

COUNTRY NEWS

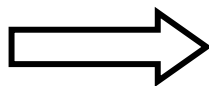
NOVEMBER 2025

Parish Magazine of

Shillingford St George and Dunchideock



Autumn



Winter

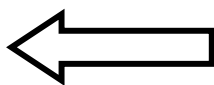


A Year in the Wood*



Spring

Summer



*repeat as often as required

Dunchideock History Society Talk and AGM, 16th. November
A Jazz Evening with Pete Allen, Shillingford, 29th November
Check the Diary for details of all events this month.



LETTER FROM THE RECTORY

Every so often as we go about our daily lives, we will be cast back into the past: perhaps a baking smell will conjure a childhood kitchen; or an old song will recall the nostalgia of early romance. We have memories that make us look back in anger, as John Osborne might put it, or spur us to amend past injustices or remind us of lost opportunities. Each day is a day full of memories, because memories contribute to the people we are.

Remember me when I am gone.
But not with sorrow, pain and grief
Think of me as a turning leaf
That in the winter falls from its branch
To be born again in spring
And live forever in your heart
(Christine Currah)

November is the month we focus on remembering, both as individuals and as a nation. And in this month, our memories are focused particularly on people and relationships. On a personal level Sunday 2 November at 6pm in Bridford Church is when we hold our annual Service of Remembering; a gentle, candlelit service of prayer and song, when we remember by name those people who have been and still are special to us, but who we no longer see. Their names will be read aloud as candles are lit – if there isn't time to write their names on the lists at the back of church just send me their names: tvhhrectory@yahoo.com

Our national Service of Remembrance for all those who gave, and continue to give, their lives for our wellbeing and the wellbeing of our country is on Sunday 9 November. Our memories are touched by the sight of red poppies, insignificant but beautiful flowers in themselves, their colour symbolic of lives spent in pursuit of freedom and justice.



Let us not forget too that the Bible is a collection of memories: the Old Testament tells the stories of a people who believed that their lives were lived under God's care; the New Testament records the memories of those who actually lived with Jesus, his friends and followers. These memories are part of our heritage which we want to pass on; the Open the Book team does this every fortnight in our schools, encouraging the children to help act out the stories. We are always looking to welcome new members – please give it a go! No acting experience necessary! Contact me or Steve Cook tvhchurches@gmail.com

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 Elizabeth Burren (Curate) - revelizabethburren@gmail.com

Pastoral Care

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

Sunday Services

There is a 9am telephone service each Sunday - you do not need internet access, just 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").

Scattered Church – Home Communion – 24th and 25th November

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

All Saints and All Souls – Sunday 3 November

Special All Saints Holy Communion services will be held at 10:30am in Ashton and Christow.

In the evening, at 6pm in Bridford, there will be an All Souls Service of Remembering with music, silence and an opportunity to light candles and remember by name all those on our hearts. Please add the names of those you would like to be remembered to the lists at the back of each of our churches, or email tvhchurches@gmail.com

Remembrance Services – Sunday 9 November

Remembrance Services will be held as follows on Sunday 9 November:

Ashton – 10:50am

Doddiscombsleigh – 10:45am

Bridford – 10:50am

Dunchideock – 10:45am

Christow – 10:50am

Dunsford – 10:50am

Forest Church – 23 November

A monthly opportunity to explore outdoor spirituality, for all the family, at 4pm on Sunday 23 November in Ashton Village Orchard (behind the Village Hall). You don't need to be a church-goer to come to Forest Church, just someone who appreciates creation and would like to have fun and explore their spiritual side outdoors. You can stay for all or part of the session and join in as you feel comfortable. Bring a camp chair or rug to sit on if you can, everyone of all ages is welcome, dogs too!

Advent Sunday – 30 November

This year Advent Sunday is on 30 November. There is Mission Community Holy Communion service in Christow at 10:30am and an Advent Carol Service (with choir) at Ashton at 6:00pm. Everybody is especially welcome to the start of this important preparation period.

Dunsford Home Groups

An opportunity to think, discuss and learn together. There are *two* evening groups – one meeting on the second and fourth Monday of each month, and the other on the second and fourth Tuesday. For details, please contact Rev'd Ruth Frampton – contact details above. All welcome!

Villages Prayer

An opportunity each month to join together specifically to pray for our world, our communities, our churches and those we know. Everyone is welcome. We meet to pray on the 3rd Tuesday of each month between 5pm and 6pm. The next meeting will be on 18 November at Stonehouse, Village Road, Christow, EX6 7NF. Please contact one of the clergy (details above) or the Churches' Administrator (details below) if you have requests for prayer.

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

From the registers...

Baptisms:

19 October Grace Regan (Ashton)

Weddings:

20 September James Yates and Francesca Poole (Dunchideock)

4 October Luke Quy-Verlander and Katie Burns

Funerals:

8 October Mary Attree (Dunsford)

20 October Gladys Caley (Dunchideock)

24 October Paul Pellew (Christow)

28 October William Wakeham (Dunchideock)

Dunchideock Church Calendar

(for other church services in the Mission Community see the main schedule)

Date	Name	Service	Time
Nov 9	Remembrance Sunday	Remembrance Service	10:45am
<i>Sidesperson</i>	Chris Bond		
<i>Readers</i>	Callum Lamont	Ray Mallett	
<i>Readings</i>	Micah 4:1-7	Romans 8:31-39	
Nov 16	2 Before Advent	Holy Communion	10:30am
<i>Sidesperson</i>	Shirley Phillips		
<i>Readers</i>	Steve Cook	Jamie Cummings	
<i>Readings</i>	Malachi 4:1-2a	2 Thessalonians 3:6-13	

DUNCHIDEOCK HISTORY SOCIETY

Sunday 16 November 2025

The Lord Haldon Country Hotel, Dunchideock EX6 7YF

2.30pm Talk:

Dunchideock Field Names: A Cultural Tapestry from 1652 to 2025

Speaker: Shirley Phillips

Join us for a captivating journey through the connection between historical and modern field names, their associated maps, and the rich, varied history of the Dunchideock area.

The **Dunchideock History Exhibition** will be on display from when the doors open at 2pm, with additional time to peruse after the AGM (approx. 4.30pm)

4pm: Annual General Meeting

All Events are Free for Members

Guests £4 (tickets at the door by cash or card)

Membership: £10 per annum

Subscription year: 1 November to 31 October

Details of the Benefits of Membership can be found on the Dunchideock History Society website: <https://www.dunchideockhistory.com/>;

For information or any queries please contact:

dunchideockhistory@outlook.com;

HARVEST IN DUNCHIDEOCK...

The church had been beautifully decorated by a team of volunteers for our special Harvest Thanksgiving Service on 12 October.

The service was led by Rev Dan Miles from St Basil's, and included a children's activity – collecting leaves from the graveyard and cutting and pasting them into the shapes of rolls and fishes, linking with one of the readings for the day. Dan was interviewed about the positive and encouraging work of St Basil's – their Sunday services, children's and youth work, and involvement in Exeter prison.



The harvest meal afterwards in the Village Hall seemed to be much appreciated by all – locally sourced ingredients for a Devon beef cobbler stew, followed by apple themed desserts and local apple juice. It was a happy, friendly atmosphere and we are grateful to the Village Hall for the venue, and to the Doyles for getting the tables out and ready for the meal.

Thank you to all those who helped to make this such a happy and special celebration!



The Garden Room



A warm welcome awaits you in

The Garden Room

The Lord Haldon Country Hotel

Dunchideock, EX6 7YF



For Coffee, Cake and Good company!



4th & 18th November 2025

2nd 16th & 30th December 2025



From 10:30 am until 12:00 midday



Everyone Welcome!

Lifts available if required please contact:

Anne Taylor: 01392 833282

Or Shirley Phillips: 07503183224



Tea/Coffee: £1.80

Cake: £1.80

Dunchideock Village Hall Events

Registered Charity No. 301096.

NOVEMBER

Thursday 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th November: Cardio Drumming @ 6pm Enjoy music, improve cardio fitness, develop drumming skills and experience amazing feelings of wellbeing. £10 per session. Call Tamsin on 07891 861881

Monday 10th November: Parish Council Meeting @ 7.30pm

Friday 14th & 28th November: Village Singers with Tamsin! @5.30-6.30pm. £1. No audition necessary.

Friday 21st November: : Film Night @ 6.45pm for a 7.15pm start. "The Penguin Lessons" starring Steve Coogan. £5 Admittance includes tea/coffee and biscuits. Extra charge for ice cream and bar. Organised by Ray Mallett and Lee Curio.

DECEMBER

Thursday 4th, 11th & 18th December: Cardio Drumming @ 6pm Enjoy music, improve cardio fitness, develop drumming skills and experience amazing feelings of wellbeing. £10 per session. Call Tamsin on 07891 861881

Friday 12th December: Film Night @ 6.45pm for a 7.15pm start. Film to be confirmed. £5 Admittance includes tea/coffee and biscuits. Extra charge for ice cream and bar. Organised by Ray Mallett and Lee Curio.

Friday 19th December: The Lord Haldon Hotel @ 7pm Christmas Extravaganza! Cornish legend, Mr Johnny Cowling will be returning to Dunchideock for a fabulous, festive evening of comedy & song. Supported by Devon's own 'Sweet and Fruity' jazz/swing band, Plum Jam. Delicious turkey bap with trimmings or vegetarian option. **Early bird tickets £20 (until 7th November)** Standard ticket

Dunchideock Village Hall 100+ Club



OCTOBER

1. T Short
2. A Bourne
3. H Ellis

price £25 (from 8th November until 12th December). Raffle with exceptional prizes!

£200 cash, food hamper &



Dunchideock Village Hall review for the month...

We held a couple of events this month to commemorate the 150 year anniversary of our Village Hall building. In 1875, it was opened as the free village school with the generous donation made by Elizabeth Pitman. The school closed in 1959 after a government education review. The village decided to buy and convert the school into the Village Hall we enjoy today. That was in 1960.

On 12th September just under 70 people attended a 60's style BBQ with live music. Special thanks to our local musicians Tamsin and Rik who got us singing and dancing. Many thanks to all village hall supporters who provided the lovely side salads. Special thanks to Mandy and Andy McCarthy who generously gave us a large new marquee to add to the village hall equipment. This was much appreciated.

On the afternoon of the 25th September, we had a free tea afternoon to meet up with some ex-pupils and their families who had attended the school. We now have a permanent display of photos in the hall that span the 150 years of community activity both as a school and village hall.

Thank you especially to those who have contributed their knowledge and photographs to our history.

Your Village Hall Committee.

Dunchideock Village Hall



Singing Villagers

with Tamsin.

An informal singing group focussing on well known songs with simple harmonies. The emphasis is purely upon enjoying the benefits of group singing. No audition is necessary.

We meet up generally twice a month on a Friday 5.30-6.30

! The bar will be open !
£1 to cover hall expenses

Call Tamsin - 07891 861881
if you'd like to reserve a space.

Registered charity no.301096

Dunchideock Film Night

STEVE COOGAN

The Penguin Lessons

Based on a true story


★★★★★
THE MAIL ON SUNDAY

★★★★★
THE ECHO


★★★★★
HEAT

★★★★★
COLLIDER


Doors open
6.45pm



At the Village Hall



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE FULL MONTY
AND THE WRITER OF PHILOMENA



Friday 21st November
7.15 pm

Dunchideock Village Hall & Lord Haldon Hotel
invite you to a

A FESTIVE NIGHT OF COMEDY



JOHNNY COWLING LIVE



FRI 19th DEC

7pm at The Lord Haldon Hotel

Early bird tickets £20 up to Nov 7th
Thereafter £25 from Tanya 07712 672234

Registered Charity No. 301096

FITNESS AND WELLBEING

MOMENTS of SPIRITUAL GROWTH and SUPPORT: Welcome! Touch into your own wonderful natural gift of resources that enable your stress levels to return to calm and peace within you. Feel nourished at a deep level and supported. For £10/month join one or more of the groups on two Wednesdays in Dunchideock and Thursday evenings (via Zoom), sharing together in meditations, sacred music on Wednesdays, with a lunch once a month for additional £3. Join us to cultivate your practice for your own peace, health and connection with others. Any faith or none – all are welcome! Contact: Shirley Phillips: shirley@exetermindfulness.com;

News from the WI based in Christow

Would you like to see more butterflies in your garden? Come to the Teign Valley Hall Christow on Thursday November 13th at 2pm to learn how. Sue Collins lives with her husband Ian in Doddiscombsleigh on a small farm with semi natural grassland where they increase the diversity of pollinators and bats with the help of the local community who love nature and with some low intensity rotational grazing from a neighbour's rare breed dexter cattle. We are also proud to say she is a member of our WI and has kindly agreed to share her knowledge on this subject with us all. She will advise us on the life cycle of the butterfly, how to recognise some of the common ones you may see in Devon and how you can encourage them into your gardens and fields. She will focus on what has happened to the butterfly population since the 1960's and 70's and how butterfly populations are monitored by volunteers and tell us about targets for restoring nature.

Sue has a wealth of expertise in this field as she has worked part time since 2006 for butterfly conservation Europe as their European environmental policy advisor. Before that she was director of policy at English Nature (Now called Natural England). She has been a member of Butterfly conservation UK since 1973. She states that her expertise is in strategy and policy development at UK and European level and in capacity building with volunteers.

Everybody is welcome to come to this talk. If you are not a member it is £5 for the talk and refreshments.

Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Anne Rice

For more information contact us at christowwi@gmail.com

The Discombes of Pengelly's Farm, Shillingford Abbot – Part Two.

As the end of the 1920s approached, Frederick and May Discombe had been farming at *Pengelly's* for almost 15 years. This photograph – though probably taken fairly early in their marriage - shows Frederick and May entertaining guests in the garden.



In November 1928, at about the time that their son John was born, Frederick's father John Discombe of *Helwell Farm* in Kenton died suddenly. The *Western Times* newspaper described him as a well-known agriculturalist and prominent member of the Farmer's Union as well as Chairman of the Kenton Gas Company and of the Starcross, Kenton and District Clay Pigeon Club. When his will was proved in March of the following year, he left £1,500 each to Frederick and his sister Maude Burrington, and the residue of his property in trust to his two children for life, with the remainder in equal shares to his grandchildren, who included Barbara and John Discombe. Maude Burrington and her husband John Burrington (May Discombe's brother) had moved from *Towsington* in Exminster to take over at *Helwell Farm*.

Like his father, Frederick Discombe was a keen shot, and apparently belonged to a club at Kennford. In July 1929 he hosted a county-wide Devon Clay Pigeon Shooting Association meeting at Lower Shillingford, which attracted 22 guns. Clay targets had begun to be used in place of live pigeons around 1875. Targets made of asphalt were later developed, but the name "clay targets" stuck. Clay shooters continued to use terminology that originated from the use of live pigeons. A target was thus called a "bird", and a "hit" referred to as a "kill". Frederick Discombe tied for second place in the competition titled "five pairs rocketing pheasants off tower" and came sixth overall with 28 "kills". Apparently the harvesting season, the close proximity to another championship event the following weekend and the lack of money prizes reduced the number of guns attending.

At that time, the Stoke Hill Beagles also used to hunt in the area. In October 1929 the Exeter and Plymouth Gazette reported on a hunt which rode over *Peamore*, *Pengelly's* and the neighbouring *Barton Farm* and then passed close to *Crosslands*

and down to Shillingford. Later, in the autumn of 1937, they began one of their meets at *Pengelly's Farm*, Shillingford.



In the 1920s and 1930s, grey squirrels – which had been introduced to England from North America in 1876 – had successfully populated much of the country and were beginning to cause significant damage to commercial forestry; in particular to beech, sycamore, oak, poplar, and sweet chestnut trees. They also nested in farm buildings and lofts, and were regarded as vermin. A law was passed in 1938 banning their importation, and

in following years various methods were tried without success to control grey squirrels, including poisoning and shooting. This photograph from the Discombe family descendants shows Frederick John Discombe (second from the end) with other local men after a “great squirrel hunt” - not an activity or a photograph which would be considered as acceptable today, though grey squirrels are still regarded as an invasive, non-native species.

In June 1931, Frederick and May's 15 year old daughter Barbara, a pupil at the Maynard School in Exeter, sat for the London General School Examinations, and was awarded the School Certificate, with a distinction in English.

The Discombes ran a pedigree Friesian dairy herd, but through the 1930s, Frederick Discombe regularly advertised other farm produce for sale in the Exeter newspapers – giving us a picture of mixed farming at the time. In autumn 1930 he offered a ton or more of good cooking apples – Bramleys, Warners etc.; in winter 1931 a rick of clover hay; in summer that year and in following years he advertised 100 nitches of “good reed, in place” [presumably combed wheat reed for thatching, that had either been cleaned out using a hand comb, or more likely, been passed through a machine known as a Reed Comber]. In 1937, Frederick offered two “Glevum” Incubators, small egg incubators common in the 1930s, built of solid timber and mesh, and warmed by paraffin or kerosene heaters. Occasionally, he advertised for “grass keep” – agistment – for a flock of ewes off the farm. And in May 1934, Hussey and Son, auctioneers, sold ten of Frederick Discombe's fat lambs for 56 shillings at Exeter market.

...to be concluded next month

Jan Wood, Shillingford Local History Society

SHILLINGFORD ST GEORGE CHURCH

JAZZ IN SHILLINGFORD TWO

AN EVENING

WITH

PETE ALLEN

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JAZZ IN SHILLINGFORD - AN EVENING WITH PETE ALLEN

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2025. SHILLINGFORD VILLAGE HALL

Following a very successful evening last year, here is another opportunity to see and hear the skill and talent of a high calibre musician.

It will again raise funds for St George the Martyr Church in Shillingford St George.

In the past Pete's band has featured on many television and radio programmes and toured widely overseas.

This event is Pete's solo music show in which he will play a varied programme of music featuring clarinet and saxophone as well as singing.

Book your tickets now (see poster for details) to experience the Village Hall coming alive with the sound of jazz!

TEIGN VALLEY MEN'S SHED

Teign Valley Men's Shed will be open **every Thursday during November** from **9:30am to 12:30pm**. If you are already a member, look out for an email or WhatsApp message just in case we have to cancel, or contact the email address below.

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. See contact details below.

What are Men's Sheds? 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 would like 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.

Recent Developments:

The moveable vegetable rack has now been installed at Christow Village Shop and is in use!but work continues back at the workshop

For further details or to register an interest, or to arrange transport, please email teignvalleyshed@gmail.com

Everyone is welcome!



A TRIBUTE TO WENDY NELMES



Many readers will know that Wendy Nelmes of Shillingford Abbot died in September. Wendy was a dedicated committee member of Shillingford Local History Society; together with Daphne Crockford, she willingly organised the refreshments at each meeting and at many of the annual suppers which followed our talks every February. Her late husband John Nelmes also helped us, taking photographs of the church

memorials and plaques for our society booklet "What's In A Name?" and printing off copies of booklets for us. Up until her death, Wendy continued to help me and several others by sending us copies of the "Country News" each month, as we were outside the delivery area. My heartfelt thanks, Wendy and I shall miss you.

Jan Wood, Shillingford Local History Society

Services in the Teign Valley and Haldon Hill Mission Community

November	Time	Details
2 All Saints/All Souls	9:00am	Scattered Church by Telephone - Service of the Word
	10:30am	St John the Baptist, Ashton - Holy Communion
	10:30am	St James, Christow - Holy Communion
	10:30am	St Mary, Dunsford - Service of the Word
	6:00pm	St Thomas Becket, Bridford - All Souls Service of Remembering
9 Remembrance Sunday	9:00am	Scattered Church by Telephone - Service of the Word
	10:45am	St Michael, Doddiscombsleigh - Remembrance Service
	10:45am	St Michael & All Angels, Dunchideock - Remembrance Service
	10:50am	St John the Baptist, Ashton - Remembrance Service
	10:50am	St Thomas Becket, Bridford - Remembrance Service
	10:50am	St James, Christow - Remembrance Service With Communion
	10:50am	St Mary, Dunsford - Remembrance Service
16 2 Before Advent	9:00am	Scattered Church by Telephone - Service of the Word
	10:30am	St Michael, Doddiscombsleigh - Holy Communion
	10:30am	St Michael & All Angels, Dunchideock - Holy Communion
	10:30am	St Mary, Dunsford - Family Service
23 Christ the King	9:00am	Scattered Church by Telephone - Service of the Word
	10:30am	St Thomas Becket, Bridford - Holy Communion
	10:30am	St Mary, Dunsford - Holy Communion
	4:00pm	Ashton Village Orchard - Forest Church
30 Advent Sunday	9:00am	Scattered Church by Telephone - Service of the Word
	10:30am	St James, Christow - Mission Community Holy Communion
	10:30am	St Mary, Dunsford - Service of the Word
	6:00pm	St John the Baptist, Ashton - Advent Carol Service

For telephone services, please dial 0333 011 0616 and enter the code 334 7721, followed by #



Robert Williams

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FREE QUOTATIONS

Shillingford St George Church Calendar for November 2025

Date	Name	Service	Time
2 November	All Saints	Morning Service	9.30
Sidesmen	Liz		
Readers	Sue & Derek		
Readings	2 Thessalonians 1:1-12, 11-12, Luke 19:1-10		
Prayers	Lay Team	Road through Shillingford St George	
Date	Name	Service	Time
9 November	Remembrance	Remembrance Service	9.30
Sidesmen	Norman		
Readers	Di and Norman		
Readings	tbn		
Prayers	Clergy	Surrounding parishes of Dunchideock, Kenn & Exminster	
Date	Name	Service	Time
16 November	2 Before Advent	Evensong*	4.00*
Sidesmen	Tom and Gwen		
Readers	Ken and Peter		
Readings	2 Thessalonians 3:6-13, Luke 21:5-19		
Prayers	Clergy	Barrack Lane & Barton Lane	
Date	Name	Service	Time
23 November	Last before Advent	Holy Communion	9.30
Sidesmen	Derek and Jane		
Readers	Sue and Derek		
Readings	Colossians 1:11-20, Luke 23:33-43		
Prayers	Nick	Oak Close & Waybrook Lane	
Date	Name	Service	Time
30 November	Advent Sunday	Holy Communion @ Ide	9.30
Sidesmen	No service at Shillingford		
Readings	Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44		
Date	Name	Service	Time
7 December	Advent 2	Advent Candle Service	9.30
Sidesmen	Di		
Readers	Di and Norman		
Readings	Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12		
Prayers	Lay Team	Road through Shillingford Abbot	

Our **Remembrance Service** this year will commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the end of WW2. All are welcome to join us at this service which will finish in time to watch the National Commemoration on TV.

Flower Rota – November 2025

November 2 & 9 – Anne November 16 & 23 - Di

Evensong Services*

During the winter months (GMT) we will hold Evensong at 4pm rather than 6pm. This should allow some daylight to get to & from church.

Harvest

Church was decorated beautifully for our Harvest Service – thanks to all who provided the decorations and arranged them so well.

Thanks also to Norman and all those who contributed to our Harvest Supper in the Village Hall. The food and service were excellent. The raffle raised £150 for *Mercy Ships* and over £250 was raised for church.

December Services

In the run up to Christmas we will be having our traditional services to get us into the Christmas spirit:

On **Sunday 7 December** at **9.30am** will be our Advent Candle Service; a sort of Christingle – but without oranges! However, there will be mince pies.

On **Sunday 21 December** at **4.00pm** we will have our traditional Carol service; followed by mulled wine & mince pies.

Our traditional “early” Midnight Holy Communion will be at **10pm** on **Christmas Eve**.

All will be made welcome at these services.

From the Registers

10 October –Mary Phythian, Thanksgiving Service

28 October – Wendy Nelmes, funeral

Our prayers of support for their families.

Open Door Café November and December

The Café is on Wednesday mornings in Shillingford Village Hall from 10.30 -12 noon on the following dates:

12th November (with Police @ Communities),

26th November and

10th December Followed by our Christmas Buffet Lunch.

The Christmas Lunch will be at approx. 12.30pm (also in the Village Hall)

Shillingford Parish Council

Here is a short resume of the last parish council meeting held on 8th September

- Concerns were raised by the Churchwarden regarding dog fouling in the church grave yard and car park. It was agreed that more robust signs and a poo dispenser will be purchased and positioned at the start of the footpath to the church and at the entrance to the back car park.
- Cllr Parrott reported that Devolution plans are still moving forward but it is quite confusing as there are a number of options being put forward. Examples as follow-
 - Exeter to take in surrounding parishes and become a Unitary Council (UC)
 - Torbay to remain a UC.
 - Devon CC favours a single UC across Devon.
 - North Devon has not yet formally proposed.
- There are local By- Elections taking place on 9th September.
- Neighbourhood plan (NP) The meeting held on 30th July was well attended with a very good presentation given by Rob Kelly. The next meeting will be 15th October to more formally discuss our NP. It is felt that despite the uncertainty with Devolution and the future of NPs it will still be important to go ahead with ours. To have something written down in view of future and planned developments within and bordering the parish.
- Bus Shelter clean up, this has been appreciated by residents.
- Cutting of the bank along Sampsons Lane, Highways are to be contacted to check if they are responsible for this.
- CAB (citizens advice bureau) requested a grant, agreed to give £50 again this year.

Next meeting to be held at 7.30pm on Monday 3rd November 2025 in the VH.



Film Night

Shillingford St George
Village Hall

November 17th 2025

7:30pm (doors open
7:15)

Free Entry!

Everyone welcome

Come and enjoy watching a film and
get to know your neighbours

Ice cream £1.50 Popcorn £1 cash only

The Friends of Shillingford Wood & The Wildlife Group

Would like to invite you all to our annual winter supper.

Saturday 22nd November @ 19.30hrs.

SSG Village Hall

£12.50 per person



Wildlife presentation by a guest speaker

For tickets contact – claire.62@live.co.uk 3 Ilex Close

Ian.merrett@btinternet.com Blacksmiths cottage

kfryett@googlemail.com East Pengelly's SA

Bring your own wine

THE EXCHANGE



Shillingford Village Hall

SATURDAY 8th NOVEMBER

10.30 – 12.00

*Bring your Books, Toys, Puzzles,
Plants and Seeds to swap, or just
take away something you see!*

No Bric a brac or clothing please

Tasty cakes ~ Coffee ~ Tea

LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP MEETING

Friday 14th November 2025 at 7.30pm

The first meeting of the Steering Group for the Neighbourhood Plan
will take place In the village hall, Shillingford St George.

Everyone is invited. So do come along, find out what it is about - and see if you
can help.

SHILLINGFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

WHAT CAN A GRAVEYARD TELL US ABOUT GEORGIAN EXETER

EXETER DISSENTERS' GRAVEYARD

MONDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2025

The talk was given by Dr. Ian Varndell who has been actively involved with the restoration of the Graveyard as a member of the Steering Group from 2013 and then as a Trustee of Exeter Dissenters' Graveyard Trust.

Dissenters were Protestant groups and individuals in England, and later the U.K., who refused to conform to the established Church of England, preferring to worship in their own congregations, and forming denominations like those of the Baptists, Quakers, and Presbyterians. It is thought that the use of the label "Dissenters" can be traced back to the 1640's and 1650's, when a number of new radical Protestant groups emerged.

In 1660 when Charles II returned to England, a series of "Penal Laws" were passed that banned Puritans from holding unauthorised forms of public worship. These laws had the unintended consequence of creating "Dissenters". After the Act of Uniformity passed in 1662, they were also commonly known as Non-conformists and faced discrimination, being prevented from holding public office, or from attending Oxford or Cambridge Universities. In 1689 the Toleration Act granted them freedom of worship, and allowed the licensing of their meeting houses, though civil and religious restrictions remained for some time. It was not until 1828 that they were permitted to hold public office.

In his book "Non-conformity in Exeter, 1650-1875" Alan Brockett commented that "the capital of Devon has always been a hotbed of dissent". As Non-conformists could not initially build their own chapels, they met in private houses and held religious "meetings". Ian Varndell spoke about three of these denominations – the Presbyterians, Trinitarians and Unitarians, which established five original "meetings" held in Meeting Houses in Exeter. These were James's Meeting House founded in 1687, opposite the [still existing] Georges Meeting House in South Street, Bow Meeting probably in Smythen Street, Little Meeting in Waterbeer Street, and The Mint Meeting, on the site of the present Methodist Church in Fore Street.

The former George's Meeting House was the fifth Meeting House to be erected in Exeter and is Grade 1 listed as an unaltered 18th-century chapel. It was built in 1760 as a Presbyterian chapel that became a Unitarian chapel and named after King George III, who came to the throne the same year. George's Meeting House closed as a chapel in 1983 after over 200 years of use. It has several stained windows and

memorials and an original pulpit. There are also some interesting framed drawings, photographs and texts giving information about the history of Exeter. It is now sympathetically owned by J D Wetherspoon.

In 1748 the congregations negotiated a lease of 999 years for the site that is now the Dissenters' Graveyard, for their own burial ground. This was necessary, as some Anglican clergy refused to accept Dissenters for burial in their churchyards, and Bishop Lavington (1746 to 1762) insisted on Anglican burial rites, which Dissenters renounced. The purchase was achieved by voluntary subscriptions from the congregations; they raised 35 pounds, 5 shillings and 9 pence which also covered the building of walls and the wooden gates.

The graveyard is roughly rectangular in shape and had been two garden plots leased to market gardeners, covering 1/6th of an acre, and smaller than two tennis courts. It is 119 feet long, 56 feet wide at the front and 39 feet at the rear. It can be identified now as the small, almost rectangular area surrounded by a brick wall with an arch over the gateway and situated at the junction of Magdalen Street and Bull Meadow Road, Exeter just outside Exeter's city walls. As such, it was outside of the control of the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral. It is named on the 1756 map of Exeter on what was then known as Maudlin Street, and also on later maps.

The Dissenters' Graveyard was in use between 1748 to 1854 by the united congregations of Protestant Dissenters who were mainly Presbyterians and later Unitarians. The first burial was on 10th December 1748 and the last on 2nd July 1854. It is known from surviving burial registers, including the Dissenters Burial Ground Account Book, that over 1,500 people are buried there, but up to 2,000 burials may have possibly taken place. The people buried there included ministers Micaiah Towgood, Joseph Bretland and James Manning, and members of well-known local families, such as Bowring, Gifford, Kennaway, Kingdon, Milford, Treadwin and Tremlett. One of the men buried there was connected through marriage to John Adams, the second President of the United States of America.

There are many family graves, with 40% of those buried being young people below the age of 5 years. The burials reflected a cross-section of the population of Exeter for the time that the graveyard was open, including those in the wool and cloth industry, banking, and a wide range of trades and professions. Many of the graves probably did not ever have a memorial, and some memorials have disappeared which means that only a relatively small number have survived.

There are a variety of grave types - single plots, chest tombs, a pedestal tomb, and 'caves'. These 'caves' are brick-constructed underground vaults that could be opened as required to add other family members, and it is known that some do contain the remains of burials. The Account Book suggests there could have been 45 'caves' - regarded by the owning families as assets - and 15 chest tombs. There are several different types of memorial still surviving - two obelisks, a coffin stone,

14 'ledgers' or flat stones and 52 headstones, including some of the "bedstead" type – so-called because the carved top was the shape of a bedstead.

After closure in 1854, the Graveyard went through several changes of ownership and a long period of neglect and became substantially overgrown. The Manpower Services Commission undertook clearance of the Graveyard in 1984/85 and some of the headstones were moved to the walls, so that the original locations of burial plots were lost. A period of uncertainty followed with the Graveyard being considered for possible commercial or housing development. Exeter City Council refused all the Planning Applications, and it was eventually recorded as a site of special interest in the Southernhay and Friars Conservation Area.

In early 2014, the site was purchased by Exeter Historic Buildings Trust who then transferred it to the newly formed Exeter Dissenters Graveyard Trust [EDGT] in 2015. This trust was able to obtain numerous grants including from the Heritage Lottery Fund, which enabled the EDGT to make substantial improvements to the Graveyard with the help of volunteers from various organisations. The result is that the graveyard has been restored from an eyesore to a sympathetically conserved heritage asset located within the ancient city of Exeter that is well worth a visit.

A large number of members and guests enjoyed this excellent talk. There were many images of the large number of records that have survived, together with pictures of how the condition of the Graveyard has been substantially improved. These were in addition to all the historical details that have been discovered by the Research Group of the Trust. The talk did illustrate 'what a graveyard could tell us about Georgian Exeter' - and all from an area smaller than two tennis courts.

The next meeting will be on Monday 23rd February 2026 with a talk by Professor David Radstone on The History of Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital – he'll also be bringing some historic medical items from the Devon & Exeter Medical Heritage Trust collection. As usual this February meeting is followed by a light buffet supper. On Saturday 21st March 2026 there will be an afternoon performance by the Devon-based and nationally known Folk Singer Jim Causley.

The Committee is very much in need of new members, so if anyone is interested, please contact the Chairperson, Jan Wood at jwood227@btinternet.com.

The membership year is from May to April. The annual fee remains only £8, and next comes due in May 2026. This includes free entry to the four meetings and talks for the year, and also covers the cost of the buffet at the February meeting. New members are always welcome. The fee per meeting for guests is £4, or £6 for the February meeting, which also covers the cost of the buffet supper.

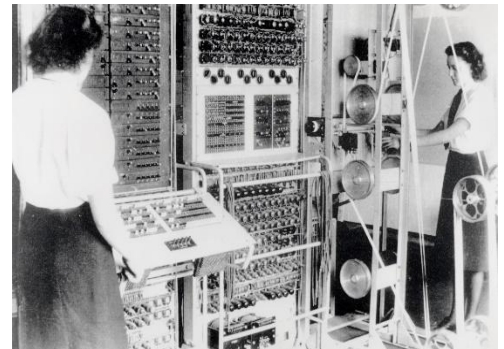
Norman Harvey, Committee Member, Shillingford Local History Society

1024

The size of this article is 123 KB. Have you ever considered what that means?

We use k as a short appreviation for kilo meaning 1000. Hence 1kg means 1000 grams, 1 km means 1000 metres. Mathematicians often write 1000 as 10^3 and so kilo represents 10^3 of a quantity.

The first computers built in the 1930s worked in tens, the counting system we normally use. In 1942 Tommy Flowers and his 50-strong team of Post Office Engineers built the *binary* decoding machine Colossus (shown here), a replica of which is now on view at Bletchley Park. Binary is a counting system based on two numbers; 0 and 1. This worked very well electronically; 1 where the electricity went through the component and 0 where there was no electricity travelling through. The signals were put together in groups of 8 digits, each group was called a *Byte*, abbreviated to B.



In 1942, John Von Neumann in America wrote a seminal paper proposing a form of computer architecture, widely adopted and still in use today. One of his recommendations was that all computers should use binary arithmetic, counting in twos: 2^0 , 2^1 , 2^2 , 2^3 , 2^4 , ..., 2^9 , 2^{10} .

Find out what 2^{10} is by keying into your phone's calculator 2 x^y 10

2^{10} is fairly close to 10^3 . People started writing 2^{10} Bytes as kilobytes. Computer file sizes, storage devices and memory sticks state capacity in terms of kilobytes (KB), megabytes (MB), or gigabytes (GB).

This led to some misunderstandings which culminated in some high profile legal cases in 2004 – does KB mean 1000 bytes or 1024 bytes? In 1999 the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) defined binary symbols Ki as representing 2^{10} (=1024) bytes, Mi representing 2^{20} bytes and Gi representing 2^{30} bytes. Ki, Mi and Gi have not caught on.

We still use KB which could be 1000 bytes or 1024 bytes. It appears that most of us are content to continue living with that ambiguity. *Dawn Bird*



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To Country News Editors and Distributors - and all who would like be to involved

An invitation to our annual meeting on **Sunday 9 November 2025** at **Webberton Meadows, Dunchideock EX2 9TX**

3:00pm - Business Meeting for editors only

3:30pm - Tea and informal meeting for distributors and any others who would like to be involved.

Please let Steve Cook (tvhchurches@gmail.com or 01392 832332) know if you are planning to come.

THE EXCHANGE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL!

Saturday 13th December at 10.30am.

In Shillingford Village Hall

We will be serving free mulled wine and mince pies.

And there will be all the usual exciting items to be swapped

Villages Diary for November 2025

Sat 1st	7.30pm	World Premier: A Year in the life of a Wood	Shillingford Village Hall
Mon 3rd	7.30pm	Shillingford Parish Council meeting	Shillingford Village Hall
Tues 4, 18th	10.30am	Coffee in the Garden Room	Lord Haldon Hotel
Every Thur	9.30am	Men's Shed	Higher Ashton
Every Fri	*2.15pm	Whist. *Please note the new time*	Shillingford Village Hall
Sat 8th	10.30am	The Exchange	Shillingford Village Hall
Sun 9th	3.00pm	Country News Review meeting**	Webberton Meadows
Wed 12, 26	10.30am	Open Door café	Shillingford Village Hall
Thur 13th	2.00pm	WI Talk	TVH Christow
Fri 14th	7.30pm	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	Shillingford Village Hall
Sun 16th	2.30pm	History society 4.00pm AGM	Lord Haldon Hotel
Mon 17th	7.15pm	Shillingford Film Night	Shillingford Village Hall
Tues 18th	5.00pm	Villages Prayer	Stonehouse, Christow
Fri 21st	6.45pm	Dunchideock Film Night	Dunchideock Village Hall
Sat 22nd	7.30pm	Shillingford Wood Supper	Shillingford Village Hall
Sat 29th	7.00pm	A Jazz Evening with Pete Allen	Shillingford Village Hall

Dates for December

Tues 2,16,30	10.30am	Coffee in the Garden Room	Lord Haldon Hotel
Wed 10th	10.30am	Open Door Café with Christmas Lunch	Shillingford Village Hall
Fri 12th	6.45pm	Dunchideock Film Night	Dunchideock Village Hall
Sat 13th	10.30 am	Christmas Exchange	Shillingford Village Hall
Fri 19th	7.00pm	A Festive Night of Comedy	Lord Haldon Hotel

Please note: *Whist at Shillingford St George will start at 2.15 during the winter

**** See invitation on previous page**

SHILLINGFORD ST GEORGE

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Ide and Shillingford rector@alphingtonstmichaels.org

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