

Moorland Parish Link



Holne - Huccaby - Leusdon - Postbridge

Ashburton - Bickington - Buckland

December 2021

Church and Community Magazine of The Moorland Team

The Ministry Team

<i>Team Rector</i> Rt Revd Mark Rylands	The Rectory, Copperwood Close Ashburton, TQ13 7JQ	01364 716309 mark.rylands@mmuk.net
<i>Team Vicar</i> Revd Geoffrey Fenton	The Vicarage, Widcombe-in-the-Moor, TQ13 7TF	01364 621334 geoffrey@moorlandteam.org.uk
<i>Mission and Family Development Worker</i> Heidi Lewis	Holne Vicarage, Holne, TQ13 7RT	07759578941 heidi@moorlandteam.org.uk
<i>Methodist Minister</i> Revd Kevin Hooke		01626 832369 hookekp@hotmail.com

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

Moorland Team Safeguarding Adviser - Judy Southcombe 01364 621520

Diocesan Safeguarding Team - SafeguardingEnquiry@exeter.anglican.org

Moorland Team Website: <https://ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/safeguarding-2>

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God is now here

An atheist was writing an article for Christmas to prove that God did not exist. He wanted to finish his article with the sentence: 'God is nowhere!' Unfortunately, the sub editors made a mistake with the spacing and so the final sentence of his article read: 'God is now here!'

This is the heart of the Christmas good news: God coming to us in human form, as a vulnerable baby to a young woman called Mary. St John says: 'the Word became flesh and dwelt among us'. St Matthew retells the words of the prophet: 'the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and they shall name him Emmanuel' which means 'God is with us'. God is now here!

For many this is unbelievable. Surely if God was to reveal himself to us he would just rend the heavens and come down in power. However, God seems to work not by breaking into the world but by embracing the world from within. In Charles Wesley's carol, 'Hark the herald Angels sing', we sing the lines: 'Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel'. Take away the traditional 'man' language and we see that it is saying that God delights to be human alongside human beings. This carol tells of a God who does not have to be lured down from heaven by us being very polite to him or behaving extra well. God can't help caring for the world that he has made. He doesn't have to be persuaded to be interested in us.

This can help when we pray. Approach God knowing that he is interested in us! Christmas teaches us to dispel the idea that God is essentially bored with us, removed from us and always in need of being kept sweet. He does not have to be persuaded to be on our side. As a former Archbishop of Canterbury said, 'You might as well try to persuade a waterfall to be wet.'

In Bethlehem, God comes to us in the weakness of a baby. A lifetime later, at Calvary, he appeals to us in the helplessness of a man nailed to a cross. In Jesus, God beckons to us not by force but by identifying with us. He wants us to recognise him and go to him.

God is now here. He values our humanity beyond all imagining. He shares our struggles as well as our joys. 'Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.' God is with us. God is for us. May you know the blessing of his presence this Christmas.

+ Mark

Churchwardens

St Mary the Virgin, Holne with St Raphael, Huccaby			
Gillian Parker	Thimble Hall, Hexworthy, PL20 6SD	01364 631507	gillianp1992@gmail.com
Anthony Parker	as above	as above	anthonyfp999@gmail.com
St John the Baptist, Leusdon			
Geoff Bamsey	26 Old Manor Close, Holne Cross, TQ13 7JF	01364 652820	geoff.bamsey486@gmail.com
Patrick Simpson	Spitchwick Manor, Poundsgate, TQ13 7PB	01364 631209	admin@bennah.co.uk
St Gabriel, Postbridge			
Annie Smerdon	4A Oaktree Park, Sticklepath, EX20 2NB	01837 840201	gerald.postbridge@btconnect.com
Wendy Watson	Middle Merripit Farm, Postbridge, PL20 6TJ	01822 880215	wendy@merribridge.plus.com
St Pancras, Widecombe			
Michael Pascoe	Wooder Bungalow, Widecombe, TQ13 7TR	01364 621333	pascoewooder@yahoo.co.uk
St Andrews, Ashburton			
William West	Tawstock, Knowle Close, Ashburton TQ13 7RA	01364 652666	william1208west@me.com
Francis Parffrey	Hillcrest, Bowden Hill, Ashburton TQ13 7EA	01364 654067	francis.parffrey@gmail.com
St Mary the Virgin, Bickington			
Peter Warren	Rentor, Bickington	01626 821213	pw.rentor@gmail.com
St Peter, Buckland in the Moor			
Stephanie Palk	Halshanger Manor, Ashburton	01364 652430	stmp7@tiscali.co.uk

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

BENEFICE OFFICE - Cassie will be in the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. She will be working remotely on Thursdays. Office hours are 9.00am - 3.00pm. Telephone **01364 654280 / 07445 240 133** or email: **admin@moorlandteam.org.uk**

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

Moorland Team Officers

Treasurer	Francis Parffrey	Hillcrest, Bowden Hill, Ashburton TQ13 7EA	01364 654067	francis.parffrey@gmail.com
Secretary	Gillian Parker	Thimble Hall, Hexworthy, PL20 6SD	01364 631507	gillianp1992@gmail.com
Safeguarding Adviser	Judy Southcombe - 01364 621520		judysouthcombe@yahoo.co.uk	
Team Administrator	Cassie Long - 01364 654280		admin@moorlandteam.org.uk	

Church News & Events



ASHBURTON & MOORLAND
MISSION COMMUNITY

CHRISTINGLE *Services*

SUNDAY 5TH DECEMBER
ST ANDREW'S, ASHBURTON - 10.30AM
ST PANCRAS, WIDECOMBE - 4PM

SUNDAY 12TH DECEMBER
ST MICHAEL'S, ILSINGTON - 10.30AM

SUNDAY 2ND JANUARY
ST MARY'S, BICKINGTON - 4PM



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Tuesday 4th January at 7.30pm

with

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More information from Revd Geoffrey Fenton, Widecombe Vicarage, 01364 621334



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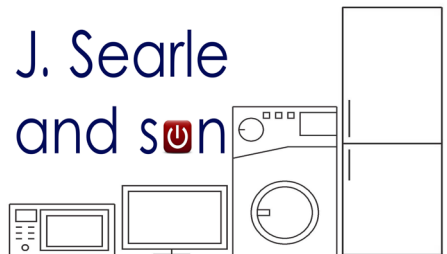
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From the Registers

Funeral Postbridge 12 November Charles (Charlie) Vinnicombe



Messy Church will be in January

It is still strange having Messy Church on the third Saturday of the month. This means that I am writing about the Messy Church that happened last month and the Messy Church that will happen in a week's time.

In October we looked at how we Love God's planet. Johnathan Henderson helped us all by painting an extraordinary rainbow. The older children especially enjoyed helping him. A crowd of children with Johnathan in the garden created this picture.



The singing at the end of the session led by Heidi and Jacqui was very exciting; the children gathered around and danced the Harvest Samba and to "He's got the whole world in his hands". This is only too apt with the COP26 political efforts to save God's creation. He loves the whole of his world and all his creatures just as much as any Lost Sheep.



In November we are exploring the Lost Sheep parable. We all wander away from our flock sometimes. I know that for many years I did not manage to go to church, as I was too busy. Moving house to Ashburton I found that I began to go to church more, but it was hard to change my habit of not going.

Remembering this simple parable helped me to join the local Christian Community again as I rediscovered how much God Loves me. I hope that I can give up being too busy to make some changes in my life that will help the COP 26 meet the targets that will save God's Earth.

In December The Messy Church family have a wonderful opportunity to support East Shallowford Nativity on Saturday December 18th 4-6pm. We will be sending around the information soon. Also, on Thursday 16th we will have Carols on the Green in Ashburton and on 24th December the Crib Service at St Andrew's. I look forward to seeing you there. Happy Christmas and much love Jane



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St Mary the Virgin, Holne

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

Church Services - see Page 22 for details

Date	Time	Service
5th December	-	-
12th December	18:00	Carols by Candlelight
19th December	-	-
24th December	16:00	Nativity Service
25th December	11:00	Family Communion
26th December	-	Service in Ashburton at 10:30am - see page 23

Good News 1

We are now in the season of Advent and whilst we might be wondering whether our Christmas arrangements will be thrown into confusion once again because of the continuing pandemic, one thing will always be constant – the celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

As part of the celebrations at St. Mary's, Heidi Lewis the Mission and Family Development Worker, has organised a Nativity festival in the church for the weekend of the 11th and 12th December. Everyone is invited to create their own Nativity scene and display it in the church during that weekend for everyone to see. We hope to provide some refreshments during the day as well.

The weekend will conclude with our Carol Service at 6pm on Sunday 12th December. Mulled wine and mince pies will be on offer, and all are welcome to join this traditional start to the Christmas celebrations.

Good News 2

After eleven years of discussion and six years since the choir stalls and some panelling were removed from the Chancel of the church, we are at the point of finalising contracts and drawing up the timetable for the much-needed work on the church to start in the Spring next year.

In summary, the PCC has agreed to repairs to parts of the roof, and exterior walls to prevent water ingress; repairs to the interior walls and ceilings and redecoration

Continued on page 11

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For more details please see our website : <http://scoritonvillagehall.org/>

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(Continued from page 9)

throughout; exposure and conservation of paintings discovered on the pillars of the Nave; rewiring with a new efficient, lighting system to show off the architectural features as well meeting health and safety requirements; a new sound system plus some other audio-visual options and replacement radiators with energy efficient valves. There may be some other minor works carried out around the organ.

Statutory notices about the work will be displayed in the church porch during December and anyone who has any questions is welcome to contact me. The work is likely to take between 4-6 months and will involve closing the church completely for a time. The work will be funded by investments held by the church specifically for the purpose for many years and grants from various bodies.

At long last I am confident that this time next year we will all be enjoying the beauty of this wonderful building at its best, as well as having a church that is equipped for the 21st century and the needs of those who use it

Gillian Parker

Holne Garden Group

We have been thinking hard about the Garden Club and our much missed outings. It may be a long time before we can go out by coach again, but how about half day outings, by car, to nearby places where we can walk in beautiful surroundings and chat with our friends from a safe distance? We are getting together a short list, something to cheer the long dark days of winter. Please email Judy to add your suggestions.



If you are interested, get in touch, or we will contact you all. In the meantime, very best wishes to all.

Gill Gray gill@priddons.co.uk 01364 631111 and
Judy Le Marchant judylemarchant@btinternet.com 01364 644099.

HOLNE VILLAGE HALL SOUP & CHEESE LUNCH

Held in the hall on 1st Friday of the month, from 12.30 pm. The next lunch is on 3rd December.

If planning to come please ring Maggie Arden on 01364 631438, or

email dartmoordriving@btinternet.com





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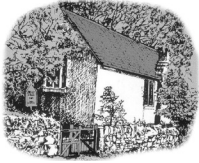
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St Raphael, Huccaby

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

Church Services - see Page 22 for details

Our community Carol Service!

We know that many regard St Raphael's Carol Service as the 'start' of Christmas for them. This year we are holding our candlelight Carol Service on Friday 17th December at 6pm.

There will be mulled wine and mince pies after our service, and we hope that many people will be able to join us in this wonderful part of the Christmas period.

If you would like to read a lesson, we are always looking for volunteers, so please let us know. (Church Warden contact details at front of magazine).

Covid reminder

While we will all hopefully celebrate Christmas 2021 as a time to be with loved ones, please remember **Test and Trace** still plays an essential part in reducing COVID-19 transmission and outbreaks.

The NHS Test and Trace programme is continuing to identify people who are known to have been in close proximity to anyone who has tested positive for coronavirus via a PCR test.

Locally the Devon team is helping to trace those close contacts and advise them on further steps to reduce risk to themselves and others. (Known contacts of people who test positive for COVID-19 no longer have to self-isolate - if they're fully vaccinated or aged under 18 years and six months.)

But, people can still catch coronavirus even if they are fully vaccinated, and spread it to others even before they show any symptoms.

If you are contacted by the Devon tracing team, or you receive a message from the Test and Trace app to tell you that you've been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID, please be extra cautious.

If you are fully vaccinated or under 18 years and six months, take a PCR test to see if you have also caught the virus and self-isolate if you test positive. If the PCR test result is negative, please look out for symptoms, continue to test regularly with lateral flow device tests, and follow the public health guidance around wearing face coverings, fresh air and good hand hygiene.

If you're traced as a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and you're not fully vaccinated, you are required to self-isolate because you are at greater risk of catching and passing on the virus.

Tony Parker

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St John the Baptist, Leusdon

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

Church Services - see Page 22 for details

Date	Time	Service
5th December	-	
12th December	16:00	Carol Service
19th December	12:00	Parish Communion
24th December	23:30	Midnight Communion
26th December	-	Service in Ashburton at 10:30am - see page 23

Covid Update - Leusdon Church is open all day, every day. You are welcome to visit at any time – an opportunity to sit quietly, say a prayer and enjoy our beautiful building. Face-coverings are no longer legally required, but many people are still wearing them for extra protection.

All our services can be downloaded from <https://ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/resources-and-prayers-wlp> Any queries, please contact Revd Geoffrey Fenton (Team Vicar) 01364 621334 geoffrey@moorlandteam.org.uk

Leusdon Memorial Hall

The Hall is open for business and bookings for next year are beginning to come in. The coffee mornings continue on the first Wednesday of each month. The last one made a total of £167.00 for hall funds. The next one will be on **Wednesday 1st December 10.00am-12.00 noon It will take the form of Coffee, Cakes and Carols.** We are extremely grateful to Geoffrey Fenton for providing Carol sheets and playing the keyboard for us. There will also be a stall selling Christmas puddings, stocking fillers and other Christmas goodies along with three other stalls. We would love you to start your Christmas with us.

We shall be breaking with tradition and holding a coffee morning on Wednesday 5th January 2022.

The Moorland Merrymakers will be presenting their Panto from 4-11 December. It

Continued on page 17

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(Continued from page 15)

has a new format but I am sure it will still provide an enjoyable night out for all the family.

The Whist Drives are continuing (they are preceded by a soup and roll or pasty lunch at 1.00pm for any anyone wishing to partake). The next one will be held on the 13th December and a further one on 10th January 2022 all starting at 2.00pm. The cost will be Lunch and Whist £5.00. Whist only £3.00 which will include half time refreshments and a draw.

We will be working with Widecombe Community Hall Committee and Widecombe Church Christmas Tree Festival on the Christmas Lights Drive-Through. This takes place on 16-18 December (further details on Page 36).

The committee's next meeting will be held at 4.00pm on Monday 10th January 2022. The first part will be an OPEN MEETING to discuss arrangements for celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June. If you have any ideas for this I would urge you to attend or contact any member of the committee beforehand. If there is no interest it is unlikely that anything extra will be organised by the Hall Committee.

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and hope 2022 sees us all return to normality.

Should you wish to book the Hall, it is available for hire at £10.00 per hour, there are special rates for regular users. Tables at the Coffee Morning can be booked for £5 per table per session. Further details can be obtained by contacting our booking secretary:

Amanda Routley on 01364 631432 Email: leusdonmemorialhall@yahoo.com

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

My contact details are: John Southcombe Email: johnsouthcombe@hotmail.com
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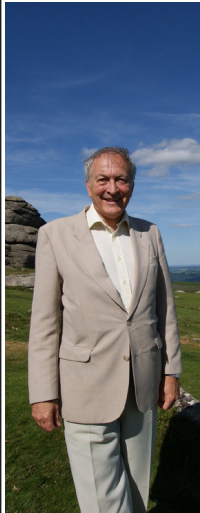


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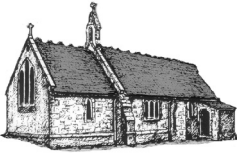


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St Gabriel, Postbridge

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

Church Services - see Page 22 for details

Date	Time	Service
7th December	19:30	An Hour of Quiet Reflection
12th December	18:00	Carol Service
25th December	09:00	Christmas Communion

Covid Update - Postbridge Church is open all day, every day. You are welcome to visit at any time – an opportunity to sit quietly, say a prayer and enjoy our beautiful building. Face-coverings are no longer legally required, but many people are still wearing them for extra protection.

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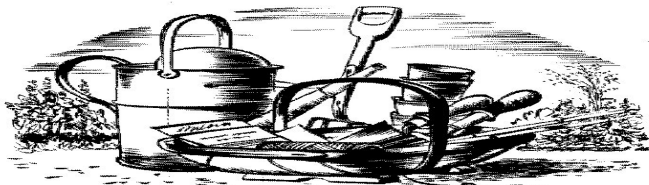
Lots of prizes, a raffle and refreshments included.

Donated raffle items would be appreciated. Please leave items in Postbridge Stores or Beechwood BnB. Many thanks.

Contact: Jackie Gee, Bungalow 2, Dartfordleigh, Postbridge, Yelverton, PL20 6TJ Tel: 01822 880224

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Postbridge Coffee Mornings

Our final Coffee Morning for the year will be held at Postbridge Village Hall on Monday 6 December at 11am. It will have a Christmas theme and you are asked to bring a plate of food with Christmas in mind and a raffle prize wrapped in Christmas paper for a lucky dip.

There will be no Coffee Morning in January recommencing in February 2022, the date will be announced in the Parish Link.

Maureen & Sheila

High Moorland Women's Institute Princetown

If you would like to be a part of a hugely respected organisation, come along to one of our monthly meetings for a taster to see if WI is for you. We meet on the **first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Community Centre small hall Princetown**. It will cost you £3. You are welcome to attend two meetings as a taster. We are a fun group of mixed age range ladies and we do have a good laugh. Do come and see what we get up to.



If you would like to know more about High Moorland Women's Institute or details of the events listed above, please drop Helly an email on hellyhtsn@hotmail.com or follow us on Facebook: High Moorland Women's Institute.

Princetown History Club

meets 1st Tuesday of each month at Princetown Community Centre at 7 for 7.30pm.

7th Dec A talk on "The Quaker Tapestry" by Simon Dell

5th Jan A talk on "The Zimbabwe ruins" by David Lemon

For further information, please phone Mr John Lissenden on 01752 847573 or email jlissenden@talktalk.net Web Site: princetownhistoryclub.weebly.com

Rainfall in October 2021

Place	Total Rainfall	Days without rain	Wettest Days
Postbridge	307.4mm (12.1") (October 2020 - 256.3mm (10.1"))	9	28th 73.3mm (2.9")
Holne	329.0mm (12.95")		28th 81.2mm (3.2")



Postbridge

Church Services for December 2021

5th December

Advent 2

Widecombe	08:00	Holy Communion BCP	Ashburton	08:00	Holy Communion
Widecombe	16:00	Christingle Service	Bickington	09:00	Holy Communion
			Ashburton	10:30	Christingle Service
			Ilington	10:30	Holy Communion
			Buckland	11:00	Toy Service in aid of Angel Tree

7th December

Postbridge	19:30	Quiet Reflection Service
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12th December

Advent 3

Widecombe	10:30	Parish Communion	Ashburton	10:30	Parish Communion
Leusdon	16:00	Carol Service	Ilington	10:30	Christingle Service
Holne	18:00	Carols by Candlelight			
Postbridge	18:00	Carol Service			

14th December

18:00	Community Carols at Blackpool School
-------	--------------------------------------

16th December

Ashburton	17:00	Community Carols
-----------	-------	------------------

17th December

Huccaby	18:00	Carols by Candlelight	Bickington	18:00	Carols by Candlelight
---------	-------	-----------------------	------------	-------	-----------------------

18th December

Shallowford	16:00	Messy Church joining the Nativity at East Shallowford Farm
-------------	-------	--

19th December

Advent 4

Leusdon	12:00	Parish Communion	Ashburton	10:30	All Age Communion
Widecombe	18:00	Carol Service	Ilington	10:30	Holy Communion
			Buckland	15:00	Carols by Candlelight
			Ashburton	18:30	Carols by Candlelight
			Ilington	18:30	Carols by Candlelight

24th December

Christmas Eve

Holne	16:00	Nativity Service	Ilington	15:00	Crib Service
Widecombe	16:00	Crib Service	Ashburton	17:00	Crib Service
Leusdon	23:30	Midnight Communion	Ilington	18:30	Christmas Eve Communion
			Ashburton	23:30	Midnight Communion

Continued on page 23

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



Communion at home

If you would like to receive Home
 Communion please contact Mark or
 Geoffrey.

(see page 2 for contact details)

25th December

Christmas Day

Postbridge 09:00 Christmas Communion
 Widecombe 10:30 Christmas Communion
 Holne 11:00 Family Communion

Bickington 09:00 Family Communion
 Ilsington 10:00 Family Service + Short
 Communion
 Ashburton 10:30 Family Communion
 Buckland 11:00 Traditional Holy Communion

26th December

Christmas 1

Widecombe No service
 Leusdon No service

Ashburton 10:30 United Brunch Church
 Ashburton 11:30 (Short) Holy Communion

Dates for the Diary

December 2021		Page
1st	Widecombe History Group	31
1st	Leusdon Coffee Morning	15
3rd	Holne Soup Lunch	11
4th	Handbells Coffee Morning	28
4th	Merrymakers Panto Opens	39
6th	Postbridge Coffee Morning	21
7th	Hour of Quiet Reflection	5
7th	Princetown History Club	21
9th	January Link Final Deadline	-

December 2021		Page
10th	Widecombe Christmas Trees	37
11th	Widecombe Christmas Market	26
11th	Holne Nativity Festival	9
13th	Leusdon Whist Drive	17
14th	Postbridge Whist Drive	19
16th	A Magical Tour of Christmas	36
18th	The Shallowford Nativity	34
23rd	Carols under the Stars	35



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St Pancras, Widecombe-in-the-Moor

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

Church Services - see Page 22 for details

Date	Time	Sidesperson	Coffee	Flowers
5th December	08:00	-	-	No flowers
5th December	16:00	Jenny Pascoe	Jenny Pascoe	No flowers
12th December	10:30	Dawn Nosworthy	Sue Darke	No flowers
19th December	18:00	Clare Born	Debbie Dracup & Penny Whale	No flowers
23rd December	-	Decorating for Christmas 9:00am		
25th December	10:30	Penny Whale	-	
26th December		Service in Ashburton at 10:30am - see page 23		

Covid Update - Widecombe Church is open all day, every day, 9-5. You are welcome to visit at any time – an opportunity to sit quietly, say a prayer and enjoy our beautiful building. Face-coverings are no longer legally required, but many people are still wearing them for extra protection.

All our services can be downloaded from <https://ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/resources-and-prayers-wlp> Any queries, please contact Revd Geoffrey Fenton (Team Vicar) 01364 621334 geoffrey@moorlandteam.org.uk

Widecombe-in-the-Moor Parish Council

CASUAL VACANCY

A vacancy has arisen for the position of Parish Councillor in Widecombe-in-the-Moor.

If you are interested in being involved in the community and would like to contribute to the way the Parish Council functions, or would like an informal chat about the position, please contact the clerk by **31 December 2021:-**

Suzanna Hughes

Email: suzanna.hughes21@gmail.com Tel. 01626 330311

The Parish Council meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm with additional meetings as required.

Widecombe



**WIDECOMBE
CHRISTMAS MARKET
SATURDAY 11TH DECEMBER
10 am – 4pm
IN THE CHURCH HOUSE**

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Home made refreshments in aid of Widecombe pre school

Carol Singers

Tombola & Mulled Wine in aid of Bovey Tracey Scouts

FREE CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR CHILDREN 0 - 11 yrs



Remembrance Observance in other countries

Following on from my article published in the November copy of "The Link" I thought it would be of interest to note how services and commemorations of those who lost their lives during World Wars were remembered in countries other than Britain.

Countries of the Commonwealth Canada, Australia, New Zealand honour their dead by remembering them on 11th November (Armistice Day) and wearing the Red Poppy.

In **Australia and New Zealand** an equally important remembrance is observed on 25th April every year (ANZAC Day). This date commemorates the heavy losses suffered by Australian and New Zealand forces when landing at Gallipoli in 1915.

In the **United States** the wearing of the Red Poppy happens on 11th November when the country observes Veterans Day. This day has been called "Veterans Day" since 1954 when congress changed the title from "Armistice Day".

Residents in the **United States** also commemorate those who died in the nations' wars on Memorial Day, the last Monday in May every year. Memorial Day, like Veterans Day, underwent a name change from Decoration Day, a day set aside for placing the American flag on the graves of military personnel in National Cemeteries.



In **France** the flower adopted to act as the remembrance flower is the cornflower. The cornflower grew in equal abundance to the Poppy on the battlefields of World War 1. The flower is known as **Le Bleu** not only for its colour but also because the young French Army recruits who arrived at the front from 1915 onwards were called "les bleuets" - because of their new blue version of jackets, thus there was a personal French connection with the dainty blue flower. The flower is officially known as 'Bleuet de France'.

In **Holland** "Dodenherdenking" Remembrance of the Dead is held annually on May 4th. It commemorates all civilians and members of the Armed Forces of the Kingdom of the Netherlands who have died in wars and peacekeeping missions since the beginning of the Second World War.

In **Germany** the Commemoration is called "Volkstrauertag" (German for "people's day of mourning") and is commemorated two Sundays before the first day of Advent (Before Christmas). It commemorates members of the armed forces of all nations and civilians who died in armed conflicts to also include victims of violent oppression. First observed in modern form in 1952.

David Ashman, Widecombe History Group



Coffee morning to raise funds for
Handbell restoration
Widecombe Church House
10am - 12 noon
Saturday 4th December



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



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

For queries re tennis phone Di Cameron on 621218.

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

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

Thank you and enjoy your sports area.

WIDDYTOTS

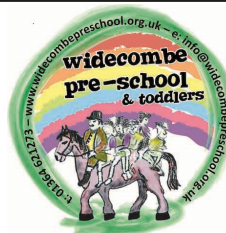
Widdytots is our local group for Mums and children under 5 years.

It runs on Monday Mornings 9.30 - 11.45 in the Church House, Widcombe-in-the-Moor.

Widdytots is a relaxed, informal group where you can turn up and chat with other parents whilst your children play. We provide hot drinks for parents and snacks for the little ones. Everyone is welcome.

Your first session is free and then it is £3 per child and £1 for each sibling.

For more information please call the preschool on 01364 621 273 during session times Tuesday or Friday, or email info@widcombepreschool.org.uk



Widcombe Pre-School

At Widcombe Church House, established since the 1970's, our OFSTED inspected and highly rated sessions are designed to prepare your child for an easy and happy introduction to school. Through qualified and trained staff, we provide a safe and stimulating environment.

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Moorland Parish Link Online

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

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

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



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Chairman - Mike Pascoe

To book the Hall please contact Rose Mortimore
01364 631238.

Rates of Hire (Local Events)

Daytime	£3.50 per hour
Evenings	£5.00 per hour
All Day	£20.00

These rates are for local non commercial events only. For other rates please ask the bookings secretary.

Payment by cheque is preferred. Cheques to be made payable to Widcombe Church House Fund and sent to Sarah Reeve, Bonehill Cottage, Bonehill Lane, Widcombe-in-the-Moor, TQ13 7TD

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

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Widcombe & District History Group

Meetings are held in the Church House in Widcombe on the 1st Wednesday of each month.

Wednesday 1st December

Doors open 7.00pm

Speaker at 7.30pm

The speaker is Peter Carrett on
“Liverton Pottery”

Contact :

Rose Mortimore: 01364 631238 or

Helen Barrow: helenagsec@gmail.com

Widcombe History Group Website:

<https://www.widcombe-in-the-moor.com/history/home.php>

Widcombe & District Ladies Social Group

We wish everyone a Happy and Healthy Christmas and a Good New Year.

There will be no meetings in January and February but we hope to continue with the monthly luncheons.

For more details phone Rose on
01364 631238

Bell Ringers Wanted at Widcombe



The Widcombe bell ringers would like to recruit new ringers, both experienced and novice, to join their team.

Anyone from the age of 14 upwards can learn to ring and, as well as providing a service to the local community, it is an opportunity to take part in a fun team activity that is good exercise, both physical and mental.

For those who would like to find out more about bell ringing we are holding an open session at **St. Pancras Church, Widcombe on Saturday 27th November from 11.00 am to 12.00 noon**. Those attending can climb the tower steps to view the ringing chamber, meet the ringers, see ringing in action and have a go. There is no need to book in advance.

If you are unable to attend the open session you are welcome to come along to one of our regular practice sessions held on most Wednesday evenings.

For further information on bell ringing at Widcombe, the open session or to attend one of our practice evenings please contact our Tower Captain Mike Pascoe on 01364 621333 or email pascoewooder@yahoo.co.uk.



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Dunstone & Poundsgate Methodist Chapels

Ministers: Rev'd Kevin Hooke (01626) 832369

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

Sunday Service

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

Poundsgate - First Sunday of the month only, 3pm Zoom

Bible Study Group

(Please note day and time change)

We meet every Wednesday at 6pm at Higher Foxworthy. Everyone is welcome to join but please ring Serena on 07789 762061 so we know the numbers. We are a small friendly group seeking to enrich our knowledge of God through his word in the Bible.

Dunstone Charity Lunches

We hope to be able to re-start the monthly lunches in the Spring providing we feel it is safe for everyone due to covid.

Carols under the Stars

Methodism has for most of its history held a fairly unfavourable view of alcohol. The widespread abuse of it in the eighteenth century led to a call for total abstinence which will have no doubt influenced the position held by people such as Wesley and Whitfield. However, The Bible takes a more balanced view. Alcohol is seen to have some beneficial properties when it comes to health (1 Tim 5:23) and the use of it in celebrations, in moderation, is encouraged (Deut 14:22-27). To be clear, the Bible is never for the abuse of alcohol and in fact has many passages that condemn drunkenness and overindulgence. The problem is that we as people so often throw the baby out with the bathwater and thereby end up being seen as pious kill joys.

With this in mind, we at Dunstone would like to take this chance to say thank you to our local hostellers which are such an important part of our community and which have had a difficult time over the past 2 years. Widecombe would be a poorer

Continued on page 35

Shallowford Farm

making the difference

The Shallowford Nativity

at East Shallowford Farm,
Nr. Widecombe-in-the-Moor, TQ13 7PW

**Saturday 18th December,
3.30pm for 4pm start**

Free entry but donations welcome

Hot food on sale at the end

This is an outdoor event so please wear
warm clothing and bring a torch

Everyone welcome, car parking available

Enquiries: 01364 621392



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address and phone number

(Continued from page 33)

place without them and over the coming festive season many will meet up and celebrate together in the local cafes, pubs and hotels as part of a close knit community that enjoys the pleasure of each other's company, looks out for each other's needs and makes an effort to ensure that everyone feels cared for.

We at Dunstone would also like to reiterate a big thank you to the Rugglestone Inn for their generous gift of £200 from their Christmas draw last year. This was an off



the cuff donation after last years Carol service on the village green. And this leads us nicely on to this year, as we have decided to repeat this event and are hoping to celebrate Christmas on the Village Green at **6.00pm on Thursday 23rd of December**. Wrap up warm and come and sing traditional Carols and hear the favourite readings and maybe ponder anew about how Almighty God became part of His

creation 2000 years ago. *"For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life"* (John 3:16). And maybe afterwards have a mulled wine or a pint in the pub.

We at Dunstone do not necessarily reflect the views of the wider Methodist Church

Shallowford Farm
making the difference

Cook Wanted

We are seeking a cook who is keen to work flexible hours and deliver nutritious, home style dishes for young people and the occasional event. Must be able to work weekends and be keen to explain the wholesomeness of good food, encouraging young people to cook and eat healthily.

Cleaners Wanted

We are still looking for additional cleaners to help with visiting groups. Candidates must have transport, be willing to work flexible hours and pay attention to detail.

Please contact Julia directly on:

Tel: 01364 621 392

E-mail: julia@shallowfordfarm.co.uk

A magical tour of Christmas windows and displays

16th, 17th & 18th December

***Widcombe-in-the-Moor
to Poundsgate***

Back for a second year!

Enjoy the fun of Christmas from the comfort of your car on our tour

For just £5, you will receive a map of display locations, get to vote for your favourite display and can enter into our prize draw

*Visit a Drive-thru at Widcombe Church House & Leusdon Memorial Hall
5pm - 6.30pm on each day of the tour*

*Home-made mince pies and hot drinks being served
Bring your own thermal mugs if you have them!*

MAPS ON SALE FROM MONDAY 13TH DECEMBER

To buy your map of all our displays, visit
www.widcombecommunityhall.org

You can also purchase from a drive-thru on the day or call Yvette on 01364 631543

In aid of Widcombe Community Hall CIO & Leusdon Memorial Hall

Registered Charity Numbers: 1182621 & 300887



Other Community News & Events



WIDECOMBE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2021



This year's festival will be from
Friday 10th December to Monday 20th December.

**LATE NIGHT OPENING 16/17/18 DECEMBER TO CORRESPOND WITH THE
WIDECOMBE CHRISTMAS LIGHT DRIVE-THROUGH (Page 36)**

The theme this year is "**A CHRISTMAS CAROL**" which, as usual,
can be interpreted any way you like!

In 2019 the church was filled with brightly decorated trees and this year we would like
even more people to take part.

Entering a tree is free of charge and is open to individuals, families, charities, churches,
schools, shops, businesses, clubs and societies.

Trees can be real or artificial, any colour or shape. There will be a class especially for
small trees as well as classes for adults and children.

**If you have not taken part in our festival before we encourage you to join in with
the other exhibitors and help us to make a wonderful spectacle in the church and a
great start to the Christmas celebrations.**

During the festival we will be collecting for
"**Bounce! Brighter Futures Foundation**", charity no 1181729
www.bouncebrighterfutures.co.uk

Entry forms available from the church, Widecombe Gifts and The Kiosk.

More details from Mary in the Kiosk tel.07980312307 or
Judy tel.01364 621520 or email judysouthcombe@yahoo.co.uk



A time for rest, a time for work, a time to seek support?

You may have had Covid and have been suffering recently from exhaustion. After a few hours of activity, you may become drained of energy and, like many others who are similarly afflicted, you can do very little else but rest. The medical advice is to do just that, rest. Trying to fight it just makes you feel worse. Resting, of course, is a natural part of God's creation, not just for humans but for all of nature.

As has been highlighted at last months world environmental conference, we need to change the way we live and the way we treat our surroundings to allow nature, and us, to rest. God built rest into his creation, a creation that includes human life as well as the countless plants, flowers, trees, insects, animals, fish, and birds that we share it with.

While resting, perhaps think about how much of the Old Testament, which was written around 2,500 years ago, is still so relevant for us today. For example, in Ecclesiastes: *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace".*

If you need any support, because while we sometimes talk a lot about or concentrate on our physical health, it's important to remember the impact on our mental health too.

There is a local emotional wellbeing helpline for **anyone** who needs support with their emotional health and wellbeing. (It's based in Torquay.). The service is available to members of the public, to bereaved relatives, and to health or care colleagues seeking support in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

You can request support by dialling **01803 217433**. You will need to provide some personal details, including a brief summary of what you would like support with, and a call handler will do their best to contact you within 2-3 working days.

This COVID-19 emotional wellbeing helpline is being delivered by experienced, compassionate, professional, and friendly call handlers. The team offer up to an hour of supportive listening, providing you with space to talk about your situation and current experiences.

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MOORLAND MERRYMAKERS 2021 PANTOMIME

'Jack and the Beanstalk'

Written by Philip Reeve Produced by Rob Steemson

This years pantomime will be filmed for the silver screen and will be shown at Leusdon Memorial Hall with the usual MM antics, pasties, teas and raffle.

There will be reduced seating capacity so we can be COVID comfy.

Screenings will be
Saturday 4th to Saturday 11th December inclusive (not Sunday) at 7.30pm

Two Matinee screenings with priority booking for families will take place on
Saturday 4th and Saturday 11th December at 3.00pm

The booking office opens **8am Monday 1st November**

Please Phone Nicky on **07549 697176** or email booking4merrymakers@gmail.com

Matinee tickets will be available in advance (for families) from
8am Monday 25th October

Ticket prices £7 adult, £3.50 child

Please 'chase' if you haven't had a response within 24 hours

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Your call handler will assess your needs sensitively throughout your call, enabling staff to signpost you to support services that may help you, or provide further information.

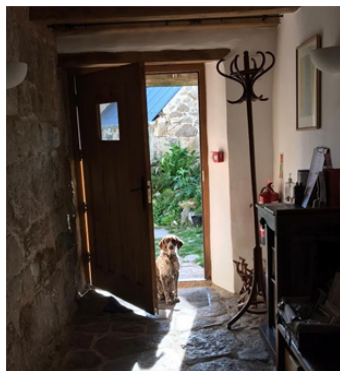
They will:

- Provide supportive listening
- Acknowledge emotions and experiences
- Signpost for further information and/or support if appropriate.

Tony Parker

News from the East Shallowford Trust

Little people are fun! By 'little', I genuinely do mean little, as in, under the age of about ten! They might hide behind the safe legs of a parent, or screw up their faces when they hear a very loud squeaking pig, or they might stand nervously when Mini (the dog) sticks her nose in their face for a series of short little sniffs. However, invariably, little people are brave and after a few minutes of caution, uncertainty and thinking, they have a look and will peer into the challenge to figure out if it is really scary or not.



Size has much to do with everything of course. Mini is a very small dog – called Mini as she is about half the size she should be for reasons we don't know. Either she had her first pregnancy when she was still growing, or she is the product of some weird mongrel cross, not obvious and yet with profound outcomes. As she came on a plane from Portugal, rescued from the streets with a litter of puppies in tow, we shall never know. However, she does love to sniff and little people's faces are just at the right height. I've never seen her try to lick a particularly treasured morsel from

a dirty little person's face. Maybe their protective hands instinctively move too fast. I have however, seen her stand perfectly still as a little person runs their fingers up and down her back, lean over and give her a cuddle. Her eyes begin to shut and she simply stands, enjoying the attention and love.

We have a lot of little people visiting at the moment. The schools are beginning to book for 2022 but we have nothing of the older youth before December, due to lingering Covid concerns and parents nervous of letting their older ones out to play. So, when a group of 'home schoolers' asked if they could use the Barn, we replied, with a resounding 'yes'.

The little people turn up, yelp with delight, have become good friends with the pigs in the field, who they visit several times a day and generally squeal as they pop up and down. They have had to learn to curtail their whelps of delight, as the sound does travel rather swiftly, bouncing across the valley. However, their teachers are very dedicated and we find beautiful creations made from twisted grass, or autumnal yellow leaves woven intricately into wondrous shapes, or see them with

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heads down, searching through the fields and soil for all manner of wriggly beasts. One little lad came with his hand held out, firmly grasping something he was delighted with. A golden backed beetle. I am no specialist, so I had no idea what it was called..... suitably named, 'Mr Golden' for the moment of it's special dedication, staying carefully on his open palm, as it rubbed it's legs and concentrated on itself rather than the little lad whose life it unknowingly depended upon.

In the mean time, we have been hatching!! Perfect, absolutely wonderful little Guinea Fowl, thanks to a very generous and kind neighbour!!



These little speedy creatures have had to be kept super warm and placed in a barricaded dog basket. They took much longer than chicken chicks to stand on their legs, with the advice of a piece of towelling essential, as they flailed and rolled and took more than 24 hours to find their feet and sit upright. They are super speedy and very noisy..... Bit like our little people only smaller!

Next big job has been our vege patch. The hills of Dartmoor could be treacherous to a wheelchair user or someone with perambulation problems. So, with a little help from Will's digger and a dumper truck to move soil, the wonderful rich dark loam on the top has been scraped away to level the ground in preparation for a poly tunnel, a fruit cage and a series of various sized beds.

Serena has a plan with her years of vegetable growing experience from the moors! We will receive input from the Eden Project within the next few weeks on designs that will appeal as much as possible to recalcitrant teenagers. With some good luck we should be ready for spring, with seeds of the Devil's Bit Scabious from Challacombe Farm being prepared as plugs to distribute throughout Postbridge in the hope that we can support our wonderful wildlife. Something positive can be done in these times of doom and gloom!! Winter is coming, but spring will always follow, as we hunker down and brace ourselves for the coming months of rain and early darkness. Time to read stories and enjoy a little of that Dartmoor whisky?

Julia

www.shallowfordfarm.co.uk

Contacting the Editorial Team

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

For items sent by post please use the following addresses:

Link Finances (donations, advertising fees, invoices etc)

All Other Correspondence

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Widcombe-in-the-Moor
Newton Abbot
Devon
TQ13 7TF

Cheques payable to:

P C C Widcombe - Link Account

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

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

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

Groups and Individuals who support the Parish Link

Dartmoor Forest Parish Council

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Various anonymous donations

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Holne Second-Hand Books

Widcombe History Group

Holne Village Hall Committee

Widcombe Ladies Social Group

Leusdon Memorial Hall

Widcombe Parish Council

Moorland Merry-makers

Widcombe Sports Group

Here at the Link it seems we've been privileged to put together a Christmas stocking full of Christmas Cheer. Unlike last year when Christmas was very subdued, this year we've been flooded with Christmas events to advertise in this Bumper Edition!

There are 4 different Christingle services you can choose from (p5); a Nativity Festival in Holne (p9); Carols everywhere, in every church and also on Widecombe Green (pp22 & 33); Carols at Leusdon Coffee morning (p15); Christmas Whist and a Christmas Coffee morning at Postbridge (pp19 & 21); a Christmas Market at Widecombe (p26); Carols played by Widecombe Hand-bells (p28); an open air nativity play at East Shallowford (p34); a Pantomime (p39); and a Magical Christmas Tour and a Christmas Tree Festival in Widecombe (pp36 & 37).

That's a great stocking-full, bursting at the seams! It's clear that our communities are making a tremendous extra effort to make this Christmas Special, along with careful plans for making things as Covid-safe as possible. Thank you to all organisers for your work in putting on so much – what a wonderful place we live!



So, may the Link Team wish you all a very Happy Christmas. Enjoy!



Parish Link Advertising Costs

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

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

Final Copy Deadline

for the January 2022 edition of the Link will be Thursday 9th December but please send as early as you can by email.

Next issue available on Wednesday 22nd December

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