance care for God's creation with access to graves and memorials. Spring will be starting to delight us with its *lengthening days* – *lencten* is the German root of our *Lent*.

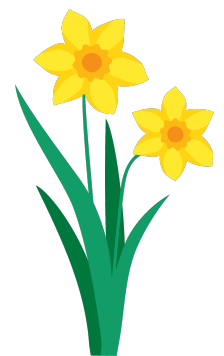
There are various ways we can prepare ourselves during Lent to meet the risen Lord.

On Mondays, in the Dunsford Tea Room, we will have our usual Lent lunches of soup and cheese with a brief, informal talk from a variety of contributors.

On Tuesdays, our Lent course will be a series of Meditations, *The Things He Carried*, in each of our churches in turn from 6-7pm, beginning in Ashton church on 20 Feb – see the poster for full details. These Lenten Meditations lead us deeper into the story of Jesus's last days before his death on the cross. Unless we walk with him into the darkness of Good Friday, we cannot fully appreciate the joy of his resurrection on Easter Day.

On Wednesdays, our *Alpha* course is an opportunity to ask questions and explore the basics of Christian faith in an open and friendly environment; come and join us in the TVCH from 6-7.30pm for a light supper with a short film and discussion among friends.

Every day from Palm Sunday, through Holy Week and Easter, we invite you to walk up through Dunsford churchyard and experience the paradox of love that is life in Jesus: that pain and suffering coexist amidst the goodness and beauty of this world; that out of death arises a new creation into eternal life.



Our Holy Week services begin with telephone Evening Prayer at 6pm on Monday 25, Tuesday 26 and Wednesday 27. The Maundy Thursday service will be in Bridford at 6pm. On Good Friday we remember the Passion of Jesus according to John in Christow church at 10.30am; at 3pm there is a Good Friday Meditation and Prayers in Doddiscombsleigh church; and at 6pm in Dunsford church will be *The Cross of Christ*, a devotion for congregation and choir, with readings, anthems and hymns. Please come and join us!

Rather appropriately this year, the Lenten days will have lengthened sufficiently that Easter Day coincides with the date we switch the clocks forward to British Summer Time. For the larks among us who love to see the sun rise, we will be celebrating the dawn of resurrection life on Easter Day at 6.00am at Dunchideock. Rev'd Eleanor will be leading our first *Easter Dawn Celebration* - meet at in a field near Willhayes Cross for a short service of prayer and song, and then descend the hill for a welcome bacon butty and hot coffee at Webberton Meadows (see separate notice for details). This will be the earliest of our Easter Services; please see the full list of services in each church for Holy Week and Easter.

Services in Dunchideock Church March 2024

Date	Name	Service	Time
March 1 st		World Day of Prayer	2.30pm
Sidesperson	Elizabeth Jenne		
Date	Name	Service	Time
March 10 th	Mothering Sunday	Family Service Dunchideock	4.00pm
Sidesperson	Shirley Phillips		
Readers	Children		
Date	Name	Service	Time
March 24 th	Palm Sunday	Holy Communion	10.30am
Sidesperson	Steve Cook		
Readers	Ray Mallett	Ann Mallett	
Readings	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Philippians 2:5-11	
Date	Name	Service	Time
March 31 st	Easter Day see ad on p 6	Dawn Celebration	6am BST

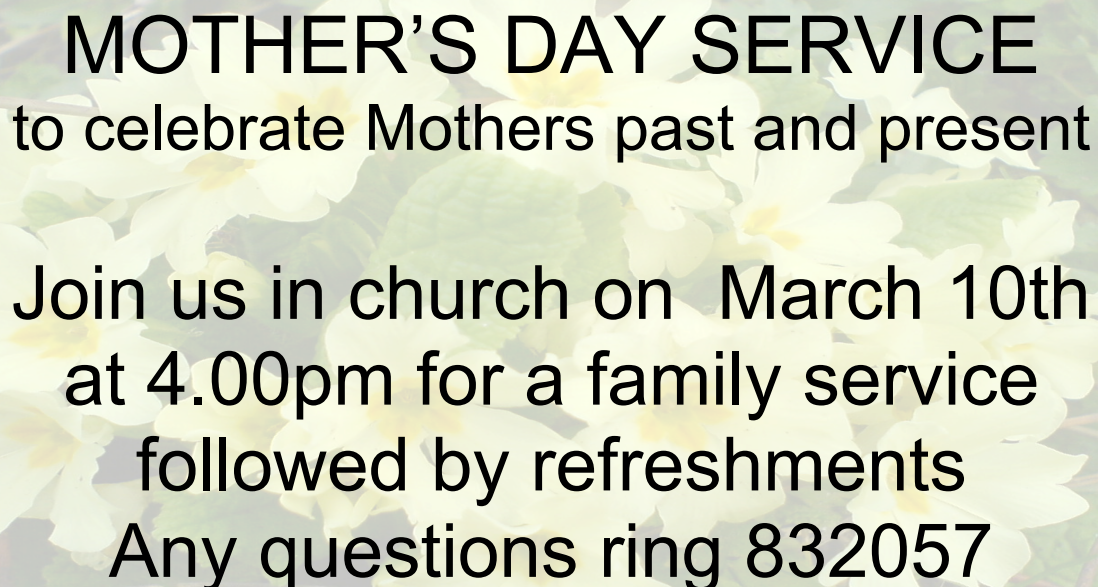
Accessible telephone service every Sunday at 9.00am and Wednesday at 6.00pm.
See top of page 3 for details of how to listen on your phone.

Flower arranging

Please join us to arrange flowers
for Easter on March 23rd

Church cleaning rota

Ann Mallett & Elizabeth Jenne
9th and 23rd March



MOTHER'S DAY SERVICE
to celebrate Mothers past and present

Join us in church on March 10th
at 4.00pm for a family service
followed by refreshments

Any questions ring 832057

Services in the Teign Valley and Haldon Hill Mission Community

March	Time	Details
1 World Day of Prayer	2:30pm	St Michael & All Angels, Dunchideock - World Day of Prayer
3 Lent 3	9:00am	Scattered Church by Telephone - Service of the Word
	10:30am	St Thomas Becket, Bridford - Holy Communion
	10:30am	St Michael, Doddiscombsleigh - Holy Communion
	10:30am	St Mary, Dunsford - Service of the Word
10 Mothering Sunday	9:00am	Scattered Church by Telephone - Service of the Word
	10:30am	St James, Christow - Mothering Sunday
	10:30am	St Mary, Dunsford - Mothering Sunday Family Service
	4:00pm	St Michael & All Angels, Dunchideock - Mothering Sunday Family Service
17 Passion Sunday	9:00am	Scattered Church by Telephone - Service of the Word
	10:30am	St John the Baptist, Ashton - Holy Communion
	10:30am	St Mary, Dunsford - Holy Communion
24 Palm Sunday	9:00am	Scattered Church by Telephone - Service of the Word
	10:30am	St Thomas Becket, Bridford - Holy Communion
	10:30am	St Michael & All Angels, Dunchideock - Holy Communion
	10:30am	St Mary, Dunsford - Service of the Word
25 Monday of Holy Week	6:00pm	Scattered Church by Telephone - Holy Week Evening Prayer
26 Tuesday of Holy Week	6:00pm	Scattered Church by Telephone - Holy Week Evening Prayer
27 Wednesday of Holy Week	6:00pm	Scattered Church by Telephone - Holy Week Evening Prayer
28 Maundy Thursday	6:00pm	St Thomas Becket, Bridford - Maundy Thursday Eucharist and Washing of Feet
29 Good Friday	10:30am	St James, Christow - Good Friday Passion
	3:00pm	St Michael, Doddiscombsleigh - Good Friday Meditation and Prayers
	6:00pm	St Mary, Dunsford - The Cross of Christ (A Devotion for Congregation and Choir with anthems, readings, hymns and prayers)
31 Easter Sunday	6:00am	Field below Willhayes Cross (courtesy of Ed & Heather Ellis) - Easter Dawn Celebration (Followed by breakfast at Webberton Meadows, Dunchideock, EX2 9TX. Email tvhchurches@gmail.com for location details)
	9:00am	St John the Baptist, Ashton - Holy Communion
	9:00am	Scattered Church by Telephone - Service of the Word
	10:30am	St Thomas Becket, Bridford - Holy Communion
	10:30am	St Michael, Doddiscombsleigh - Holy Communion
	10:30am	St Mary, Dunsford - Holy Communion
	11:00am	St James, Christow - Holy Communion

Teign Valley & Haldon Hill Mission Community

The Teign Valley & Haldon Hill Mission Community includes the parishes of Ashton, Bridford, Christow, Doddiscombsleigh, Dunchideock and Dunsford.

Rev'd Ruth Frampton (Rector) - 01647 253164 or tvhhrectory@yahoo.com.

Rev'd Eleanor Oelmann - 07772 127598 or eleanoroelmann@gmail.com.

Pastoral Care

If you would like, or know someone who would be glad of, a call or "virtual" visit from Rev'd Frampton or Rev'd Oelmann, or another member of the church community, please contact the rectory (contact details above), or the Churches' Administrator (see *Getting in touch...* below).



Sunday Morning and Wednesday Evening Services

There is a 9am telephone service each Sunday, and 6pm service each Wednesday.

For telephone services you just use a landline or mobile telephone.

Between 5 and 10 minutes before the service begins, please dial 0333

011 0616 and enter the code 334 7721, followed by the # key, when

asked. The cost of the call is the standard cost for any 01, 02 or 03 number, but will vary according to your telephone contract.

If you miss the Sunday sermon, catch up by phone. Call local number 01647 407047 to listen during the following week.

All our church buildings are open for public worship and details are provided in the separate schedule of services. Please check the "A Church Near You" website for your parish for updates (search for e.g. "A Church Near You Bridford").

Monthly Home Group – Every Second Monday...

An opportunity to think, discuss and learn together. On the *second* Monday of each month from 7:30pm to 9:00pm in Dunsford. For details, please contact Rev'd Eleanor Oelmann - 07772 127598 or eleanoroelmann@gmail.com All welcome!

Prayer Calendar

Each month we produce a prayer calendar with pointers for prayer each day, including prayer for both local and also much wider issues. If you would like to receive a regular copy to help inform your prayers, please contact Elizabeth Hofmann by emailing tvhhprayercalendar@gmail.com Your prayers really matter!



EASTER SERVICES – every day from Monday 25th to Easter Day. See schedule.



W3 – Wednesday Warm Welcome

Come and enjoy a free cuppa, company, conversation, cards and more...in the warmth of the Bowden Room in Teign Valley Community Hall, 2pm to 4pm each Wednesday.

Curious about faith? Try Alpha!

The Alpha course continues on every Wednesday evening from **6:00pm** to **7:30pm** in the **Bowden Room, Teign Valley Community Hall** until Wednesday 13 March.

Something special for Lent this year, Tuesdays 6.00-7.00pm.

“The Things Jesus Carried – Meditations for Lent” as follows:

Tue 5 Mar – St James, Christow

Tue 19 Mar – St Michael & All Angels, Dunchideock

Tue 12 Mar – St Michael, Doddiscombsleigh

Tue 26 Mar – St Mary’s, Dunsford

Also...**Lent Lunches** in **Dunsford Tea Rooms** at **1pm** Mondays March 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th

World Day of Prayer – Friday 1 March 2:30pm at St Michael & All Angels, Dunchideock

This year’s annual World Day of Prayer service has been prepared by an ecumenical group of Christian women of Palestine, the land in which Jesus was born, ministered and died, where the Christian faith began and is rooted. We will be part of a great wave of prayer encircling the globe, joining with people in over 146 countries and islands all over the world to pray with and for the people of Palestine. See wwdp.org.uk or contact: Shirley Phillips 07503 183224.



Scattered Church – Home Communion – Tuesday 26 March

Rev’d Ruth and Rev’d Eleanor will be taking home communion to those who are not able to attend church. If you would like them to visit, please contact them (details above).

St Basils

We are privileged to have a new Anglican church called St Basil’s, based at Windout Farm, but now meeting on Sundays at The Orange Elephant near Shillingford (until 17 March). Please check their website (<https://www.stbasils.church>) for full details.

Giving

It is possible to make a donation towards the general mission and running costs of each of our six churches through an online giving page on the “A Church Near You” website – see <https://www.achurchnearyou.com> and search for the relevant parish.

Getting in touch...

If you wish to discuss plans for a baptism/christening, banns of marriage, wedding, funeral, interment of ashes or memorial service, or have any other enquiry, please contact Steve Cook, the Churches’ Administrator, on 01392 832332 or email tvhchurches@gmail.com



The Teign Valley & Haldon Hill Mission Community
Ashton ~ Bridford ~ Christow ~ Doddiscombsleigh ~ Dunchideock ~ Dunsford

Easter Sunday

31 March

Easter Dawn Celebration

at

Langerton

(courtesy of Ed & Heather Ellis)

...the field just below Willhayes Cross
on the lane leading down to Dunchideock
opposite a large layby

...followed by breakfast at

Webberton Meadows

Dunchideock, EX2 9TX

For further information contact the Churches' Administrator
01392 832332 or tvhchurches@gmail.com

TEIGN VALLEY MEN'S SHED

Teign Valley Men's Shed will be open on **every Wednesday in March** from **9:30am to 12:30pm**. The Shed is located at Embercombe in Higher Ashton, EX6 7QQ – on the first floor of the large building just beyond the main car park. Coffee and tea will be available. Transport is available if required – a minibus (courtesy of Acorn) is available most weeks, at a cost of £5 per week. Any questions? Email teignvalleyshed@gmail.com

What are Men's Sheds?

"Sheds" are kitted-out community spaces where men can enjoy practical hobbies. They're about making friends, learning and sharing skills - and for a bit of banter over a cup of coffee or tea. The current focus is on woodwork. If you have skills to share, or you have very little or no experience and want to learn, then you will be very welcome! There is an annual membership fee of £10, and a session fee of £5 for each session.



...a new wood steaming box constructed by a member...



...and some of the results...

DUNCHIDEOCK HISTORY SOCIETY

We are pleased to announce that the next Dunchideock History Society event is on Sunday afternoon, 17 March 2024 from 2pm to 5pm at the Lord Haldon Hotel. There will be an illustrated Talk at 2.30pm by Mark Chambers on the Teign Valley Railway. He is known for his illuminating, detailed and enjoyable talks illustrated with some rare photographs. There will also be some interesting exhibits on display. The Teign Valley Railway was easily accessible to the folk of Dunchideock.

The Dunchideock Exhibition will be on show from 2pm and 4pm. There will be an interval refreshment break.

Members Free. Guests £4. Children Free.
Young Children's Activity Table whilst talk going on.

Annual Membership Fee £10. You can join via the website or pay at the event.

Contact: dunchideockhistory@outlook.com;

website: <https://www.dunchideockhistory.com/>

Dunchideock Village Hall 100+ Club

February 2024

1. Mr & Mrs Banham
2. C Jones
3. C Cull

Dunchideock Village Hall Events

Registered Charity No. 30109

Unfortunately, it has been necessary to temporarily close Dunchideock Village Hall. A recent inspection has revealed a Health and Safety concern. This issue needs to be fully investigated and rectified before any further events can take place.

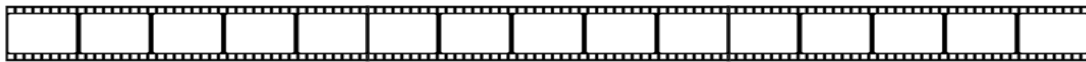
**The management team at the Lord Haldon Hotel
have kindly offered their facilities for:**

March 2024:



Friday 15th March. Film Night: KING RICHARD.

In her three decades at the top of ladies tennis, Serena Williams achieved 23 Grand Slam titles. Her elder sister, Venus, totalled seven but five were Wimbledon titles. Amazing careers, but for their first film as producers, they chose, not themselves but their father Richard, to be played by Will Smith. “The result,” said the Daily Mail, “is what is an award-winning performance, rousing, sparkling drama.” It is the story of how the unbiddable, headstrong Williams urged his talented daughters from a Los Angeles ghetto to their stardom. “Not that King Richard was an easy man,” says the Telegraph, “but Smith’s pinpoint timing and lovable charisma, turns his irksomeness into something special. We enjoyed it greatly.



Friday 5th July – The Village Hall Team presents Johnny Cowling

A talented Cornish Comedian, live at The Lord Haldon Hotel. Ticket price approx. £15 to include a large Cornish Pasty in the interval. Date of ticket release to be announced shortly.



The Garden Room



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Tuesday 12th and 26th March 2024



From 10:30 am until 12:00 midday



Everyone Welcome!



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Anne Taylor: 01392 833282
Or Shirley Phillips: 07503183224

Tea/Coffee: £1.80
Cakes: £1.80

FITNESS AND WELLBEING

MOMENTS OF 'LIVING': Are you **living** your life to your full potential or possibly you may not be aware of how much time you spend thinking your way through? We truly are so much more than we think we are. We have so much potential that we can touch into and cultivate. Experience the difference in even just a couple of the 8 one-hour-and-a-half weekly sessions of the Mindfulness Now Course - improving your health and wellbeing in the process. There's one-to-one sessions, couple, or group sessions - how about getting your own group together? Check out the website: www.exetermindfulness.com. Free introductory session; Dunchideock venue: email: shirley@exetermindfulness.com;

News from the WI based in Christow

You are all invited to our next meeting on Thursday 14th March at 2pm in the Bowden room when we will have local author Celia Moore talking about her life and novels.

Come as a guest on the day for £5 to include refreshments.

Celia was born in 1967 and brought up on farms in Moretonhampstead and Whiddon Down. She went to university in London before working as a surveyor in London, Bristol, and Taunton. As a lover of the great outdoors she retrained in 2000 in North Wales as an outdoor pursuits instructor. She settled back in Devon in 2008 where she fell in love and married a man, she originally knew at primary School some 25 years earlier. Her skills include blacksmithing, running and she currently works as a gardener as well as writing novels. She says in January 2017 "I woke up with a compelling story in my head that would not go away so I became an author". Her work includes the Fox Halt trilogy which is a compelling love story with an atmospheric backdrop of Dartmoor.

We are looking forward to welcoming her as she comes highly recommended as an entertaining speaker with a penchant for enjoying tea, cake, and a chat so she is sure to fit right in.

See you all there.

Anne Rice

For more information contact us at christowwi@gmail.com



Robert Williams

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James Taylor
Partner

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	Saturdays	8am - 1pm
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<i>Post Office:</i>	Monday to Friday	9am - 11.45am 1pm - 5pm
	Saturdays	9am - 12 noon
	Sundays & Bank Holidays	CLOSED

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Victoria Park Club

Ring Jeremy on
07969 297 633
LTPB23@gmail.com
tinyurl.com/LTPBEX23



FITNESS AND WELLBEING

MOMENTS OF STRESS: Is your lifestyle pretty full of 'doing' at work and at play? Lots of distractions and demands, no time for a meaningful break?

Are you suffering from anxiety symptoms, trying to manage stress?

Improve your health through cultivating your own Mindfulness practice - an evidence-based approach that uses the free calming resources within yourself!

Choose to have moments of calm every day! Restore well-being!

Join me in an 8-week evidence based Mindfulness Programme - contact Shirley Phillips, Accredited Mindfulness Teacher, at shirley@exetermindfulness.com
Website: www.exetermindfulness.com

Shillingford St George Church Calendar for March 2024

Date	Name	Service	Time
3 March	Lent 3	Morning Praise	9.30
Sidesmen	Liz		
Readers	Peter & Derek		
Reading	Exodus 20:1-17	John 2:13-22	
Prayers	Lay Team	Oak Close & Waybrook Lane	
Date	Name	Service	Time
10 March	Lent 4	Mothering Sunday HC	9.30
Sidesmen	Eric & Di		
Readers	Sue & Di		
Reading	Numbers 21:4-9	John 3:14-21	
Prayers	Delia	Road through Shillingford Abbot	
Date	Name	Service	Time
17 March	Lent 5	Evensong	6.00
Sidesmen	Tom & Gwen		
Readers	Peter & Derek		
Reading	Jeremiah 31:31-34	John 12:20-33	
Prayers	Clergy	Ash Court & St George's Terrace	
Date	Name	Service	Time
24 March	Palm Sunday	Holy Communion	9.30
Sidesmen	Norman		
Readers	Rose & Norman		
Reading	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Mark 11:1-11	
Prayers	Nick	Our Mission Community with Alphington & Ide	
Date	Name	Service	Time
28 March	Maundy Thursday	Mission Community HC	7.00pm
Sidesmen	Liz		
Readers	Sue & Ken		
Reading	tba		
Prayers	Clergy		
Date	Name	Service	Time
29 March	Good Friday	Devotional Service	11.00
Sidesmen	Eric & Di		
Date	Name	Service	Time
31 March	Easter Day	Holy Communion	9.30
Sidesmen	Norman		
Readers	Tam & Edmund		
Reading	Acts 10:34-43	Mark 16:1-8	
Prayers	Clergy	The Willows & Ilex Close	

Date	Name	Service	Time
7 April	2 nd Sunday of Easter	Morning Praise	9.30
Sidesmen	Derek		
Readers	Derek & Nick		
Reading	Acts 4:32-35	John 20:19-31	
Prayers	Lay Team	Manstree Lane & Manstree Terrace	

Flower Rota – March 2024

No flowers in Lent Sunday 31st March (Easter Day) - Daphne Crockford

St George's
SHILLINGFORD

Lent Lunches



Wednesday 28th February
Wednesday 13th March
Wednesday 27th March

12noon to 2pm, in The Village Hall
Shillingford St George

£5 per person. Please sign the lists in Church or at Open Door Café. Or give your name to Peter & Liz Wareham 832366, or Tom & Gwen Tompkins 832352

Shillingford Film Night

Monday March 25th at 7.30

‘Frankie and Johnny’

and a Tom and Jerry

Free entry and ice creams in the interval

This is a film from 1991. Initially a play with two actors, it was well written for the screen and stars Michelle Pfeiffer and Al Pacino.

Pfeiffer is a damaged woman working in a New York restaurant and Pacino has just been released from prison. The two stars are at times comic, sad and hilarious.

Open door café dates

March 6th, 20th and April 3rd

Join us at 10.30 in Shillingford Village Hall.



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SHILLINGFORD WILDLIFE TALKS

at

SHILLINGFORD VILLAGE HALL

We are pleased to welcome

DAVID PRICE

whose Talk is entitled

IF YOU GO DOWN

TO THE WOODS TODAY

The talk will be an exploration of various aspects of woodlands and the natural history they support - (including teddy bears!). We'll look at some specialist woodland flowers and plants (both interesting and beautiful); there'll be a focus on some woodland moths – particularly those flying in the winter; there'll be fair bit of detail on Pied Flycatchers - (from my own personal research over the last 40 years), and we'll even have a spot of audience participation with a bit of a quiz running through the talk on tree identification - (but specifically the more tricky business of tree identification in the winter!). Overall we'll try and draw all these things together and show how interdependent woodland life is and, though it's important to plant more trees, I'll "get on my soap box" to also emphasise how critical it is to preserve as much of our ancient woodland as we can. It's irreplaceable!

Not to be missed !!

7.30pm Tuesday March 19th

No need to book !

Entrance: Suggested donation £5

Bring your own Teddy Bears !!!



VILLAGE LIVES: THE BOLT FAMILY OF SHILLINGFORD, PART TWO

Last month's article introduced the Bolt family, who lived in Shillingford Abbot from about 1812. Their story continues with this account of the unfortunate life of one of their sons.

John and Susanna Bolt's second-born son John was baptised in Bridestowe parish church in March 1802. By the time he was aged 7 years, his family had moved to Exeter, and then to Shillingford Abbot when he was aged about 10 years old. It is not known what life was like for John as a young lad, but if his father's later behaviour was any guide he may well have had a very unhappy childhood if he was living at home. Whether he moved with the rest of the family to Exeter and Shillingford Abbot is not known. He may have been bound apprentice to a farmer in Bridestowe, or a nearby west Devon parish, as a young boy, and stayed in that area.

As a young man, he went to work as an under-groom on the Lifton estate of Mr. William Alexander Harris Arundel (sometimes spelt as Arundell). Lifton parish is also in west Devon, very near the border of Devon and Cornwall. In 1755 the Arundel family had inherited the Manor of Lifton from the Harris family of Hayne.

In 1805, Mr. William Arundel had built a large country house called *Lifton Park* at the centre of his estate. The sketch shows it as it looked when John Bolt was working in the stables there. The town of Launceston with its ancient castle was visible from the grounds of the Lifton estate, which included plantations of about



8,000 acres. While employed there, 19 year old John Bolt was unfortunate enough to break his arm. A fellow servant named Jane Jusland – the family's nursery-maid - attended him and nursed him back to health, and he fell obsessively in love with her. Over the next couple of years he pursued her, repeatedly offering her marriage, but she invariably refused him.

Several newspaper articles described the fateful events of the Sunday before Christmas in 1822. When Jane set out across the fields to church that afternoon, John followed her, intending to press her once again to marry him. One newspaper report claimed that he had heard from his master that Jane was intending to marry another man. They arrived after the service had started, so returned home together to the house, but later that day, John sent a message to the nursery via the housemaid asking Jane to come to his room to speak with him. Naturally she was nervous about going alone, as she was afraid from his past behaviour what John would do, so asked

the butler to accompany her. However, their suspicions were allayed when they entered the room, to find John composed and calmly “*reading a prayer book.*” The butler left her with John and waited outside, near the door. According to one report, John again begged her to marry him, saying he would wait for five or even ten years for her. She replied that it was no use – she would never marry him, as she merely liked him as a fellow servant, and then tried to leave the room. It was claimed that he then grabbed her and threatened to shoot her – other reports stated that he had said that they should both die together. It was less than 15 minutes after she’d entered the room, that the butler heard her call his name rapidly, three times. He burst into the room but was too late – John had drawn a large travelling pistol, kept in the house to deter thieves, from under the bedclothes and had shot Jane in the face.

The noise of the gunshot drew other household members to the room, where “*a horrible scene was presented to their view.*” The victim was lying on the floor, with the right hand side of her face mutilated, one eye shot out, and with her right hand – which she’d raised to protect her face – also mangled. Three of her fingers were so shattered that they had to be amputated.

John was still in an uncontrolled frenzy – according to one newspaper report, as Jane was lifted from the floor he shouted that “*...I hope now that I shall see the end of her!*” and “*Let her die! – I wish I had another pistol to finish her.*” He was restrained and Jane was put to bed and a doctor was called. She remained insensible for 16 to 18 hours, and initially it was thought she would not survive. On regaining consciousness, she told her story to her distressed employer and three medical men. She was a popular servant who had been living with the Arundel family for about ten years, so must have been a few years older than John.

John Bolt was sent to the county prison in Exeter, and was committed to stand trial at the next Devon County Assizes in Exeter in Lent, 1823. At that time, Assize courts were held twice a year to hear the most serious criminal cases, and judges were sent down from London to travel around the south-western court circuit, presiding over courts held in each county town.



The Assizes were held in March at the court buildings inside Rougemont Castle, Exeter, shown in this picture. Though maimed and disfigured for life, Jane Jusland had survived the shooting, and was brought from Lifton to Exeter to give evidence. She appeared with her face and head bandaged up. While in custody, John’s behaviour had changed and

he had become remorseful. He was trembling and extremely agitated during her examination – apparently he shed tears “*in abundance*” and never took his eyes from her. In his defence, he stated that his passions had rendered him desperate, and claimed that he had actually meant to shoot himself and not Jane, but the pistol had gone off accidentally when he lifted it up. The jury, however, did not hesitate in finding

him guilty, and at the end of the Assizes, the judge sentenced him to death. Of the prisoners sentenced to death at those Assizes, all except John were later reprieved and sentenced to transportation or long imprisonment.

While awaiting his execution, John was held in the county prison. It had been built between 1790 and 1794 on an 8 acre plot of land in St David's parish, across the Longbrook Valley from the Castle, and stood next to another local prison



named the Bridewell or House of Correction, built in 1807. The painting of the prison by local artist John White Abbot gives a rather romantic impression of the prison buildings as they looked at the time.

After his sentence, John's conduct was described in the *Exeter Flying Post* newspaper as "exemplary". When speaking with the prison chaplain, the Reverend Chave, he expressed his deepest sorrow for having committed the dreadful act, and claimed to be at a loss to account for why he did it. He was in such a state of frenzy that he didn't know what he was doing, and had often thought of killing himself. To the turnkey he said that he loved Jane "dearer than any woman on earth" and that he "...would suffer my body this moment to be cut into pound pieces to do her any service".

He took leave of his father John Senior, who visited him from Shillingford Abbot, after a most painful interview on both sides; his mother Susanna was too distressed to come and see him after his sentence. At 12 noon on the day of execution, having received the sacrament, he walked from his cell to the courtyard and shook hands with the other prisoners, with tears streaming down his face. The newspaper reported in detail the other words John spoke while on the scaffold, to the crowd assembled in the courtyard, and how this "unhappy victim of powerful passion" shook hands with an acquaintance who ascended the platform before he gave the "fatal signal" and was hung.

News of his crime, the trial and his execution appeared in newspapers all over the United Kingdom - as far away as Inverness in Scotland and Drogheda in Ireland - in fact, the story of his crime was even published in a Bombay newspaper.

Jan Wood, Shillingford Local History Society

Villages Diary for March

DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE
Friday 1 st	2.30pm	World Day of Prayer	Dunchideock Church
Friday 1 st	7.00pm	Whist	Shillingford V Hall
Sunday 3 rd	4.00pm	Haldon Quartet	Topsham Methodist Church
Monday 4 th	10.00-11.00am	Keep Fit	Shillingford V Hall
Wednesday 6 th	10.30pm	Open Door Café	Shillingford V Hall
Friday 8 th	7.00pm	Whist	Shillingford V Hall
Saturday 9 th	10.00am	Litter pick	Shill Church car park
Saturday 9 th	10.30-12.00	The Exchange	Shillingford V Hall
Sunday 10 th	4.00pm	Mothers' Day service	Dunchideock Church
Monday 11 th	10.00-11.00am	Keep Fit	Shillingford V Hall
Tuesday 12 th	10.30-12.00	Coffee in Garden Room	Lord Haldon Hotel
Wednesday 13 th	12.00-2.00pm	Lent lunches	Shillingford V Hall
Friday 15 th	7.00pm	Whist	Shillingford V Hall
Friday 15 th	7.45pm	Film night 'King Richard'	Lord Haldon Hotel
Sunday 17 th	2.00-5.00pm	Dunchideock History Society – Railway Talk	Lord Haldon Hotel
Monday 18 th	10.00-11.00am	Keep Fit	Shillingford V Hall
Tuesday 19 th	6.00-7.00pm	Lent meditation	Dunchideock Church
Tuesday 19 th	7.30pm	Shillingford Wildlife Talk	Shillingford V Hall
Wednesday 20 th	10.30am	Open Door Cafe	Shillingford V Hall
Friday 22 nd	7.00pm	Whist	Shillingford V Hall
Monday 25 th	10.00-11.00am	Keep Fit	Shillingford V Hall
Monday 25 th	7.30pm	Film night 'Frankie and Johnny'	Shillingford V Hall
Tuesday 26 th	10.30-12.00	Coffee in Garden Room	Lord Haldon Hotel
Weds 27 th	12.00-2.00pm	Lent lunches	Shillingford V Hall
Weds 27 th	7pm	Oratorio Cross of Christ	Ide Parish Church
Friday 29 th	7.00pm	Whist	Shillingford V Hall
Sunday 31 st	6.00am (British Summer Time)	Easter Dawn Service and breakfast	Below Willhayes Cross and Webberton Meadows

Shillingford St. George

Rector (day off Thursday) Revd. Mike Partridge, The Rectory, Alphington, EX2 8XJ
The Parishes of Alphington, Ide and Shillingford
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Churchwardens Nick Mansell (832660)
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Dunchideock

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