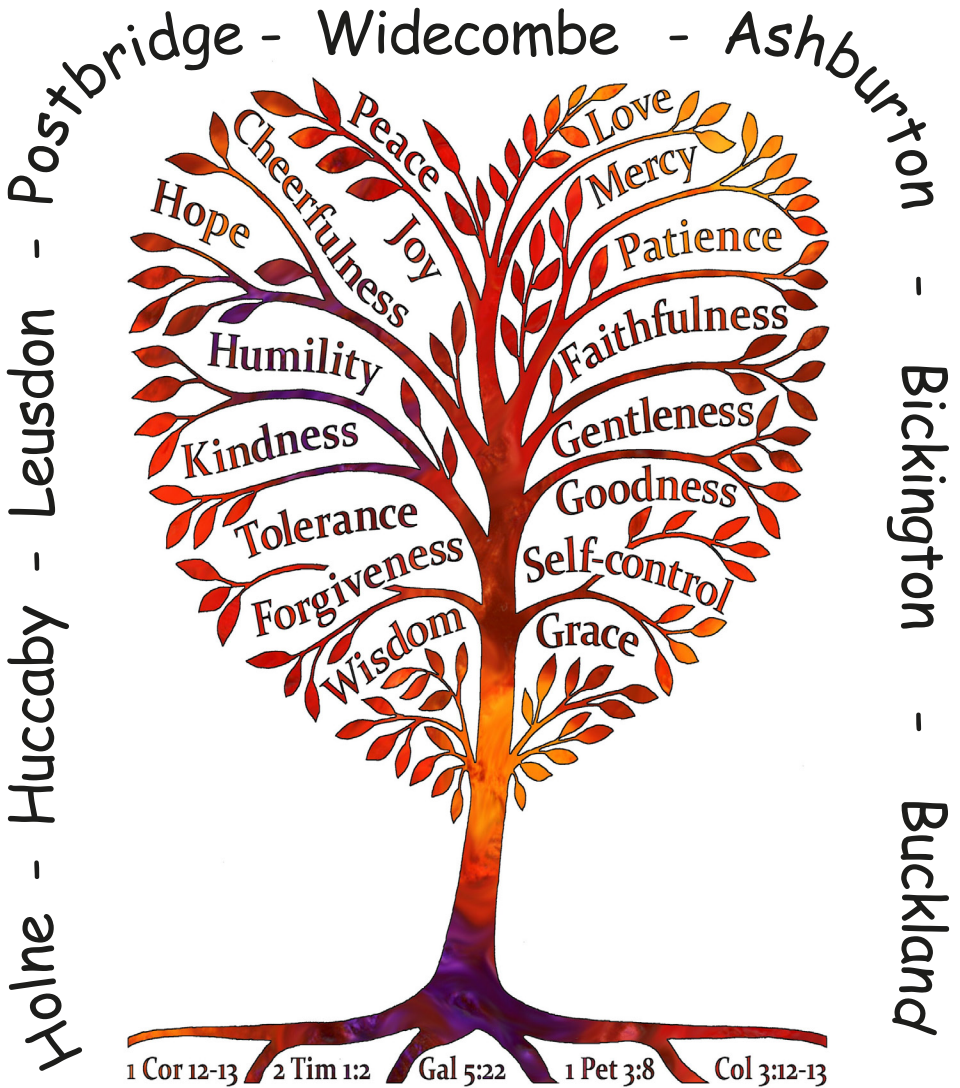


# Moorland Parish Link



## February 2022

Church and Community Magazine of The Moorland Team

# The Ministry Team

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <i>Team Rector</i><br><b>Rt Revd Mark Rylands</b>                      | The Rectory,<br>Copperwood Close<br>Ashburton, TQ13 7JQ | 01364 716309<br>mark.rylands@mmuk.net        |
| <i>Team Vicar</i><br><b>Revd Geoffrey Fenton</b>                       | The Vicarage,<br>Widcombe-in-the-Moor,<br>TQ13 7TF      | 01364 621334<br>geoffrey@moorlandteam.org.uk |
| <i>Mission and Family<br/>Development Worker</i><br><b>Heidi Lewis</b> | Holne Vicarage,<br>Holne,<br>TQ13 7RT                   | 07759578941<br>heidi@moorlandteam.org.uk     |
| <i>Methodist Minister</i><br><b>Revd Kevin Hooke</b>                   |   | 01626 832369<br>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](mailto:SafeguardingEnquiry@exeter.anglican.org)*

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

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## The Parish Letter

For most people, Christmas is long forgotten by the time February arrives – decorations were taken down, boxed up, and put into the attic shortly after Christmas. So, on a recent Zoom call, I was very surprised to see some Christmas decorations still up in someone's room. "It's the middle of January – are those Christmas decorations?" I said, to which she replied "Yes, and they'll stay up until the 2nd February. After all, the Kings have only just arrived!" The explanation is that she grew up in Germany, where the season of Christmas continues until Candlemas which is on the 2nd February.

Celebrating Candlemas as the end of Christmas is reflected in our annual Candlemas services, but there is a much stronger tradition in many European countries, with processions through the town to the church, young people wearing real candles on headdresses. When they arrive in the church and the candles are blown out, they are left with a rather desolate feeling of the light fading away as the Christmas season is finally over.

The candles not only represent Jesus as the Light of the World, they are also a symbol of light in the dark days of winter. And the days seem to have been particularly dark this year. Lots of people have found it very hard to cope with endless grey, sunless days. Add to that the general disappointment that Covid is still very much with us, it's not been an easy time. Many people had a far from normal Christmas, with Covid outbreaks disrupting family gatherings, and themselves maybe in bed with a high temperature on the day.

There are some people, a cousin of mine amongst them, who regularly suffer from a condition called SAD – Seasonal Affective Disorder. One sufferer says "December is dark but the festive lights and cheerfulness are an antidote and I now put up my Christmas decorations really early (1st Dec) as a way of coping with my SAD symptoms. However, when all the festive cheer has gone, I find January and February really tough." If you're feeling a bit low, you are not alone. Jesus spent his life helping people who were a bit low – telling them about God's love and changing their lives.

And he gave us a simple rule for a better life, or rather two rules, in his short phrase – "Love your neighbour as yourself." We need to learn to love ourselves, to be kind to ourselves, to accept ourselves. If we feel like opting out for a bit, opt out, have a quiet day at home. Light a candle. Quietly pray. Try being peaceful.

*Continued on page 5*

## 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

(Continued from page 3)

And then think what we can do to help someone else, put ourselves aside for a while, focus on someone else, maybe a neighbour. Make them a cake, give them a call, show we care for them. We can be a light to them, can cheer them up; which might also have the bonus of changing our mood for the better.

And the days will grow longer, darkness will recede, snowdrops will bloom and spring will come... Enjoy the lighter days. Look after yourselves.

With every blessing

*Geoffrey*

## From the Registers

|           |           |             |                              |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|------------------------------|
| Interment | Leusdon   | 17 December | Sheila Grace Bamsey          |
| Funeral   | Widecombe | 19 January  | Roderick Keith Newbolt-Young |

## **An hour of quiet reflection**

### ***Postbridge Church***

**Tuesday 1st February at 7.30pm**

**Tuesday 1st March at 7.30pm**

with

*Wide spacing Candlelight Warm church Silence*

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Why not come along to relax, to unwind and to pray?

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



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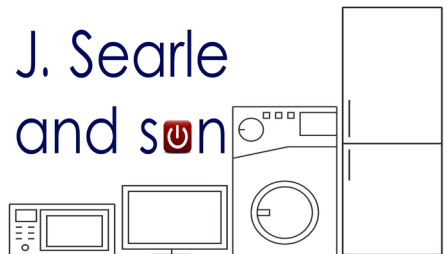
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**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER:**  
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For more details please see our website :  
<http://scoritonvillagehall.org/>



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please ring Nicky Bellamy on 01364 631323  
or email [holnevillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:holnevillagehall@gmail.com)





# 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         |
|---------------|-------|-----------------|
| 6th February  | -     | -               |
| 13th February | 18:00 | Holy Communion  |
| 20th February | 09:00 | At Huccaby      |
| 27th February | 17:00 | Evening Worship |

The following is an extract from 'Prayers of Life' written by a French priest Michel Quoist. His prayers take everyday scenarios and help us think about them in a spiritual way.

### All Life Would Become a Sign

If we knew how to look at life through God's eyes,  
We should see it as innumerable tokens of love for the Creator  
seeking the love of his creatures.

The Father has put us into the world, not to walk through with lowered eyes, but to  
search for him through things, events, people.

Everything must reveal God to us.

Long prayers are not needed to smile at Christ  
in the smallest details of daily life.



## HOLNE VILLAGE HALL SOUP & CHEESE LUNCH

Held in the hall on first Friday of the month,  
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Holne



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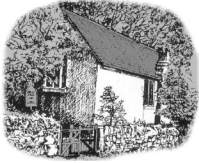
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# St Raphael, Huccaby

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

**Church Services - see Page 22 for details**

## Expectations

Such are the limitations, even in this digital age, of our monthly Link magazine, I write this in early January 2022. Maybe a bit late for you now, but what are your expectations for 2022? Do you want to develop new skills; grow in wisdom; learn more about what interests you; or do you simply want good health and happiness this year?

Life without the sometimes-painful effect of loneliness, isolation, and sickness is perhaps not an unreasonable expectation?

Expectations can be a real happiness killer, so how do we manage our own?

Basically, expectations are the strong belief that something will happen or be the case. More than anything else our expectations determine our reality. Our expectations also impact upon those around us. They both bend and shape our reality. They can change our lives - both emotionally and physically. Perhaps that means we should manage our expectations? So that they do not manage us!

We can manage the expectations that arise many times in our lives, so that we aren't so deeply affected by their consequences.

Expectations are normally ours – no-one else has any obligations to fulfil them.

The first type of expectation is when you have expectations of others. Have you ever been let down by what you thought others would do? Is it not because they perhaps haven't had the same sense of urgency or priority that you had? Why is that? Is it you?

The second and third expectations, for example when others heap expectation on you, well maybe next month. Time for reflection!

## Snowdrops

Ever thought about the link between pagans, Christians and snowdrops? An intriguing history.

Connections between Christian Candlemas and Roman pagan festivals are many – again more next month if any reader of the Link has an interest.

*Continued on page 13*



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(Continued from page 11)

The Candlemas celebration, as it survives, makes perfect sense with what was written in the bible. In Tudor times, the snowdrop plants had many Catholic names given by the medieval monks who had brought the bulbs from their homelands in Italy.

Later, in Victorian England, a new cult of virginity and chastity thrived in Britain. Set up by a Christian philanthropist called Ellice Hopkins. Ellice set up groups called 'snowdrop bands'. There is also long history of snowdrops being used for medicinal purposes. That's another two stories!

Today snowdrops are everywhere in the countryside, especially in Devon.

They are also very common in church yards and cemeteries. (Unfortunately, a custom of planting in graveyards might have led to a Common name for Snowdrops: "Death Flowers". Victorians said the drooping head of the flowers resembled shrouds and had a saying that "they grow closer to the dead than the living!")

Of the 15,000 to 20,000 snowdrops in full bloom from mid-February to mid-March at St. Raphael's, are welcome to simply observe the beauty of this tiny flower as a symbol of Spring and hope for 2022.

## **Snowdrop prayers**

Every year I love it when I see snowdrops appear.

I love their fragile beauty, intricate petals and flimsy stems buffeted by Winter winds.

I love their tenacity at arriving while snow still threatens.

While other bulbs keep warm below ground waiting for Spring sunshine, their scattering of white brings life to my otherwise drab garden.

They tell me: hang on, there. Spring is coming!

This year in 2022, they remind me to thank God for the answers He gave to those prayers, and to keep praying for 'Spring' to come.

What fragile things could you pray for? If you can find some snowdrops, take some photos and use them to inspire your prayers.



*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          |
|---------------|-------|------------------|
| 6th February  | 16:00 | Evensong         |
| 13th February | 12:00 | Parish Communion |
| 20th February | 12:00 | Parish Communion |
| 27th February | 12:00 | Parish Communion |

*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 once again mandatory in places of worship. While there are exemptions this is a legal requirement.*

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](mailto:geoffrey@moorlandteam.org.uk)

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Leusdon

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## Leusdon Memorial Hall

At our meeting held on 10th January 2022 it was decided that we will continue opening the Hall for activities as much as possible. We would ask that anyone who has covid 19 symptoms or who has tested positive recently does not come to these events until they are tested clear. Also if you feel it is unsafe for you to go out yet, we advise that you stay safe at home. Our next coffee morning will take place on **Wednesday 2nd February 2022**

The Whist Drives are also 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 **14th February**, Whist 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.

As part of our committee meeting, we discussed arrangements for celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June . It was decided that we will celebrate it in our coffee morning on Wednesday 1st June .This will avoid it clashing with any other celebration organised by other organisations in the Community over the bank holiday weekend.

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](mailto:leusdonmemorialhall@yahoo.com).

**Could you all please note that bookings are only valid if booked through the booking secretary and all the required paperwork is completed . This is to avoid any confusion.**

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](mailto:johnsouthcombe@hotmail.com)

Leusdon Memorial Hall charity no.300887

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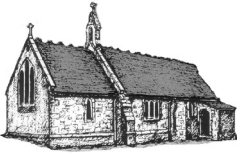
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# St Gabriel, Postbridge

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

**Church Services - see Page 22 for details**

| Date          | Time  | Service                     |
|---------------|-------|-----------------------------|
| 1st February  | 19:30 | An Hour of Quiet Reflection |
| 13th February | 09:00 | Holy Communion - BCP        |
| 27th February | 18:00 | Evening Payer               |

*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 once again mandatory in places of worship. While there are exemptions this is a legal requirement.*

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](mailto:geoffrey@moorlandteam.org.uk)

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**Tuesday 8th March starting at 7.00pm**

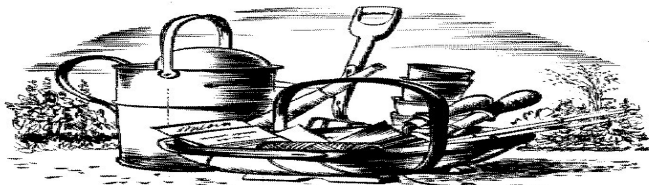


Contact: Jackie Gee, Bungalow 2, Dartfordleigh, Postbridge, Yelverton, PL20 6TJ  
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Postbridge

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## Postbridge Coffee Mornings

Will be held on Monday 14 February 2022 at 11am in Postbridge Village Hall.  
Look forward to seeing you again.

*Maureen & Sheila*



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run by Devon Libraries, funded by  
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Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February

10am - 12 noon

Postbridge Village Hall

Any queries contact Heather Chapman via  
Tavistock Library 01822 612218



# Church Services for February 2022

|   |       |   |   |
|---|-------|---|---|
| <b>1st February</b>   |       | <b>Quiet Reflection</b>   |   |
| Postbridge  | 19:30 | An Hour of Quiet Reflection   |   |
| <b>6th February</b>   |       | <b>Fourth Before Lent</b>   |   |
|   |       | <b>70th Anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's Accession to the Throne</b> |   |
| <i>Readings - Isaiah 6.1-8[9-13]; Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15.1-11; Luke 5.1-11</i>         |       |   |   |
| Widecombe   | 08:00 | Holy Communion - BCP  | Ashburton 08:00 Holy Communion            |
| Widecombe   | 10:30 | All Age Service   | Bickington 09:00 Holy Communion           |
| Leusdon   | 16:00 | Evensong  | Ashburton 10:30 Family Service            |
|   |       |   | Illesington 10:30 Holy Communion          |
|   |       |   | Buckland 11:00 Family Service             |
| <b>12th February</b>  |       | <b>Messy Church</b>   |   |
|   |       | Ashburton   | 16:00 Messy Church                        |
| <b>13th February</b>  |       | <b>Third Before Advent</b>  |   |
| <i>Readings - Jeremiah 17.5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15.12-20; Luke 6.17-26</i>           |       |   |   |
| Postbridge  | 09:00 | Holy Communion - BCP  | Ashburton 10:30 Parish Communion          |
| Widecombe   | 10:30 | Parish Communion  | Illesington 10:30 Family Service          |
| Leusdon   | 12:00 | Parish Communion  |   |
| Holne   | 18:00 | Holy Communion  |   |
| <b>20th February</b>  |       | <b>Second Before Lent</b>   |   |
| <i>Readings - Genesis 2.4b-9,15-25; Psalm 65; Revelation 4; Luke 8.22-25</i>                |       |   |   |
| Huccaby   | 09:00 | Holy Communion  | Ashburton 10:30 All-Age Eucharist         |
| Widecombe   | 10:30 | Parish Communion  | Bickington 10:30 Morning Prayer           |
| Leusdon   | 12:00 | Parish Communion  | Illesington 10:30 Holy Communion          |
|   |       |   | Buckland 15:00 Holy Communion             |
|   |       |   | St Petros 18:30 Celtic Reflective Service |
| <b>27th February</b>  |       | <b>Next Before Lent</b>   |   |
| <i>Readings - Exodus 34.29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3.12 – 4.2; Luke 9.28-36[37-43a]</i> |       |   |   |
| Widecombe   | 10:30 | Parish Communion  | Ashburton 09:00 Breakfast Church          |
| Leusdon   | 12:00 | Parish Communion  | Ashburton 10:30 Parish Communion          |
| Holne   | 17:00 | Evening Worship   | Illesington 10:30 Morning Praise          |
| Postbridge  | 18:00 | Evening Prayer  |   |

Face coverings are once again mandatory in places of worship. While there are exemptions **this is a legal requirement.**

For the latest guidance visit <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

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)*

## Dates for the Diary

| February 2022 |                          | Page |
|---------------|--------------------------|------|
| 1st           | Hour of Quiet Reflection | 5    |
| 1st           | Princetown History Club  | 35   |
| 2nd           | Widcombe History Group   | 25   |
| 2nd           | Leusdon Coffee Morning   | 17   |
| 2nd           | High Moorland WI         | 35   |
| 4th           | Holne Soup Lunch         | 9    |

| February 2022 |                                   | Page      |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| 12th          | Messy Church                      | 22        |
| 13th          | <b>March Parish Link Deadline</b> | <b>43</b> |
| 14th          | Leusdon Whist Drive               | 17        |
| 14th          | Postbridge Coffee Morning         | 21        |
| 19th          | Moving On Together                | 7         |
| 25th          | Drop-in Play Session              | 21        |





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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         |
|---------------|-------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 6th February  | 08:00 | -              | -                | Val Casey       |
| 6th February  | 10:30 | Dawn Nosworthy | Judy Southcombe  | Val Casey       |
| 13th February | 10:30 | Debbie Dracup  | Debbie Dracup    | Val Casey       |
| 20th February | 10:30 | Penny Whale    | Penny Whale      | Judy Southcombe |
| 27th February | 10:30 | Michael Brown  | Michael & Philly | Judy Southcombe |

*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 once again mandatory in places of worship. While there are exemptions this is a legal requirement.*

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](mailto:geoffrey@moorlandteam.org.uk)

## Widecombe & District History Group

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

**Wednesday 2nd February**

**Doors open 7.00pm**

**Speaker at 7.30pm**

The speaker is **Sue Viccars** on

**“Editor of Dartmoor Magazine”**

Contact :

Rose Mortimore: 01364 631238 or

Helen Barrow: [helenagsec@gmail.com](mailto:helenagsec@gmail.com)

Widecombe History Group Website:

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

## Widecombe & District Ladies Social Group

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

For more details phone Rose on 01364 631238

Widecombe



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## Our famous philatelist?!

Many of you will be familiar with the large carved wooden screen standing at the western end of the north aisle in St Pancras Church. You may also be aware of the dedication inscribed on the screen reading

*"In loving memory of Kathleen Penn-Gaskell died 12 November 1915 and her son Percy Charles Penn-Gaskell died 20th February 1937".*



The screen was presented to the Church by Kathleen's daughter and Percy's sister, Winifred Ethel Penn-Gaskell and had originally been located at Scorbitor farm. A property formally used as a sanctuary by senior clergy of the Exeter diocese.

Winifred Penn-Gaskell was born in London in 1874 the youngest of three children of Kathleen and her husband Peter Penn-Gaskell. Winifred moved to Scorbitor, according to electoral records in 1930, and she lived at the farm until her death in 1949.

Winifred's claim to fame was her collection of aeronautical memorabilia which included a collection of stamps charting the rise of airmail postage service throughout the world. Winifred exhibited her collection of stamps at many exhibitions throughout Europe. In one competition in 1931 in Hamburg, it won a gold plaquette, the prize, most appropriately won, was a free trip on the famous airship the "Graf Zeppelin".

Over the years the stamp collection grew in importance as a historical record and in 1938 Winifred was added to the "Roll of Distinguished Philatelists". She was the first woman to be accorded this honour.

Her collection had grown to such prominence and importance she had to decide how she would make it available to future generations.

Originally, she offered it to the Victoria and Albert Museum but her offer was declined, however an offer to the Science Museum was accepted. A small part of Miss Penn-Gaskell's collection is on display in the museum in South Kensington whilst the greater proportion is in the museum's storage.

This is part of the story of the Penn-Gaskell family and other interesting parts will be told in the coming months.

*David Ashman, Widecombe History Group*

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## Widcombe & District Sports Group

Membership renewals are now due if you have not received yours please email [cl.partridge@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cl.partridge@hotmail.co.uk) or tel: 621468.

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



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

For queries re tennis phone Di Cameron on 621218.

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

For more information about WDSG visit [www.widcombe-in-the-moor.com/sports\\_group/](http://www.widcombe-in-the-moor.com/sports_group/)

Thank you and enjoy your sports area.

## WIDDYTOTS

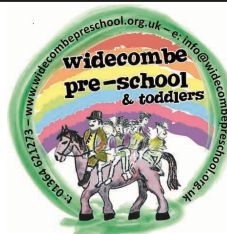
Widdytots is our local group for Mums and children under 5 years.

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](mailto:info@widcombepreschool.org.uk)



## Widcombe Pre-School

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

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



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## Widcombe Church House Management Committee

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*

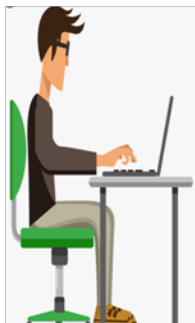
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## WANTED

Widecombe & District History Group wish to appoint a secretary, urgently, to assist with the running of the group.

The duties will be primarily of an administrative nature; some computer competence would be of a great advantage.

If you are interested, please ring **David Ashman (01364 621672)** for a chat about how you may be able to help.

Thank You

*To all my customers....far and near,  
We survived another covid year!  
I'm flying solo...cause Nick's retired,  
At least he chose...and didn't get fired!  
I'm assisted by Adrian, Tina and Sam,  
Or at least for now...that is the plan!  
So thanks once again for all postie's gift,  
And hope in 2022..... we all get a lift!*

## From the Posties



## Rainfall in December 2021

| Place      | Total Rainfall                    | Days without rain | Wettest Days       |
|------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Postbridge | 196.6mm (7.7")                    | 7                 | 25th 30.9mm (1.2") |
|            | (December 2020 - 324.3mm (12.8")) |                   |                    |
| Holne      | 239.4mm (9.43")                   |                   | 25th 29.3mm (1.1") |



## Total Rainfall in 2021

| Place      | Total Rainfall 2020 | Total Rainfall 2021 |
|------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Postbridge | 2083.1mm (82.2")    | 1896.4mm (74.7")    |
| Holne      | 2527.7mm (99.52")   | 2124.2mm (83.6")    |



## **Roadside hedge and tree management**

### ***Who is responsible for their maintenance?***

Many hedges and trees grow on the edge of the highway and mark its boundary with private property. In such cases it is the responsibility of the adjacent landowner or occupier to properly maintain them. This also applies to trees that overhang the highway or those which may fall on to it.

### ***Legal Requirements for Maintenance***

The Highways Act 1980 (Section 154) empowers the County Council, as the Highway Authority, to protect the safety of highways users by ensuring that owners and occupiers carry out their legal duties in respect of roadside hedges and trees.

### ***Owners and occupiers are required to:***

- Trim hedges and trees to ensure growth does not obscure the view of road signs
- Trim roadside hedges to maintain visibility for road users, particularly at junctions and on the inside of bends
- Trim and hedge that directly abuts a road, footway, cycleway or public right of way so that growth does not prevent the passage or affect the safety of the highway user, including cyclists and pedestrians.
- Remove dead or decaying trees and other growth that may fall across the highway.
- Remove branches and other growth that may prevent the passage of high sided vehicles or obstruct light from a public lamp (street light).
- Ensure the highway (including the footway and drainage features) is left clear of debris from the cutting operations (Section 148, Highways Act 1980)

### ***Who undertakes the work?***

It is easier for all concerned if landowners/occupiers maintain their own trees and hedges to a good standard.

### ***What if the landowners/occupier fails to undertake work?***

The County Council makes every effort to encourage owners and occupiers to cut their hedges, and will work closely with Parish Councils and local people to identify occupiers who neglect this work and to remind them of their responsibilities. Where roadside growth is becoming a problem the County Council may serve a notice on the owner/occupier requiring the necessary work to be completed within a stated period. Failure to comply may result in the Council undertaking the work and claiming back the cost incurred.

For further information about hedge management go to [www.devon.gov.uk/hedges](http://www.devon.gov.uk/hedges) or contact me on 01626 330311 for the 'Roadside and Tree Management' leaflet produced by Devon County Council.

Suzanna Hughes  
Clerk, Holne Parish Council





## 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.

*February*

### Ashburton Food Bank

**A CONFIDENTIAL SERVICE FOR ALL IN FOOD NEED  
DURING THE CORONAVIRUS EPIDEMIC**

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If you require food please phone: 07767 453844 and leave a message with your name, number in household, any pets, telephone number and address. We will deliver to you as quickly as possible.

This delivery service is available to people in Bickington and Buckland-in-the-Moor and other villages around Ashburton

## WIDECOMBE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The Christmas Tree Festival was held in the Church from the 11th to the 19th December 2021. It proved a great success with visitors from all over the country as well as a few from overseas. We had a first this year, a Proposal, the lovely couple from Kent come every year to see the Festival, the gentleman particularly wanted to propose amongst the trees! They are coming back to Devon to get married in the Summer.

The theme this year was "A Christmas Carol", which many different groups and individuals had great fun interpreting in their own way.

The results were:

|     | <b>ADULT'S TREES</b>          | <b>CHILDREN'S TREES</b>  | <b>SMALL TREES</b> |
|-----|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1st | Widecombe Ladies Sewing Group | Widecombe Primary School | Cafe on the Green  |
| 2nd | Shallowford Farm              | Widdytots                | Mike "The Post"    |
| 3rd | Widecombe Kiosk               | Widecombe Preschool      | Ann Murphy         |

Other participants were:

|                         |                          |                         |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| McAfee Family           | South West Liver Buddies | Dunstone Chapel         |
| Leusdon Church Choir    | Dartmoor Hill Ponies     | Katherine Walcot        |
| Widecombe History Group | The Shop on the Green    | Heatree Activity Centre |
| Judy Southcombe         |                          |                         |

There was also the "Tree of Prayer Flags" provided by Penny, where visitors were invited to take a flag from the tree to take home, one of these flags is going all the way to Singapore! Also very popular were the Humbugs supplied by the McAfee family!

Over the course of the Festival we had a collection for Bounce charity no. 1181729. The collections from the Carol Service, Crib Service and the Christmas Day Service were also for Bounce and we were able to send them the magnificent sum of £1,284.37.

Thank you to EVERYONE concerned with the Festival, the participants, the many stewards and especially David, who unlocks and locks up the Church everyday, and puts all the lights on the trees on and off every time!

## Other Community News & Events

### High Moorland Women's Institute Princetown

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



We meet the FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH in PRINCETOWN COMMUNITY HALL at 7.30pm. Our meetings usually finish around 9 to 9.30pm.

On the SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH we hold a free tea, coffee and cakes slot. Donations gratefully received. This is held at Princetown Community Hall 11am to 12.30.

Our proposed programme for January 2022 to December 2022 includes informative talks and walks, practical sessions (Morris dancing/ yoga/ paper craft) and straight forward social sessions (cheese and wine / bingo).

You are very welcome to visit us one Wednesday evening to "try us out".

Please contact Catherine at [Catherine@longash.co.uk](mailto:Catherine@longash.co.uk) or text 07703274691.

### Princetown History Club

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

**1st Feb** AGM and a talk by Simon Dell on "Tavistock's policing past"

**1st Mar** A talk by Paul Rendell on "The History of Postbridge and Bellever"

*For further information, please phone Mr John Lissenden on 01752 847573 or email [jlissenden@talktalk.net](mailto:jlissenden@talktalk.net) Web Site: [princetownhistoryclub.weebly.com](http://princetownhistoryclub.weebly.com)*

### News from the East Shallowford Trust

Tee hee hee..... if anyone thought that you could not have lots of fun in mud, in the cold, in the rain..... well..... I am sure that if said in advance it would sound grim and that snarly, lip curling, 'No way' attitude would splurt out in normal human defence.

We had a group last week of children who, when asked if they had been to a farm, at least three quarters raised their hand. The teacher explained that they had all been to the 'City Farm' in Bristol. No question, it is better than nothing and a good start. However, full immersion on Dartmoor? No comparison!

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The first problem was to lure some of the children off the bus, which we thought was a delivery van as it arrived with black windows and looked more like a black mariah van or something off an American drug movie. At least four of the girls were terrified of dogs. We have Mini of course, who is the soppiest of all animals on earth. BUT..... she is a dog! 'Hold my hand please. Look at my ugly face. Ignore the dog. Look at me with your eyes. Would I let you out of the bus if the dog could not be trusted?' 'No' in quivering fear and holding both my hands so tightly the blood to my fingers had nearly stopped. 'Look at my face, smile, take a deep breath and take one step down.' The next trick is to stop a teacher from trying to get a quivering and panicky child to touch the dog. They got off the bus..... touching a dog at this stage is way too early. By the end of day one, that particular eleven year old was calling Mini for a gentle stroke. By day two she was lying on the floor curled up with Mini, calm, gentle and relaxed. Miracles still do happen!



This particular school has no kitchen for the children to cook, so Alethe volunteered to provide a lesson in baking different types of bread and gingerbread. Diving into flour, listening, waiting and then of course eating the produce of their own labours. What could not be eaten was taken home to be shown to parents, but little remained as the children dipped the tasty rolls in their soup, plastered in lashings of butter

and cheese for a sumptuous lunch.

We are working on alternatives to the morning and evening pig work. Many of the children booked for this year are from Somali backgrounds with a culture that has little understanding or tolerance for the wee rootling beast. So, although chickens provide a good alternative, our cows are a tramp across the fields and sheep..... well..... there are a few stories. This group will be forever known as 'The children who lost 300 sheep'. After an afternoon with 'Farmer Will' one girl ran up to John Dracup saying..... 'Sorry, we have just lost 300 of your sheep!' You can imagine John's alarmed face, as it would not be the first time that a group has scattered sheep like water over walls and in all directions. Luckily, on this occasion it was a

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joke..... the 300 sheep had simply not followed directions and moved around the group. Ben – the ever brilliant collie to the rescue!

But..... didn't the children have a wonderful time on the top of Corndon!  
We had a couple with asthma who had to be gently encouraged up the hill,



carefully ensuring a rate suitable to the ability of their lungs. One wee lass very determinedly said, 'I can do it. No I can't! Yes I can', slowly and carefully she picked her way between the gorse and rocks. The other needed something of a push every now and again. Definitely, high rise flats and two years indoors has not helped these poor kids who should have been

running wild in fields or hills. In the end..... well..... They came back with mud war paint and black, proper bog water splattered mud over every single one of them. Tee hee hee..... poor washing machine was not too happy, but the children had a brilliant time!

We have one very kind donor who is paying for some of these groups, to encourage 'connectivity with nature' as a necessity for normal human development and improved 'mental well-being.' It's the buzz phrase of the moment of course, but subliminally we all know it's true. On average, humans stuck in an urban environment don't thrive. Young people who know nothing else have no mental escape and have a tunnel vision of the world – a tunnel of hard cement and fear of gangs and violence.



On the last day's evaluation we complete written forms, but the best is to capture the words.

James: 'Oh, I am definitely going to go out more! And I will stop my Dad smoking in the house. This place just smells fresh.' Samina: 'I didn't know I could walk up

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(Continued from page 37)

a hill. We don't have any in Bristol. Can I come back and practice?'. Monie: 'I love you all. I'm going to cry and please can I take Mini home?' Tash: 'The nasty chicken did peck me, but it's OK. I forgive her.' One boy just looked me in the face and shook his head. Tears welled up. He was the biggest lad, problems at home. 'You can come back any time. Call us if you need to talk. You can talk about anything. You can always come back, any time, even when you are in your 80s and as grey as me!' He just looked at me, straight into my eyes and nodded. We are 'home', we provide a safe and warm space. We cannot be everything to everyone, but for a few, we can make a difference.

*Julia*

[www.shallowfordfarm.co.uk](http://www.shallowfordfarm.co.uk)



## **Cook Wanted**

Working with groups of disadvantaged young people, mostly from cities, who are not used to sitting around a table and sharing a home cooked meal, we are looking for a cook who can bake and prepare home meals for between 20-30 people at a time. Being our cook means becoming one of the team and also working with young people to encourage good nutrition and improved healthy eating habits.

Hours are variable and can be topped up with cleaning if needed. Flexibility will be essential along with own transport to Widecombe (we are about 2 miles out of Widecombe in the Moor).

Please contact Julia directly on: Tel: 01364 621 392 [Julia@shallowfordfarm.co.uk](mailto:Julia@shallowfordfarm.co.uk)

## **Desperately Seeking Cleaners**

We are once again looking for cleaners who must provide attention to detail and be happy to drive to Widecombe in the Moor. Rate for an adult is £10/hour, with hours being flexible and as needed. We always say; 'cleaning is a good work out – and you get paid to do it!'

Please contact Julia directly on: Tel: 01364 621 392 [Julia@shallowfordfarm.co.uk](mailto:Julia@shallowfordfarm.co.uk)

## A HUGE THANK YOU FROM YELVERTON ROTARY CLUB

Yelverton Rotarians wish to extend a huge vote of thanks for the generosity of people from villages around the Yelverton area and beyond. Donations totalled more than £2,300.00 during the Club's tour of street and static charitable Christmas collections.

We were delighted to see the large numbers of young children and parents coming out to see Santa and his sleigh. It was a symptom of the times that many of our older citizens also seemed to welcome the opportunity for a chat with Santa and his helpers.

This public generosity, following the club's prolonged period of restricted fund-raising activity as a result of the pandemic, has considerably replenished our Trust Fund. The Club can now fully restart charitable donations and is committed to making contributions to 'Dartmoor Search & Rescue Group (Tavistock),' and to 'Blood Bikes' who make out of hours deliveries of blood and other essential supplies for the NHS. The club are grateful for all that these two organisations undertake, operating wholly on a voluntary basis. In addition, we continue to raise funds for other local charitable aims and to meet other commitments such as Shelter Box.

In the brief period since our last update we held our Club Christmas Dinner at Yelverton Golf Club. Attended by sixteen members and partners, it was a great success. We also took part in an 'open' skittles competition organised by our Tavistock Rotary Club colleagues, and we are delighted to report that Yelverton Club's oldest member won this – undoubtedly a sign of a mis-spent youth!

Following an approach by a Social Worker, and with a lot of help from our friends at Yelverton Carpets, we arranged and paid for carpets to be fitted for a family in one of our local villages. Hopefully, this will make a real difference to their ability to be more comfortable in the winter weather.

Our regular schedule of alternate Zoom and Face to Face meetings has restarted with our usual programme of speakers, business meetings and fellowship events – our first talk, in February, is entitled 'The Prisoners of Dartmoor Prison.' Planning for our two major community events for 2022 - the Old Folks' Tea Party and the children's Fun Day - will also gather pace.

The Rotary Club of Yelverton welcomes new members, for further information please contact::

[president@yelverton.rotary1175.org](mailto:president@yelverton.rotary1175.org)

## Museum seeks local entrepreneurs

Since the opening of the GWR rail service on the Dartmoor Line on 20th November the local Museum in Okehampton has seen an increase in day visitors. In the last month over 10,000 people used the Dartmoor Line showing that day-trips are a real possibility. Next year will provide even more opportunities for day trippers, as the service becomes hourly. This presents many opportunities for the towns and businesses along the route of the Dartmoor Line.

The Museum of Dartmoor Life is one of the places that wants to ensure they offer day visitors an exciting and stimulating visit so they learn more about Dartmoor, its history and people. It's a small Museum, with a wonderful group of volunteers that help keep the Museum open, so they are looking for additional help from business professionals to deliver an ambitious new Strategic Plan.

If you have a love of Dartmoor and would like to apply your professional skills to a worthwhile cause, then the Museum of Dartmoor Life offers an excellent opportunity to be involved in this transformational journey from a rural museum in Okehampton to one which is the primary gateway to exploring the whole of Dartmoor, its history and people.

- Public relations - This role will be instrumental in transforming the public perception of a rural museum in Okehampton to one which is the primary gateway to exploring the whole of Dartmoor, its history and people.
- Digital - This role will be instrumental in enabling the museum to move into the 21st Century, to make use of technology to improve interpretation and the overall visitor experience. It will also support our goal of reaching beyond the physical constraints of the museum through digital engagement onto the Moor itself.
- Digital Marketing - This role will be instrumental in enabling wider engagement with visitors - locally, nationally and internationally, and in reaching a more diverse and inclusive audience.
- Income generation - This role will be instrumental in securing external funding such as grants and donations enabling the museum to deliver its strategic development goals and hence its growth from a rural museum in Okehampton to one which is the primary gateway to exploring the whole of Dartmoor, its history and people.

Further details and the application are provided on Reach Volunteering, or for further information go to our website at [www.dartmoorlife.org.uk](http://www.dartmoorlife.org.uk)



# Dartmoor Forest Parish Council



## Extracts from the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**Co-option of new Councillor** - Mr Mark Williams was welcomed onto the Council.

**Recruitment of new Parish Clerk** – Miss Jackie Bennetts attended the meeting as an observer and was formally introduced to the Council. She will take up the position on the 4<sup>th</sup> January. Her contact details can be found below.

**Princetown Parking Issues** – More frequent visits from Civil Enforcement Officers (CEO) have been requested regarding the restricted parking area outside the Post Office and shops, and the yellow lines outside the school. Cllr Stones reported that the CEO had been seen in the village on the morning on the 14<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Fundraising for St Michael's Churchyard** – A paying in book has been placed in the Princetown Post Office for anyone wishing to make a contribution to the cost of maintaining the churchyard. A poster will be placed in the porch of St. Michaels alerting the public this, should they wish to make a donation.

**Jubilee Celebrations** – Souvenir mugs were the preferred gift for children and young people within the Parish, as discussed with other local bodies involved with planning local celebrations.

**Climate Change declaration** - Monitoring of the energy consumption/load is currently taking place at the Postbridge Visitor Centre to assess if it is possible to accommodate an Electric Vehicle Charging point. It is hoped that this may be in place for the next visitor season.

**Vision Zero South West Partnership** – The Council has been successful in applying for a grant of £6306, for the purpose of various road protection measures. These may include reflective cattle collars, improved signage and a new Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) for Leedon Tor car park. A sub-committee will be formed, to include other stakeholders to take these actions forward.

**Date of the next meeting:** Tuesday 22nd February 2022 at 1930 at Princetown Community Centre.

**Agenda and Minutes:** <https://www.dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk/meetings.php>

**Follow us on Facebook :** <https://www.facebook.com/dartmoorforestpc.net>

**Parish Clerk: Miss Jackie Bennetts**

**Telephone: 01822 859104**

**Email:** [clerk@dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk) **Website:**

[www.dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## ***Contacting the Editorial Team***

Email items for inclusion or any other queries to: [link@moorlandteam.org.uk](mailto:link@moorlandteam.org.uk)

For items sent by post please use the following addresses:

Link Finances (donations, advertising fees, invoices etc)

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

**Parish Link**  
c/o The Vicarage  
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

Phyl's Follies (Postbridge)

Friends of Widcombe School

Postbridge Village Hall

High Moorland WI

Princetown History Society

Holne Fete Committee

Various anonymous donations

Holne Garden Group

Widcombe Church House Committee

Holne Parish Council

Widcombe Fair Committee

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

Many people tell us that over the years the Link has become THE place to advertise their local events, and we are very proud of our role in providing such a valuable noticeboard for all of our communities. To remind all our readers, putting in a note of an event (or course) is free! At least, it's free to charities, local groups, fund-raisers, regular social activities, etc. Compared to the cost of small ads in other papers, this is a bargain not to be missed! It's free because we are generously supported by our advertisers and donors.

If you are planning an event and you are not sure if it's entitled to a free advert, just send us your copy and we'll let you know. Broadly, we charge for businesses, people providing a paid-for service and people selling things.

We are delighted that at the moment our income is matching our expenditure, so the Link is in a healthy and viable state financially. Thank you advertisers and donors.

So the question we are asking is "Is your event in here?" If not, why not? Are you taking advantage of our pages to promote something that you are planning to run? Do you know any event which could do with a bit of free publicity? Do mention us whenever you think someone would benefit from the Link's wide coverage – we are now distributing 700 copies a month, with many more people reading the Link on-line (see p29 for ways of downloading the Link).

Do use us, but be assured at the moment there is no danger of losing us!

*With best wishes from "The Link Team"*

### ***Parish Link Advertising Costs***

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***Please contact the Editorial Team for information and availability of advertising space at [link@moorlandteam.org.uk](mailto:link@moorlandteam.org.uk)***

### ***Final Copy Deadline***

***for the March 2022 edition of the Link will be Sunday 13th February but please send as early as you can by email.***

***Next issue available on Thursday 24th February***

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